

Agenda Report

October 5, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Finance Committee (September 24, 2020)

FROM: Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE APPLICATION FOR PROPOSITION 68 URBAN COUNTIES PER CAPITA GRANT FUNDS AND APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CITIES OF PASADENA AND SOUTH PASADENA FOR A JOINT PROJECT IN THE ARROYO SECO

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the action proposed herein, authorization to apply for grants for enhancement or restoration of natural areas in the Arroyo Seco, is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3);
2. Adopt a resolution approving application for the Proposition 68 Urban Counties Per Capita Grant Program in the amount of \$3.5 million for a joint Arroyo Seco Water Reuse and Natural Stream Restoration project between the cities of Pasadena and South Pasadena; and
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of South Pasadena for the joint administration of the San Rafael Creek Treatment Wetlands Project.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2018, Proposition 68, State of California Parks and Water Bond Act of 2018 was passed by the voters for the development and enhancement of state and local parks and recreational facilities. As a part of Proposition 68, the Urban Counties Per Capita Grant Program was funded with almost \$14 million to provide park and recreation services within jurisdictions of 200,000 or less in population.

The City of Pasadena (Pasadena) and the City of South Pasadena (South Pasadena) were approved to receive a combined multi-jurisdictional total of \$3.5 million under this grant program from the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation for the grant specified intent of Arroyo Seco Water Reuse and Natural Stream Restoration.

Prior to the apportioned funds being obligated and available for reimbursement of project related costs, both the Cities of Pasadena and South Pasadena must submit to the State Department of Parks and Recreation:

- A resolution identifying the proposed project to be funded with these funds (Attachment A);
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two cities (Attachment B) that further details the proposed project; and
- A complete grant application package for the proposed project.

Pasadena and South Pasadena have agreed to a mutually beneficial project constructing man-made wetlands and related infrastructure diverting dry weather flows from San Rafael Creek at its confluence with the Arroyo Seco to be passively treated, stored, and reused. The proposed project will be truly multi-beneficial in that it will assist the City of Pasadena in achieving compliance with State and Federal mandates under the City's NPDES Permit which requires steps be taken to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff and will provide the City of South Pasadena a steady source of water for irrigation reuse.

This dry weather flow in particular has been identified by a number of past studies as one that contributes a high load of E. coli bacteria to the Arroyo Seco and ultimately the Los Angeles River. As such, under the Upper Los Angeles River - Enhanced Watershed Management Plan - Bacteria Load Reduction Strategy, the City of Pasadena is mandated to divert this dry weather flow from the Arroyo Seco by September 2023.

The project as proposed would accomplish this goal while providing many other benefits; including:

- Treatment wetlands which would enhance habitat and biodiversity in the Arroyo Seco. Locations in both Pasadena and South Pasadena.
- Storage and re-use of water for irrigation purposes in the City of South Pasadena.
- Educational opportunities covering topics such as watersheds, water quality, water conservation, habitat, and bio-diversity.

Under the terms of the MOU, the City of Pasadena will serve as the lead agency for the project. As such, City staff will coordinate with the granting agency and manage the design and construction of the project. The City of South Pasadena will assist as necessary in these endeavors and provide cost reimbursements at their proportional share. Throughout the planning, design, and construction processes, staff from both cities will engage heavily with park users, residents, and other entities and stakeholders

such as the Arroyo Seco Foundation and One Arroyo to ensure all voices are heard and are reflected in the implemented project.

This is an existing project in the City's Adopted 2021 Capital Improvement Program. The project titled "NPDES Arroyo Seco Bacteria Load Reduction – Design Phase" was created in FY 2019 and design was fully funded in FY 2021.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The Urban Counties Per Capita Grant Program is consistent with the City Council's strategic goals to improve, maintain, and enhance public facilities and infrastructure, and support and promote the quality of life.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The action proposed herein is an application for funding and not the construction of a project. Accordingly, the authorization to apply for grants is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3). The appropriate level of CEQA analysis for the construction of the proposed project will be a part of the scope of work for the proposed project and determined at the appropriate time.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total combined grant award is for \$3.5 million and requires a 20% match of local funds amounting to \$875,000. The City of Pasadena and the City of South Pasadena will utilize a 50/50 cost sharing method; thereby, the City of Pasadena's local match share amounts to \$437,500. Sufficient funds are available in the NPDES Arroyo Seco Bacteria Load Reduction project (budget account 76291).

Once the grant funds are officially awarded to the joint project, the Department of Public Works will return to Council to appropriate the funds awarded to the City of Pasadena to the proper budget account.

Respectfully submitted,



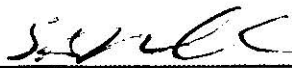
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Prepared by:



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Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager

Attachment A – Resolution approving application for Urban Counties Per Capita Grant Program
Attachment B – MOU with the City of South Pasadena