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DATE: March 24, 2009
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Maintenance Services Director
SUBJECT: Resolution Requesting State Funding for Fairway Park Tree Planting

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the attached resolution approving an Urban Forestry Grant project and making the commitment of matching funds for an expanded program of street tree planting in the Fairway Park neighborhood.

SUMMARY

The State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection administers an Urban Forestry tree planting grant program "Green Trees for the Golden State" funded by Proposition 40, *California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood, Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002*, and Proposition 84, *Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006*. On December 12, 2008, the City submitted a project concept application for a \$99,375 Planting Grant. On March 2, 2009, the state informed staff that the project concept application had been ranked high enough to be eligible for the next step in the application process. In order to pursue this funding, a final proposal is due by April 3, 2009. One required component of the final proposal is a resolution authorizing project approval and matching funds. The proposed project is an expansion of the City's current tree planting project approved in the FY2009 Capital Improvement Program targeted towards planting additional street trees in the Fairway Park neighborhood. The approved CIP Funds can be used as the required local match.

BACKGROUND

The Fairway Park neighborhood was originally planted with a mixture of large canopy trees. Where these trees have persisted, they are one of the defining characteristics of the neighborhood. Over the last fifty years, many of the original trees were removed for various reasons. Not all of the trees were replaced and replacements were usually smaller stature trees. In recognition and due to concerns about the aesthetic and environmental effects of these changes, a committee of the Fairway Park Neighborhoods Association has been working with City staff to develop a Neighborhood Urban Forestry Management Plan. Although the plan is not completed, the committee has identified as a key component a more aggressive, directed planting of larger canopy trees. The committee has identified 1,000 vacant sites in the neighborhood where trees should be planted.

The City's current tree planting CIP can fund the planting of 500 trees per year throughout the City. By using a portion of the existing CIP fund as the local match, the state's grant program could provide the necessary funds to plant all 1,000 trees. All planting would be completed over the next three years.

DISCUSSION

Project Description: This project would be a partnership between the City and the Fairway Park Neighborhoods Association funded by grant funds and an existing City CIP appropriation. As part of the development of the Fairway Park Neighborhood Street Tree Management Plan, suitable trees will be selected for the vacant sites. Educational and promotional materials, paid for by the grant, would be developed and distributed to all Fairway Park residents. The majority of the grant project funding would purchase trees and necessary planting materials. The planting would be accomplished through five to ten large neighborhood tree planting days. The majority of the labor for tree planting would be by volunteers from Fairway Park. City staff would administer the program, provide planting-day support to the volunteers, and educate residents on proper tree planting. Association members, with assistance from City staff, will procure volunteers, monitor the new plantings, and work with the residents to provide proper tree care. Project funding would also pay for structural pruning and stake removal of the young trees. In addition, limited establishment irrigation would be funded from the project where the resident was unable to provide that care.

Project Benefits: Increasing the number and canopy coverage of trees in the Fairway Park neighborhood will increase property values, remove carbon and pollutants from the atmosphere, reduce storm water runoff, save energy, extend the life of paved surfaces, increase traffic safety, improve economic sustainability, add aesthetic value, and provide sociological benefits.

This project will also serve as a model for the City and other neighborhoods. Given the current fiscal realities, this project could not be accomplished without grant funds and a partnership between the residents of that neighborhood and City staff.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

State Planting Grants require a 25% local match. Since the required matching funds have already been approved in the Capital Improvement Program, additional appropriation is unnecessary. Some of the City's matching funds will be used for staff time, which will somewhat reduce operating budget expenditures.

This project will increase the number of trees and result in a future increase in canopy coverage. Studies have shown that trees increase property values and create a more desirable commercial environment. The economic impact cannot be quantified, but we can anticipate some increase in property tax and sales tax. At maturity, the trees will provide individual property owners with reduced electric and gas utility bills.

