



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 11, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Waterfront

Subject: Grant Application: Caltrans Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program for Tree Planting Project in Berkeley

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Caltrans Program (EEMP) for the Berkeley Urban Reforestation Project in the amount of \$243,540; to accept the grant; to execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments; and authorizing the implementation of the projects and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The total project amount for the Berkeley Urban Reforestation Project is \$657,800 and the grant funds being requested is \$243,540, which will cover all field costs needed to plant trees (City staff, 1,000 trees and stakes, and concrete tree well cuts). The remaining portion of the project will cost \$414,260, which is comprised of resident volunteer time to care for each new tree (watering, mulching, and weeding), \$54,260 for two years of the City's Forestry Technician for project coordination paid from the Parks Tax Fund. The grant funding cycle is for two fiscal years from July 2013 through June 2015. Funds will be deposited into budget code 674-5802-331.24-03. CMS No. GPKXB.

Item	EEMP Grant Request	City of Berkeley In-Kind Match	Total
Tree Planting Labor (2 staff x 24 weeks x 2 years)	\$126,470		\$126,470
Vehicle Rental (6 months x 2 years)	\$7,800		\$7,800
Tree Stock (1000 trees @~\$56.00 per tree)	\$56,000		\$56,000
Concrete tree well cuts (150 x \$240 each)	\$36,000		\$36,000
Tree Stakes and planting materials	\$17,270		\$17,270
Program Coordination (~20% FTE)		\$54,260	\$54,260
Young Tree Care Maintenance for three years		* \$360,000	\$360,000
Totals	\$243,540	\$414,260	\$657,800

* The Young Tree Care Maintenance component of the City's tree planting program requires that newly-planted trees be watered regularly for three years until they become established. To accomplish this, the City requires Berkeley residents who request trees through this program to volunteer their time to perform the necessary tree watering. Caltrans allows grant applicants to calculate the value of volunteer hours at \$15 per hour and to incorporate this value into the project budget. Therefore, \$360,000 in volunteer hours is included as an in-kind donation for the Young Tree Care Maintenance component of the project.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Each year, the City removes approximately 250 trees due to storm damage, disease, death, and exceeded life-span. The Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department places a priority on replacing all removed trees. The City also receives over 800 requests each year from residents and businesses for new trees to be planted along City streets adjacent to private property. The City seeks to meet these requests and expand the number of new trees planted in Berkeley in order to maximize the canopy cover and expand the environmental and aesthetic benefits of the urban forest.

The Berkeley Urban Reforestation Project application to the EEMP grant program has two components: (1) Street tree planting to fill vacant tree wells, planting sites, and street medians along residential and commercial streets and (2) Tree planting in City parks. The City proposes to plant 1,000 trees over a two-year period in vacant planting sites along City streets, medians, and parks. Special emphasis will be made to plant trees along corridors and in neighborhoods most impacted by the Interstate 80 corridor, which are often under-served and under-planted communities.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department Urban Forestry Program manages over 51,000 street and park trees and tree sites throughout the City. Our comprehensive mature and young tree maintenance program includes the removal of about 250 trees each year due to disease, old age, structural failures, infrastructure conflicts, and storm damage. This results in a loss of canopy coverage and carbon sequestering opportunities for the City. The City's goal is to maintain and ultimately increase canopy coverage and to provide significant environmental benefits in the form of carbon dioxide absorption and oxygen production as well as climate control.

Since 1997, the City has received five EEMP grants that have provided funds to plant over 5,000 trees throughout Berkeley. The grant awards are made to provide mitigations to Caltrans transportation projects over and above that required by CEQA. In Berkeley, the basis of the EEMP grant is the Caltrans I-80 Freeway Operational Improvement Project to add a high-occupancy vehicle lane in both directions, completed in FY1995/96.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City's goal is to maintain and ultimately increase tree canopy coverage and to provide significant environmental benefits in the form of carbon dioxide absorption and oxygen production as well as climate control. This program will allow the City to plant 1,000 more trees throughout the City over a two-year period.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Sue Ferrera, Parks Superintendent, 981-6667
Betsy Reeves, Forestry Technician, 981-6689

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION (EEMP) CALTRANS PROGRAM FOR THE BERKELEY URBAN REFORESTATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$243,540; TO ACCEPT THE GRANT; TO EXECUTE ANY RESULTANT REVENUE AGREEMENTS AND AMENDMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECTS AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDING FOR RELATED EXPENSES, SUBJECT TO SECURING THE GRANT

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has authorized a program for funding grants to state, local and federal agencies and nonprofit entities for projects to enhance and mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the California Resources Agency has established the procedures and criteria for reviewing grant proposals and is required to submit to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) a list of recommended projects from which the grant recipients will be selected; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the California Resources Agency require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before submission to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Project. Contract Management System; and

WHEREAS, funds will be deposited into budget code 674-5802-331.24-03. CMS No. GPKXB.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to submit a grant application to the State of California Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Caltrans Program under Section 164.56 of the Streets and Highways Code for the Berkeley Urban Reforestation Project in the amount of \$243,540; to accept the grant; to execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments; and authorizing the implementation of the projects and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

