



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 23, 2019

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: Prop 84 Urban Greening Grant Program – Trees Build Communities Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a Prop 84 Urban Greening grant application for the “Trees Build Communities: A Berkeley Urban Forest Expansion Project” in the amount of \$725,878; 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 total project cost for the Trees Build Communities: A Berkeley Urban Forest Expansion Project is \$915,709 and the grant funds requested are \$725,878, which will cover all costs to plant 500 trees (the costs cover site preparation to create planting locations, materials, part-time labor, and equipment rental). The remaining portion of the project is \$189,831, which will be covered by currently budgeted three years of the City’s Senior Forestry Climber for project coordination and administration costs paid from the Parks Tax Fund. 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 three fiscal years through March 2022.

| Item | CNRA Grant Request | City of Berkeley In-Kind Match | Total |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Project Management (City full-time staff) | | \$188,831 | \$188,831 |
| Site Preparation (Concrete cutting contract) | \$250,000 | | \$250,000 |
| Materials (trees, stakes, water reservoirs, water, soil) | \$97,400 | | \$97,400 |
| Labor (City part-time staff) | \$302,798 | | \$302,798 |
| Equipment Rental (pickup trucks and water trailers) | \$49,680 | | \$49,680 |
| Promotional Materials (outreach costs, required signs) | \$26,000 | \$1,000 | \$27,000 |
| Totals | \$725,878 | \$189,831 | \$915,709 |

Revenue from this grant would be deposited into the One-Time Grants Fund (Fund 421).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On January 8, 2019, the California Natural Resources Agency announced the opening of Round Three of the Urban Greening Program. On February 28, 2019, the City submitted a Concept Proposal. On April 30, 2019, the City was notified that its Concept Proposal was to be further evaluated during an on-site field visit scheduled for June 17, 2019. After this field visit, the State will invite the most competitive projects to submit supporting documentation to carry out the project. The program requires that the City first accept the terms of the grant program and authorize the City Manager or designee to enter into related grant agreements with the State of California Natural Resources Agency for administration of the grant.

BACKGROUND

This project will focus on expanding the City's urban forest into the Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) and Low-Income Communities (LIC) of West and South Berkeley. The City will partner with the Berkeley Climate Action Coalition (BCAC) and work with local community groups on further implementing Berkeley's Climate Action Plan through the planting of trees. The project goal is to identify 500 suitable locations and plant trees to maximize greenhouse gas reduction and other benefits. The new trees would be watered during the first two year tree establishment period.

Signed into law in 2006, Assembly Bill (AB) 32, also known as the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 required a sharp reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Signed into law on September 14, 2016, SB 859 created the California Natural Resources Agency's Urban Greening Program to support the development of green infrastructure projects that reduce GHG emissions and provide multiple benefits. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF) have governing statutes that include requirements for allocating funds for projects located in disadvantaged communities. The Urban Greening Program, funded by the GGRF, will fund projects that reduce greenhouse gases by sequestering carbon, decreasing energy consumption and reducing vehicle miles traveled, while also transforming the built environment into places that are more sustainable, enjoyable, and effective in creating healthy and vibrant communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

One of the City 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 and provide health benefits to residents and visitors.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

A focused project dedicated to expanding the urban forest into the historically underserved neighborhoods of South and West Berkeley is needed. Proper site planning and species selection will establish trees that are suitably sized and less costly to maintain. Action is required in order for the City of Berkeley to proceed with the grant program application process.

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 CLIMATE INVESTMENTS PROP 84 URBAN GREENING PROGRAM FOR THE TREES BUILD COMMUNITIES PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$725,878

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

WHEREAS, funds will be deposited into the One-Time Grants Fund (Fund 421).

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

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Trees Build Communities: A Berkeley Urban Forestry Expansion 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.

