

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

Date: May 8, 2000

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: Application for the Urban Streams Restoration Program Grant For Restoration of the Arroyo Seco Stream Between Devil's Gate Dam and Washington Boulevard.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution approving the grant application request for \$200,000 for the Urban Streams Restoration Program Grant for Restoration of the Arroyo Seco Stream between Devil's Gate Dam and Washington Boulevard.

BACKGROUND:

The California Department of Water Resources is soliciting grant applications for local stream restoration projects. This program supports actions that prevent property damage by floods and bank erosion, and restores the natural value of streams. Grants can fund projects as simple as a work day for volunteers to clean up streams in their neighborhood, or projects as complex as completely restoring streams to an original, natural state. The Department of Water Resources grant budget for this year is \$750,000 with a grant cap of \$200,000 per project. The Department will select and announce the list of eligible grantees in July 2000 and will begin writing contracts shortly thereafter to transfer grant money.

The project proposed for this grant cycle is the Restoration of the Arroyo Seco Stream section in the Central Arroyo Seco between Devil's Gate Dam and Washington Boulevard. The purpose of the project is to restore this portion of the Arroyo Seco Stream, a major tributary of the Los Angeles River and one of Southern California's greatest natural treasures.

The implementation of this proposal would remove the concrete slabs and other debris that now clutter the area and impact the hydrology; repair the scouring effect that powerful releases of water from the dam have caused by stabilizing the stream banks with vegetation and various sized boulders; improve the riparian and streamzone habitat quality by planting appropriate species and removing exotic species; and repair the trails

that parallel the stream, allowing the community enhanced access to the stream and linking this natural area with Hahamongna Watershed Park immediately above Devil's Gate Dam. These trails also link the project area with Brookside Golf Course and the Rose Bowl immediately south of the area.

This project falls within the Central Arroyo Master Plan area, but does not preclude the master plan process currently underway since it involves the maintenance and restoration of an existing park feature. This project is consistent with the Cultural and Recreational Element of the General Plan by encouraging the optimum use of existing recreational facilities. Further, this project is consistent with the Land Use Element of the General Plan by providing adequate recreational opportunities to all residents of the City. To further clarify, this improvement would provide recreational access to pedestrians and equestrians and improve streamzone habitat.

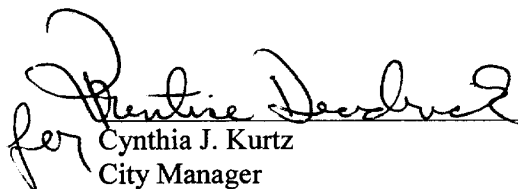
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The Arroyo Stream Restoration Project proposed for funding would be environmentally beneficial and categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under sections 15301(h & i) Existing Facilities – “maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs (excluding the use of economic poisons, as defined in Division 7, Chapter 2, California Agricultural Code)”; and “maintenance of fish screens, fish ladders, wildlife habitat areas, artificial wildlife waterway devices, streamflows, springs and waterholes, and stream channels (clearing of debris) to protect fish and wildlife resources.” A categorical exemption will be filed on the project once there is an indication of funding and after the restoration plan has been finalized.

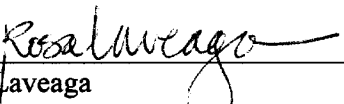
FISCAL IMPACT:

Successful award of the Urban Streams Restoration Program grant application for the restoration of the Arroyo Seco Stream between Devil's Gate Dam and Washington Boulevard could potentially bring a maximum of \$200,000 to the City of Pasadena.

Respectfully submitted,



for Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager

Prepared by:




Rosa Laveaga
Arroyo Seco Supervisor
Parks and Natural Resources Division

Reviewed by:



for Jim Berryhill
Public Works Administrator

Approved by:



Ora Lampman
Interim Director, Public Works and Transportation Department