

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

Date: September 13, 1999

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** Application for Sustainable Development Challenge Grant Program (SDCG) For Nursery and Interpretive Center Development, Natural Area Restoration, and Watershed Education in the Arroyo Seco – FY 1999/2000 Grant Cycle.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution approving the grant application request for \$250,000 for the FY1999/2000 Environmental Protection Agency Sustainable Development Challenge Grant Program for funding partial implementation of a watershed education and revegetation program in the Arroyo.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Sustainable Development Challenge Grant (SDCG) program, one of President Clinton's "high priority" actions described in the March 16, 1995 report, "Reinventing Environmental Regulation", offers competitive grants to non-profit and local agencies encouraging communities to invest in a sustainable future that links environmental protection, economic prosperity and community well-being. SDCG grants will be awarded and managed by the appropriate EPA Regional Offices. The EPA anticipates \$9.4 million will be available for the SDCG program in FY1999/2000. This includes \$4.7 million already authorized by Congress for FY 1999 and an additional \$4.7 million requested for the program in the President's FY 2000 Budget Request and subject to Congressional authorization. Individual grants are limited to \$250,000 and require a 20% match from non-federal funding sources.

Application submittals are due on September 29, 1999. Final selections will be announced in April 2000, and the full grant award process, including grant workplan negotiations with the appropriate EPA Region will be completed by June 2000.

Our proposed project for this grant cycle is enhancement and expansion of the Hahamongna Watershed Park Demonstration Nursery and Interpretive Center for the purpose of watershed restoration and education throughout the Arroyo Seco. The nursery would provide materials and equipment necessary to produce native stock with improved

genetic viability for restoration of the broad spectrum of native plant community in the Arroyo Seco to develop a sustainable population throughout that area, and would also serve as a resource center where people would learn about the habitat and botany of the Arroyo Seco watershed. The project would also provide for interpretative materials, such as signs, displays, and educational material and hands-on educational opportunities in watershed restoration and education.

Capital Improvement Projects in the Arroyo for FY 1997-2002 total approximately \$5,777,152 of which \$2,363,579 remains unfunded.

Parks and Natural Resources will be responsible for the administration of the grant, if awarded. The proposed project is consistent with the Master Plan for the Lower Arroyo, the nearly completed Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan and with preliminary plans for the Central Arroyo Master Plan. 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 be eligible for funding, projects must consist of activities authorized under one or more of eight EPA grant authorities including the Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Toxics Substances Control Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; National Environmental Education Act; and Pollution Prevention Act. These grant authorities authorize grants for the following activities: research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys and studies. Grant proposals should emphasize this "learning" concept, as opposed to "fixing" an environmental problem via a well-established method.

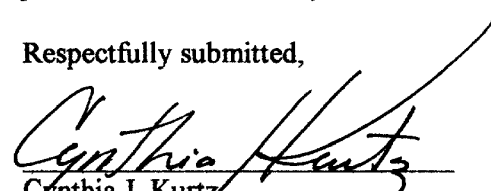
Existing groups including the Armory Center for the Arts, Kidspace Museum, the Gabrielino Nation, JPL, Tom Sawyer Camp and the Sequoia School currently use the watershed area of the Arroyo for educational experiences. The U.S. Forest Service, Watershed Council, Native Plant Society and the Urban Forest Advisory Committee share an interest in the restoration of the Arroyo Seco watershed area.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The SDCG grant application will provide the City of Pasadena the opportunity to obtain partial funding for implementation of natural area restoration and a watershed education program in the Arroyo. This would offset planned expenditures by \$250,000.

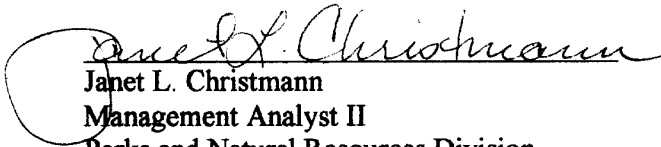
The 20% match is not restricted to certain expenditures and will easily be absorbed in projected expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

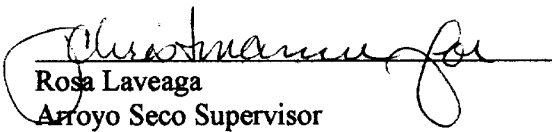


Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Manager

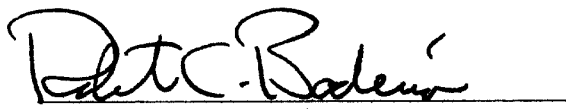
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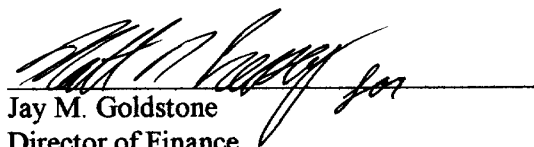
Reviewed by:

  
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