



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** May 15, 2007  
**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department  
**SUBJECT:** Clean Beaches Initiative Proposition 50 Grant For The Laguna Watershed Study And Water Quality Improvement Feasibility Analysis

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara authorizing the Parks and Recreation Director to enter into an agreement with the State of California for \$200,000 in grant funds from the Clean Beaches Initiative Proposition 50 Clean Beaches Grant Program administered by the California State Water Resources Control Board, pursuant to the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, for The Laguna Watershed Study and Water Quality Improvement Feasibility Analysis.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI) Grant Program was initiated in response to the poor water quality and high exceedences of bacterial indicators revealed by AB 411 (Chapter 765, Statutes of 1997) monitoring at California's beaches. In November 2002, voters approved the *Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002* (Proposition 50) authorizing the issuance of bonds to fund a variety of water quality improvement projects. The 2005/06 Budget Act appropriated \$23 million of Proposition 50 funds for CBI projects.

The CBI Grant Program provides funding for projects that restore and protect the water quality and the environment of estuaries, bays, and near shore coastal waters. Funding priority is given to projects that reduce postings and closures on California public beaches caused by bacterial contamination.

The City of Santa Barbara has requested Prop 50 funds for the first phase of a 2 phase implementation project to eliminate bacteria from the Laguna Channel prior to discharge at

REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney

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East Beach. The Laguna watershed is entirely urban and conveyed by storm drains to a 1/2 mile open channel. The channel is the only water body in Santa Barbara not directly connected to a beach lagoon. All channel flow is pumped around tide gates by the Laguna Pump Station Facility. The first phase includes a watershed assessment to identify all sources and contributions of flow to Laguna Channel, microbial source tracking to confirm the presence of human waste in the channel, and a feasibility analysis and conceptual design for locating a water treatment device at the existing pump station or at another location within the watershed. Permitting, design, and construction of the water treatment device/s would occur in the second phase. This project was identified as a high priority in a Bacteria Reduction Treatment Study completed for the City with Prop 13 Clean Beaches Initiative funds.

In February 2007, the Creeks Division submitted a concept proposal for the Laguna Watershed Study and Water Quality Improvement Feasibility Analysis to the State Water Resources Control Board's Consolidated Grants Program. The Clean Beach Task Force, representing the State Water Board, has recommended the project for funding in the amount of \$220,000. Once the City submits a detailed application, the State Water Board can begin processing the grant agreement. A resolution from City Council authorizing the Parks and Recreation Director to enter into a grant agreement with the State Water Board is required as part of this detailed application. The Creeks Advisory Committee was informed of the pre-proposal, and will receive a project update at its regular meeting on May 9, 2007.

Once grant funds are awarded, it is anticipated that the watershed study would begin in June 2007. The study will likely require 8 months to complete. Preliminary design plans for the recommended water treatment device/s identified as part of the study, will be developed between March and June 2008. The Creeks Division will apply for additional grant funds to pay for construction of the treatment device/s during the permitting and preliminary design plan phase of the project.

#### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

It is estimated that the cost to design, permit, and complete the feasibility study is \$268,400. The Creeks Division is requesting \$220,000 from the Prop 50 funds. The Prop 50 Grant requires a match of 15%. If grant funds are awarded, the City's match would be \$48,400, or 22% of the total project cost. Measure B funds would provide the match. Funds for the City's match are available in the Fiscal Year 2007 Creeks Division Capital Program.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

The study will identify feasible water quality treatment devices that, if constructed, will help meet local and regional objectives to improve surface water quality in city creeks and

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within the surf zone at city beaches. Once the treatment devices are identified, specific sustainability impacts will be addressed.

**PREPARED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

**SUBMITTED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office