

Agenda Report

TO: City Council DATE: September 21, 1998

FROM: Acting City Manager

SUBJECT: Application for Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant (EEM)
For Natural Area Restoration, Park and Street Tree Planting – 1999-2000
Grant Cycle

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve by resolution the grant application request for \$247,000 for the 1999-2000 California State Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program for funding the tree planting element of Eaton Wash Park Master Plan, Natural Area and street tree and park plantings at various locations.

BACKGROUND:

The State Legislature, in 1989, passed Assembly Bill 471 establishing the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEM). The program offers competitive grants to state, local and federal agencies and non-profit organizations to mitigate the environmental impact of modified or new public transportation facilities. Projects eligible for the funding include highway landscape and urban forestry, resource lands, and roadside recreation. Program administration is performed by the Resources Agency of California who distributes grant awards for a total of \$10 million dollars per year. Individual grants are generally limited to \$250,000.

The California Resources Agency favors projects that are already designed and have already started the environmental approval process. Application submittals are due on October 9, 1998. Environmental clearance must be obtained by May 1999 for final consideration in the July 1999 California Transportation Commission Meeting.

Our proposed projects for this grant cycle are as follows:

- Eaton Wash Park – \$191,000
Money to be used for site clearance, creation of walking, jogging trails, planting of trees and shrubs, water meter and irrigation installation. The park will be a passive, natural park that will serve as a recreational extension of Eaton Canyon (north of site). The new plantings will encourage a flourishing ecosystem for both wildlife and recreational users.

- Citywide Tree Planting – \$ 56,000
Planting 250 trees in Pasadena’s urban forest to replace where trees have died from old age, heat, windstorms, road-widening projects and disease throughout the city. Target areas will be near ‘heat islands’ parks and within close proximity to transportation projects.

Total Grant Request \$247,000

Parks and Natural Resources will be responsible for the administration of the grant, if awarded. The proposed projects are consistent with the Council adopted Master Street Tree Plan Park Master Plans, and follow the intent of the General Plan to provide a more livable environment for its residents. Increasing tree cover in neighborhoods will have an added benefit of reducing cooling costs.

To be eligible for funding, the projects must offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide related to a transportation facility. Each tree planted, upon maturity, removes 4.97 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. Each EEM project must relate to the environmental impact of an existing transportation facility or the construction of a new facility. The mitigation or enhancement must be in addition to the mitigation already required as a part of the transportation facility. Pasadena has several new transportation facilities that will allow us to qualify for this grant.

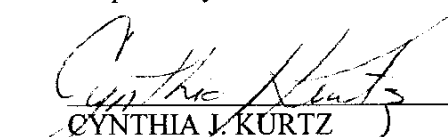
Existing volunteer groups working in partnership with Parks and Natural Resources would perform a portion of the necessary tree maintenance. The Pasadena Beautiful Foundation has a SOS (Save Our Street trees) program, conceived by Alice Frost Kennedy, which supports operations by providing volunteers to plant and maintain city street trees. Additionally, the California Conservation Corps has tentatively agreed to enter into a training program providing lower cost tree maintenance in exchange for training.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The EEM grant application will provide the City of Pasadena the opportunity to obtain partial funding for the creation of a new park and money to plant 250 trees citywide. This would offset planned expenditures by \$247,000.

Maintenance of the new park and new street trees would impact the operating budget of Parks and Natural Resources. A funding source has not been identified to mitigate the impact of increased personnel and equipment needs for the new park. Existing city forces will expand their efforts to cover the anticipated increased workload.

Respectfully submitted:


CYNTHIA L. KURTZ
Acting City Manager

Prepared by:

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Fisher in black ink.

REBECCA FISHER
Forestry Supervisor
Parks and Natural Resources

Approved:

Handwritten signature of Robert C. Badarian in black ink.

ROBERT C. BADERIAN, Director
Parks and Natural Resources