

# Agenda Report

December 17, 2012

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Department of Public Works

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF GRANT APPLICATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT MITIGATION PROGRAM**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the authorization to apply for grants is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3); and
2. Adopt a resolution authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program for the East Colorado Boulevard Median Landscape project.

**BACKGROUND:**

The State of California Resources Agency is accepting fiscal year 2012-2013 applications for the Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program grant. This program, as provided by Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56, authorizes the allocation of up to \$10 million each year for grants to mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities, with a grant cap of \$350,000 per project. The deadline for submitting the application for funding is January 4, 2013.

Through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), grants are awarded to local communities for projects that offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide through the planting of trees and other suitable plants, and for the restoration and enhancement of natural areas and wildlife habitats near transportation improvement projects. The Department of Public Works Parks and Natural Resources Division has been awarded these funds for the past 13 years.

In the 2012-13 application cycle, the Department of Public Works is requesting a \$250,000 grant for the East Colorado Boulevard Median Landscape project. This project will provide a rehabilitated landscape for center median planting areas along Colorado Boulevard from Sierra Madre Boulevard to Kinneloa Avenue. The existing medians contain remnant turf and shrub landscaping with overhead spray irrigation. The project would replace this degraded landscape with drought tolerant trees and plants and a new, bubbler irrigation system. Pasadena has successfully implemented this type of median enhancement in multiple locations.

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

The following Council goals and policies would be advanced under the proposed action:

City Council's Strategic Plan Goals (2009-2012):

- Improve, maintain and enhance public facilities and infrastructure
- Increase conservation and sustainability

Green City Action Plan:

Action 18: Improve air quality

**ENVIRONMENTAL:**

The action proposed herein is an application for funding and not the construction of any particular project. Accordingly, the authorization to apply for grants is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3).

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The City has the potential to gain approximately \$250,000 in tree planting and landscape improvements under the EEM Grant Program. There is no matching funds requirement for this grant program. If this grant is awarded, staff will return to Council to appropriate the funds to the proper budget accounts.

Respectfully submitted,



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SIOBHAN FOSTER  
Director of Public Works

Prepared by:



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Loren Pluth, Project Manager  
Parks and Landscape

Approved by:



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MICHAEL J. BECK  
City Manager

**Resolution No: \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PASADENA APPROVING THE APPLICATION TO THE RESOURCES AGENCY FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM UNDER SECTION 164.56 OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE FOR THE EAST COLORADO BOULEVARD MEDIAN LANDSCAPE PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has enacted AB 471 (Chapter 106 of the Statutes of 1989), which is intended to provide \$10 million annually for a period of 10 years for grant funds to local, state and federal agencies and nonprofit entities for projects to enhance and mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has, in 1997, enacted Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56, extended the program started by AB 471, and created the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program Fund to provide ongoing funding to local, state and federal agencies and nonprofit entities for projects to enhance and mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Agency has established the procedures and criteria for reviewing grant proposals and is required to submit to the California Transportation Commission a list of recommended projects from which the grant recipients will be selected; and

WHEREAS, said procedures and criteria established by the Natural Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application by the Applicant's governing body before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the application contains assurances with which the Applicant must comply; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the environmental enhancement and mitigation project;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PASADENA CITY COUNCIL HEREBY:**

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program for grant assistance.
2. Certifies that the City will make adequate provisions for operation and maintenance of the Project; and

3. Appoints the City Manager or his appointee as agent of the City of Pasadena to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, by the following vote:

AYES:

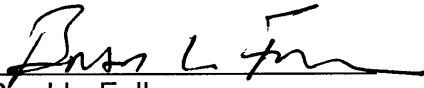
NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MARK JOMSKY, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad L. Fuller  
Assistant City Attorney