

# Agenda Report

February 28, 2011

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Pasadena Water and Power

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the Application for a \$50,000 WaterSMART : Water and Energy Efficiency FY-2011 Grant from the United States Department of Interior, Bureau Of Reclamation, to provide funding for the Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) Smart Landscape Makeover Program: Incentive in Support of Water Conservation Efforts for Low Income Families (the "Project").

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that City Council:

1. Find that the PWP "Smart Landscape Makeover Program: Incentive in Support of Water " is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301(a), Existing Facilities;
2. Adopt a resolution to authorize the General Manager of Pasadena Water and Power to submit a grant application to the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the Project;
3. Designate the General Manager of PWP as the authorized representative with signature authority for the grant application and all contract documents pursuant to this grant; and
4. Authorize PWP to enter into a funding agreement for the Smart Landscape Makeover Program in an amount of \$50,000 with the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

## **BACKGROUND:**

PWP is in the process of implementing the *Smart Landscape Makeover Program; Incentive in Support of Water Conservation Efforts for Low Income Families*. This project will provide funding to renovate the front yards for 25 low-income, single family homes in the city having existing, outdated, water-intensive turf, plants and irrigation

system. The “makeover” will promote water efficiency by providing irrigation system upgrades such as ‘Smart’ weather-based controllers, rotating sprinkler heads, and drip irrigation where practical and fix existing irrigation leaks. A specific palette of drought-tolerant California native plants will also be available to the homeowner to replace some or all of the existing lawn or turf, as well as the use of other water-efficient project design elements such as mulch, borders and permeable paving materials. Participating homeowners would also be provided with training in the use and programming of irrigation controllers, landscape maintenance and other relevant topics.

PWP will also partner with Pasadena Housing Department staff to identify eligible properties for the program; and the City’s Maintenance Assistance Services for Homeowners (MASH) Program in order to provide a “green job” training opportunities for local MASH program participants.

Grant Funding: In December 2010, the USBR made available \$27 million for the WaterSMART grant program under the authority of Section 9504(a) of the Secure Water Act, Subtitle F of Title IX of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, P.L. 111-11 (42 USC 10364), to fund various water conservation projects that result in measurable water savings; and other water projects that benefit endangered species. The project is eligible for funding because it will promote water conservation, a priority objective of the USBR grant. The USBR grant program will reimburse up to 50% of the eligible projects costs. PWP will be requesting \$50,000 in USBR grant funding for the project and will provide \$55,000 in water funds for the remaining project costs. Additional cost sharing through in-kind services provided by PWP staff will result in the total project cost of \$128,160.

### **COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION**

Implementation of the project will help Pasadena meet the 19<sup>th</sup> Urban Environmental Accords (UEA) target goal for potable water conservation and reduce per capita water consumption 10% by 2015 and the State of California’s goal of 20% by 2020. It is consistent with the Water Integrated Resources Plan and contributes to the California Urban Water Conservation Council’s (CUWCC) Best Management Practices (BMP).  
BMP 1: Residential Water Survey; BMP 2: Public Information.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

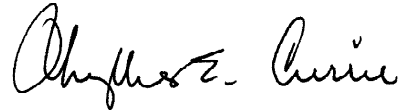
Landscape improvements undertaken as part of the project is exempt from CEQA review, pursuant to State CEQA guidelines, Section 15301(a), Existing Facilities.

This statutory exemption applies to minor repair and alteration of existing facilities, including landscape upgrades and maintenance as proposed with this project.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The federal grant would reimburse PWP up to 50% of the program cost not to exceed \$50,000. The remaining project cost of \$55,000 will be funded from the operating budget account 8176, designated for water conservation programs. PWP will be contributing in-kind services totaling \$23,160 toward the program. There is no application filing fee for this grant.

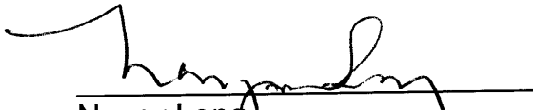
Respectfully submitted,



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Phyllis E. Currie  
General Manager  
Pasadena Water and Power Department

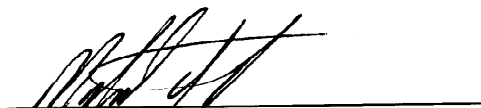
Prepared by:



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Nancy Long  
Water Conservation Manager  
Pasadena Water and Power

Approved by:



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Michael J. Beck  
City Manager

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER OF PASADENA WATER AND POWER TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, WATERSMART FY2011 WATER AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has made available a grant funding opportunity through the *WaterSMART* FY2011 Water and Energy Efficiency program, to address the most significant challenges facing our water supplies in the 21st century and to achieve a sustainable water strategy to meet the Nation's water needs; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation *WaterSMART* grant program seeks projects that will "conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the use of renewable energy in water management, protect threatened and endangered species, facilitate water markets, and carry out other activities to address climate-related impacts on water or prevent any water-related crisis or conflict"; and

WHEREAS, the water and power department's *Smart Landscape Makeover Program* will further the *WaterSMART* grant objectives by providing \$50,000 for renovation of 25 front yards for low-income, single family homeowners in Pasadena, by replacing outdated and water-intensive turf, plant material and irrigation systems with new water efficient systems that will result in 1) measurable water savings to the low income homeowner; 2) green jobs training opportunities, and 3) furtherance of the City and State goals to reduce per capita water conservation 20% by the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, these grant procedures require the City of Pasadena to certify by resolution approval of an application prior to submitting the request to the USBR; and

WHEREAS, these grant procedures require the City of Pasadena to certify its capability to fund the program in the total amount of \$128,160 including in-kind services provided by the Water and Power Department; and

WHEREAS, reimbursement by USBR in the amount of \$50,000 will allow the Water and Power Department to complete this program:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows;

1. Each of the above findings is hereby determined to be true.
2. The General Manager of the Water and Power Department is hereby authorized to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of The Interior, Bureau of Reclamation in the amount of \$50,000 for the department's *Smart Landscape Makeover Program*.
3. The City Council hereby certifies that it has sufficient funds and in-kind contributions available in order to complete this program; and
4. The General Manager of is further authorized to take all actions as may be necessary to meet established deadlines for entering into, and fulfilling the terms of the cooperative grant agreement and serve as the City's authorized representative for all purposes related thereto.

Adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pasadena on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2011 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:


ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

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Mark Jomsky  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Scott D. Rasmussen  
Assistant City Attorney