



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 22, 2016

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Resolution For Grant Agreement For Las Positas Creek Restoration Project

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Approving the Acceptance of a \$1,000,000 Urban Streams Restoration Program Grant and Designating a Project Representative, Contract Manager, and Fiscal Agent; and
- B. Authorize an increase in appropriations and estimated revenues by \$1,000,000 in the Creeks Capital Fund for the Las Positas Creek Restoration Project, to be funded from the Urban Streams Restoration Program Grant.

DISCUSSION:

Las Positas Creek is one of the major tributary creeks to Arroyo Burro. It is 1.3 miles long and flows from the Santa Barbara Golf Club, under Earl Warren Showgrounds and Highway 101, then along the west side of Las Positas Road, where it eventually flows into Arroyo Burro near the intersection of Las Positas Road and Veronica Springs Road. Las Positas Creek has been heavily modified by urban development, resulting in roughly half of the total length of natural waterway being converted to storm drain pipe or concrete drainage channel.

The Las Positas Creek Restoration Project (Project) is focused on improving water quality and habitat throughout the lower half of the creek. Removing the concrete, restoring a more natural stream bed, and establishing sycamores, oaks, and other riparian vegetation are primary Project goals. Reducing flooding in the area is also a major Project objective. Currently, all the homes in the Las Positas Place and Veronica Place cul-de-sacs are in the FEMA 100-year floodplain, with 18 of those homes sited in the regulatory floodway. Preliminary engineering analysis indicates the Project would decrease flood potential by widening the creek to accommodate larger creek flows.

In January 2015, the Creeks Division applied for a one million dollar (\$1,000,000) grant through the California Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program (USRP). The City was awarded the grant on June 9, 2015. The City has finalized the grant agreement with the USRP and is now seeking Council approval to accept the grant funds.

The USRP also requires the City to partner with a non-profit organization. The Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council agreed to partner with the City and is a co-signer on the grant agreement.

The Project is included in the Creeks Division Fiscal Year 2016 Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan and is identified in the City's General Plan as a possible implementation action to restore City creeks and improve water quality. The Creeks Division is currently developing preliminary and final design plans in coordination with the Las Positas Road Multiuse Path Project, soliciting FEMA approval, and pursuing additional grant funding opportunities.

A copy of the contract/agreement is available for public review in the City Clerk's Office. The City attorney has approved as to form.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total Project cost, including design and construction, is estimated to be \$2.8 million. The existing capital appropriation for the Project is \$1,161,920. The Creeks Division's Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2017 proposes an additional \$300,000 for a total of \$1,461,920 to fund Project design and construction. The Creeks Division will receive a one million dollar (\$1,000,000) grant from the Urban Streams Restoration Program for Project construction. The Creeks Division also has a pending grant application for \$500,000 with the California River Parkways Grant Program. With a successful award of this grant, a total of \$2,961,920 will be available for Project design and construction.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

This Project will restore native plants, improve water quality, and reduce flooding in Las Positas Creek, thereby improving water quality downstream in the Arroyo Burro Estuary, and the coastal ocean at Arroyo Burro Beach.

PREPARED BY: Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office