



Councilmember Linda Maio
District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 16, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Linda Maio, District 1
Subject: Codornices Creek Habitat Restoration and Creation of Public Access, at San Pablo & Kains

RECOMMENDATION

1. Direct the City Manager to submit the appropriate grant application(s), in coordination with the City of Albany and the interested creek advocacy groups, to acquire funds to rehabilitate and restore the portion of Codornices Creek between Kains and San Pablo Avenue; and
2. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to a) submit a grant application to the California Department of Water Resources for the Urban Streams Restoration Program to help mitigate flooding and erosion problems; b) accept the grant and execute any resultant agreements and amendments; and c) authorize the implementation of projects in compliance with the requirements of CEQA and allocate funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

BACKGROUND

There is an upcoming grant opportunity to apply for funds from the Department of Water Resources to, finally, restore the natural habitat of this portion of Codornices creek and provide an opportunity for future public access. This project involves partnerships among public agencies, non-profit organizations, and citizens/neighborhood groups. Many of individuals and entities have been seeking to advance this project for over a decade. A successful grant will make it possible to restore the riparian environment and habitat in the currently, channelized Codornices Creek. At some point in the future it can then be further improved for appropriate public access.

This portion of the creek is adjacent to an affordable housing complex (on the Albany side) created by RCD. Neighbors who reside there have expressed interest in caring for the creekside, along with creek advocates, which provides another incentive to apply for grant funds so the restoration work can begin.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the information currently available about the proposed grant guidelines, it is anticipated that the city will be eligible to apply for a Department of Water Resources grant of up to \$500,000 to make improvements to Codornices Creek between Kains and San Pablo Avenues. The Financial implications are not fully known at this time. If a financial match is required, further council consideration will be necessary. Other financial implications could include reassigning staff to assist with grant writing,

assigning staff to manage design and construction phases of the project and future maintenance costs. If awarded, an increase in expenditure authority will be required through an amendment to the Appropriations Ordinance.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Linda

District 1

(510) 981-7110

Attachment:

1. Resolution

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

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES URBAN STREAMS RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM, TO REDUCE FLOODING, EROSION AND ASSOCIATED PROPERTY DAMAGE

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources, FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office, Urban Streams Restoration Grant Program has announced the availability of funds for grants; and

WHEREAS, said grants are intended to help mitigate flooding and erosion problems in a way that provides environmental enhancements; and

WHEREAS, it is in the City's interest to restore, enhance, and/or protect the natural ecological values of streams and creeks; and

WHEREAS, the Earth Island Institute has proposed to co-sponsor a grant application with the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, the project proposed for grant funding would be environmentally beneficial.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is hereby authorized to 1) submit a grant application to the California Department of Water Resources for the Urban Streams Restoration Program to help mitigate flooding and erosion problems; 2) accept the grant and execute any resultant agreements and amendments; and 3) authorize the implementation of projects in compliance with the requirements of CEQA and allocate funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments shall be on file in the office of the City Clerk.

