



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

October 12, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation and Waterfront
 Subject: Grant Application: Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Project (EEMP) Proposal for Tree Planting

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) grant application to plant urban forest trees in the amount up to \$500,000; to accept the grant; to execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments; and authorizing the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The maximum grant award for this grant is \$500,000, which will cover all costs to plant trees (the costs cover project planning and coordination up to 25% of the award, site preparation to create planting locations, materials, project-length labor, equipment rental, and contractor costs). The remaining portion of the project will be covered by Parks Tax Fund for the City's Senior Forestry Climber for project coordination and administration costs. This City staff cost is provided in the grant application as "in-kind match". While local match is not required, the use of local City-funded Forestry staff as in-kind match will make the grant application more competitive. The grant funding cycle is for four fiscal years through March 2025.

Revenue from this grant will be deposited and expensed from the One-Time Grant Fund (Fund 336).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

This program, as provided by California Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56 (Article XIX, Section 1, of the State Constitution), authorizes the legislature to allocate up to \$7 million each fiscal year from the Highway Users Tax Account (Motor Vehicle Revenues, Section 2100). EEM projects must contribute to the mitigation of the environmental effects of transportation facilities. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) prescribes procedures and criteria to evaluate grant project proposals and submits a list of projects recommended for funding to the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

In January of 2021, the CNRA announced the current round of EEM grant funding. This project proposes to plant 600 new site-specific trees and provide related irrigation throughout streets and parks in West Berkeley at the following locations: 1) West side of Aquatic Park; 2) San Pablo Park; 3) University Avenue; and 4) West Berkeley neighborhoods within 1.5 miles of the RTF.

This application window for project proposals closed on March 5th. After reviewing the entire applicant pool throughout the state during the summer of 2021, the CNRA selected certain project proposals for a virtual field visit. The City presented a virtual field visit on August 25th and was invited to submit a full application in the Fall of 2021. Final award announcements are expected by January 2022.

BACKGROUND

The EEMP grant program involves tree planting and other activities that mitigate the negative environmental effects of a local Related Transportation Facility (RTF). The I-80 Widening Project of 1994 has been designated as the RTF for this part of the East Bay, and still requires mitigation of increased traffic.

The Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department has received EEM grants to plant trees throughout Berkeley for over two decades. This project would complement the City's current tree planting project funded by a California State Urban Greening grant to create new sites and plant and water 500 new trees in specific Disadvantaged Communities in West Berkeley through 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

One of the City's Climate Action Plan goals is to maintain the urban forest's present canopy coverage and to provide significant environmental benefits in the form of carbon dioxide absorption and oxygen production, as well as storm water retention and climate control. This project will use the natural systems of trees to achieve these goals. Trees also cool temperatures, beautify neighborhoods, add habitat, and provide health benefits to residents and visitors.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This grant will allow the City to expand the urban forest into historically underserved neighborhoods of West Berkeley.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSONS

Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront, 981-6700
Dan Gallagher, Senior Forestry Supervisor, 981-6687

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##-###

APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR CALIFORNIA STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE SECTION 164.56 (ARTICLE XIX, SECTION 1, OF THE STATE CONSITUTION) ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$500,000 FOR TREE PLANTING

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the California Natural Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the California Natural Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of an application by the Applicants governing board before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the Project; and

WHEREAS, funds will be deposited into the and expensed from the One-Time Grant Fund (Fund 336).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berkeley:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Project;
2. Certifies that applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application, and
3. Certifies that applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project consistent with the land tenure requirements; or will secure the resources to do so, and
4. Certifies that it will comply with the provisions of Section 1771.5 of the State Labor Code, and
5. If applicable, certifies that the project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, environmental laws and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable permits will have been obtained, and
6. Certifies that applicant will work towards the Governor's State Planning Priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety as included in Government Code Section 65041.1, and
7. Appoints the City Manager, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley authorizes the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the City of Berkeley's Office of the City Clerk.