



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 23, 2015

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Facilities Division, Waterfront Department

SUBJECT: Santa Barbara Beautiful And Chumash Foundation Grants For The Dolphin Fountain Landscaping Project

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Authorize the receipt of grant funds totaling \$5,000 from Santa Barbara Beautiful;
- B. Authorize the receipt of grant funds totaling \$5,000 from the Chumash Foundation; and
- C. Increase appropriations and estimated revenues for Fiscal Year 2016 by \$10,000 in the Waterfront Fund for the Dolphin Fountain Landscaping Project.

DISCUSSION:

Located at the foot of Stearns Wharf, the Dolphin Fountain is one of the most visited landmarks in the City of Santa Barbara. A bronze statue of three dolphins created by local artist, Bud Bottoms, sits atop the fountain and was unveiled to the public on July 15, 1985. With Council's Stage 2 Drought Declaration in May 2014, regulations were adopted prohibiting the use of water in fountains. Considering the importance of this iconic landmark, City staff working with Santa Barbara Beautiful, the Chumash Foundation, Santa Barbara Men's Garden Club, and Bud Bottoms have conceived a plan to restore the statue and landscape the fountain to improve the aesthetics while the drought continues.

After almost 30 years, the bronze statue of the dolphins has deteriorated and is in need of restoration. The City has contracted with Masters in Metals to clean and remove the existing scale and patina, apply a new patina and urethane sealer. This effort will restore the brilliant sheen of the bronze sculpture and protect it from the marine elements for many years.

Water has been off in the Dolphin Fountain since May 2014. Signs informing the public of the severe drought and why there is no water have been placed in the fountain's moat. The Parks & Recreation Department recently installed drought tolerant potted plants in the fountain at the Chase Palm Park Expansion setting an example for how to maintain the aesthetics of fountains while conserving water. The Santa Barbara Men's

Garden Club prepared a planting palette with input from the Chumash for the Dolphin Fountain. Drought tolerant succulents and sages planted in pots will be installed in the fountain's moat and directly under the statue. The landscape plan was reviewed and approved by the Historic Landmarks Commission on June 3.

Santa Barbara Beautiful, formed by civic leaders in 1965, is dedicated to beautifying our area and works cooperatively with the City and local community groups. The organization's Board of Directors expressed interest in participating in restoration of the Dolphin Fountain and approved the award of a \$5,000 grant to the City of Santa Barbara towards the funding of the project.

The Chumash Foundation has also generously offered \$5,000 to offset the cost of landscaping the fountain and the dolphin statue restoration. July will mark the 30th anniversary of the Dolphin Fountain and the Chumash are planning a rededication ceremony. The ceremony will include Chumash dancers and additional plantings of drought tolerant succulents native to the Channel Islands.

Staff recommends that Council accept these grants as an excellent demonstration of several community organizations' commitment to maintaining the Dolphin Fountain as the world-renowned landmark that it is.

PREPARED BY: Karl Treiberg, Waterfront Facilities Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office