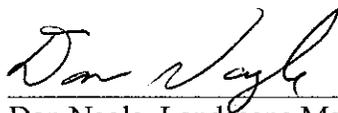
PUBLIC CONTACT

Since this project is an outgrowth of the Fairway Park Neighborhoods Street Tree Master Plan process, there has been considerable contact with the committee members of the Fairway Park Neighborhoods Association. The project was proposed to the state grant program as a funding mechanism to meet their request.

SCHEDULE

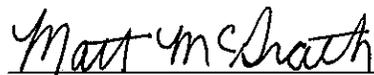
Submittal of Final Application	April 3, 2009
Start public outreach program	Spring- Summer 2009
First planting day	Fall 2009
Complete Project	March 30, 2012

Prepared by:



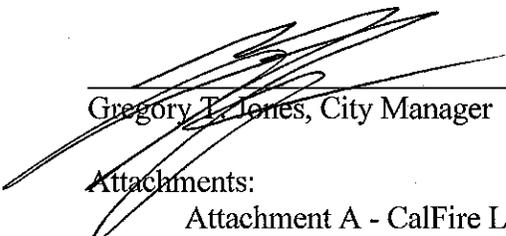
Dan Nagle, Landscape Maintenance Manager

Recommended by:



Matt, McGrath, Director of Maintenance Services

Approved by:


Gregory T. Jones, City Manager

Attachments:

Attachment A - CalFire Letter regarding Concept Application for Urban Forestry
Draft Resolution

ATTACHMENT A

To all Green Trees for the Golden State and Leaf-It-To-Us approved proposals,

Congratulations on having your concept proposals ranked high enough to submit a full proposal! With the deadline for submitting final applications on Friday, April 3, I encourage you all to not hesitate and complete your application as soon as possible. I am available by phone, email or through possible meetings in order to help you with this process. Attached you will find various forms that may be helpful to you in this process. You also need to submit STD's 19 & 21, which can be found online. I am not providing the Excel form of the application as it does not contain all needed information. You are encouraged to submit your final proposal in any format available as long as you **ADDRESS ALL CHECKLIST ITEMS** which were included in the checklist sent to you with the congratulatory letter. I suggest typing the bulk of the application in Word format (with the checklist bullets typed in bold as headings). For the budget information, I would suggest an Excel format which could then be copied into the application or attached as an appendix. Make sure your budget, as well as match funding, is as detailed as possible.

Again, the deadline for submission of 2 hard copies to my address is Friday, April 3 by 5:00PM. I encourage you to start your applications soon. You can then send a copy of your draft to me in an email beforehand, at which point I will revise them and provide any comments to you before submitting the final draft.

Best of luck.

<<Environmental Check List.doc>> <<RESOLUTION_Prop40_84.doc>> <<STD204.doc>> <<Statement of Laws Compliance.doc>> <<CERTIFICATION OF RESPONSIBLE PARTY FOR MAINTENANCE.doc>>

Jimi Scheid

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Urban Forestry Program

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Program & Grant Information:

http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry.php

<http://www.ufei.org/grantinfo.lasso>

DRAFT

MSL

HAYWARD CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Introduced by Council Member _____

RESOLUTION FOR FUNDING FROM THE URBAN FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM ENTITLED, "AN URBAN FOREST FOR EVERY CITY" AS PROVIDED THROUGH PROPOSITIONS 40 AND 84

WHEREAS, the governor of the State of California in cooperation with the California State Legislature has enacted Propositions 40 and 84, which provide funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for urban forestry programs; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary procedures governing application by local agencies and non-profit organizations under the program, and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out an urban forestry project.

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

1. Approves the filing of an application for "PROPOSITION 40 and 84" urban forestry grant program funds; and
2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and
3. Certifies that funds under the jurisdiction of the City of Hayward are available to begin the project; and
4. Certifies that said applicant will expend grant funds prior to March 31, 2011; and
5. Appoints the City Manager as agent for the City of Hayward to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreement, amendments, payment requests and any other documents necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

