



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 16, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Urban Streams Restoration Grant Application Resolution

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Approving the Application for \$293,900 in Grant Funds from the State of California Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Grant Program for the Upper Las Positas Creek Restoration and Storm Water Management Project.

DISCUSSION:

The Urban Streams Restoration grant program provides funds to: (1) reduce property damage caused by flooding or erosion, (2) restore or protect the natural ecological values of streams, and (3) promote community involvement, education, or stewardship. Eligible grant applicants include local government in partnership with a community group. The Urban Streams Restoration grant program is part of the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 and is administered by the California Department of Water Resources.

The Upper Las Positas Creek Restoration and Storm Water Management Project (Project) is located at the Santa Barbara Golf Club and the adjacent Adams Elementary School. The Project aims to treat storm water runoff through the use of constructed wetlands and restore degraded riparian habitat with native plants. The Project will also reduce creek erosion and sedimentation caused by high storm flows on-site and downstream of the Santa Barbara Golf Club, thereby improving water quality in the Arroyo Burro watershed.

The Urban Streams Restoration grant program guidelines require that the applicant's governing body, e.g., the Council of the City of Santa Barbara, adopt a resolution approving the application for grant funds. The guidelines also state that if the resolution cannot be drawn up and adopted before the application is due, a letter of intent will be accepted until the resolution can be submitted. The Creeks Division submitted a grant application, which included a letter of intent from the City Administrator and a letter of support from the Parks and Recreation Director, before the due date of November 12, 2008. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, a non-profit organization involved with local water issues, is the required community group co-applicant for the grant.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total Project cost, including design and construction, is estimated to be approximately \$1.8 million. The Creeks Division has \$426,557 available for this project in the Fiscal Year 2009 Capital Program and is requesting \$293,900 from the Urban Streams Restoration grant program. The Creeks Division has already secured \$20,000 in grant funds for the Project from the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Community Restoration Program. It is anticipated that the Creeks Division will return to Council in early 2009 to request any additional Measure B appropriations needed to ensure that the Project can move forward.

Staff from the Creeks, Golf, and Engineering Divisions are currently reviewing the final construction plans and specifications. Once project funding is secured, it is anticipated that the Project will go out to bid in spring 2009, with construction to begin in May 2009.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

This project will detain and filter polluted storm water and incidental urban runoff, thereby improving water quality downstream in Las Positas Creek, the Arroyo Burro Estuary, and the coastal ocean at Arroyo Burro Beach.

PREPARED BY: George Thomson, Creeks Planner

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

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office