

# Agenda Report

September 24, 2012

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**THROUGH:** Recreation and Parks Commission September 11, 2012

**FROM:** Human Services and Recreation

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION FOR THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND FOR THE ARROYO SECO ADVENTURE CAMP 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 Section 15322; and
2. Approve the City of Pasadena's application and resolution to the State of California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, for the Habitat Conservation Fund Program in the amount of \$200,000 to implement the Arroyo Seco Adventure Camp Program.

## **ADVISORY COMMISSION/BOARD/CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

On September 11, 2012, the Recreation and Parks Commission recommended that the City Council endorse the City of Pasadena's application to the State of California Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, for the Habitat Conservation Fund Program in the amount of \$200,000 to implement the Arroyo Seco Adventure Camp Program.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) is administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Funds are provided by the State grant under the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990. The HCF program allocates approximately \$2 million each year for competitive grants to cities, counties, and districts to provide for nature interpretation and other non-capital outlay programs which bring urban residents into

park and wildlife areas, to protect various plant and animal species or to acquire or develop wildlife corridors and trails. These funds are to be provided annually from July 1, 1990 to July 1, 2020.

Project applications must be submitted by October 1, 2012. If the City is awarded funds, notification will be provided in July 2013 and the Program would begin in the summer of 2014. This grant program requires a dollar for dollar match (50 percent State, 50 percent local) and is a reimbursable grant, meaning the City pays upfront program costs and is reimbursed by the State via an invoice process. Additionally, the match must come from a non-State source.

According to the grant guidelines, the following categories will be funded during the 2012 / 2013 HCF grant cycle:

- Deer/mountain lion habitat
- Rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species
- Wetlands
- Trails
- Riparian
- Anadromous salmonids & trout habitat
- Wildlife Area Activities

The Arroyo Seco Adventure Camp Program is being recommended as a potential grant recipient for this funding opportunity under the Wildlife Area Activities category. The proposed Program would provide eight (8) weeks of summer programming in the Arroyo Seco for up to 100 school-age youth during the four-year grant period. If funded, this Program partially fulfills one of the Human Services and Recreation Department's (HS&R) goals to build outdoor programs that support the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights Statewide Initiative, which encourages young people to learn about their heritage through nature. Currently Human Services and Recreation does not offer camps within the Arroyo Seco.

According to a needs assessment survey conducted by the Department, many community members expressed that there are not enough outdoor education and sustainability recreation programs offered, even though parks and hiking trails are two of the City's recreation facilities most widely used by the public. This proposal is in direct response to the community's desire for more outdoor education opportunities. The camps currently operating in the Arroyo Seco are cost prohibitive for many families. These programs only provide for one to two week scholarship opportunities for underserved children and most working families are in need of a full service summer program that offers multiple weeks.

HS&R proposes to offer the Arroyo Seco Adventure Camp as an on-going summer recreation program that brings children into wildlife and natural areas and the proposed coordinating site for the camp would be Brookside Park. The Arroyo Seco provides a unique and diverse natural environment within an urban setting. On-going public education, such as would be offered in the Arroyo Seco Adventure Camp, is needed to

preserve and protect this valuable resource. The curriculum will expose young residents to a variety of outdoor experiences ranging from hiking, bird watching, swimming, archery, horseback riding, fly-casting, appreciation for the serenity of the Arroyo Seco, and will conclude with a community conservation project. The Program will further the City's youth employment opportunities by including Jr. Park Ranger positions. Students attending Muir High School and other School District Environmental Science Programs will be eligible to apply for these positions, based on their ability to meet the income and residency guidelines as established by the Summer Rose Program. The Department anticipates 10 new youth employment opportunities to be introduced.

Fees for the Adventures Camp will be established via the City's fee resolution process. The City's Passport to Fun Youth Scholarship Program will be available to young campers who meet the qualifications. This Program will add to the unique science based specialty camps already being offered through the Department, which include Villa Parke's Science, Technology and Engineering Camp (STEM) and Victory's Physical Fitness and Nutrition Camp. These Programs build on the School District's focus on science. They also provide unique recreational and educational experiences that support the District's Community Schools Initiative. The Program also advances Pasadena's Healthy Eating Active Living and Let's Move initiatives by encouraging physical activity amongst youth.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

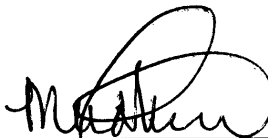
The Arroyo Seco Adventure Camp Program would allow area youth to take advantage of existing recreational opportunities and facilities within the Arroyo Seco. No facilities would be constructed or enlarged as a result of this Program. As such, the project is exempt from further environmental review pursuant to Section 15301 of Guidelines for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This exemption generally applies to the ongoing operation of existing facilities (such as utilization of the recreational opportunities in the Arroyo). Further, this project qualifies for an exemption from CEQA pursuant to Section 15322 of the Guidelines, which exempts educational and training opportunities which do not involve physical alterations to a facility.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Department currently does not have adequate start-up funds or scholarships in place to operate such a program. Successful award of the Habitat Conservation Fund Program to implement the Arroyo Seco Adventure Camp Program could potentially bring a maximum of \$200,000 to the City of Pasadena that would fund the seasonal summer camp for a four-year period. If awarded, the funds would be recognized and appropriated into the designated Summer Day Camp account 101-642740.

The 50 percent matching funds (\$200,000 over four years) required for the program will be generated from revenues collected by the Camp. The grant funds will be expended over a four-year period to allow the Program to develop and potentially be self-sustaining in future years. The camp will cost \$100,000 per year to operate with no impact to the Department's general fund operating budget. If awarded funds in July 2013, the Program will be included as part of the 2013-14 budget process.

Respectfully submitted,



MERCY SANTORO  
Director  
Human Services and Recreation

Prepared by:



Kenny James  
Recreation Supervisor

Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK  
City Manager

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA  
APPROVING THE APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR GRANT  
FUNDS FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM FOR THE  
ARROYO SECO ADVENTURE CAMP PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the people of the State of California have enacted the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, which provides funds to the State of California for grants to local agencies to acquire, enhance, restore or develop facilities for public recreation and fish and wildlife habitat protection purposes; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the HCF Program, setting up necessary procedures governing project application under the HCF Program; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the City to certify by resolution the approval of application(s) before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the City will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the project(s);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PASADENA CITY COUNCIL;

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program; and
2. Certifies that the City has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, the required match and sufficient funds to complete the project; and
3. Certifies that the City has sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project(s); and
4. Certifies that the City has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the provisions contained in the contract shown in the grant administration guide; and
5. Delegates the authority to the City Manager or Director of Human Services 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 project.

6. Agrees to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

Adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012, by the following vote:

AYES:

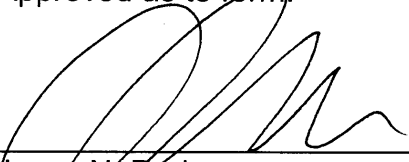
NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Javan N. Rad  
Acting Chief Assistant City Attorney