



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 12, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Grant For The Golf Storm Water Management Project

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to enter into an agreement with the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) to receive a grant for \$20,000 for construction and community outreach during Phase 1 of the Golf Storm Water Management Project; and
- B. Increase Fiscal Year 2009 appropriations and estimated revenues by \$20,000 in the Creeks Division Capital Fund for the Santa Barbara Golf Storm Water Management Project.

DISCUSSION:

The Santa Barbara Golf Storm Water Management Project will improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce downstream flooding potential in the Arroyo Burro watershed. During the past winter, Creeks Division staff tested the storm water at multiple sites on the golf course and at several locations where urban runoff enters the course. All of the samples collected exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's criteria for two types of indicator bacteria and several types of nutrients, which can pose risks to human health and aquatic life.

The project will be implemented during two phases in order to avoid major soil grading during the rainy season. This project will be on the City Council agenda of September 9, 2008. As part of Phase 1, which will begin this October, the existing drainage channels on the golf course and at the adjacent Adams School will be reshaped and planted with over 5,000 new plants that will remove excess nutrients and provide habitat. Phase 2 is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2009 and will include storm drain modifications and construction of several large, vegetated storm water basins.

In March of 2008, the Creeks Division applied for a \$20,000 grant from the Southern California Wetland Recovery Project (WRP) through the Community Wetland Restoration Grants Program. The purpose of the program is to build local capacity to plan and implement wetland restoration projects; promote community involvement in wetlands

restoration activities; and foster education about wetlands ecosystems. The grant funds will be used to construct a demonstration wetland with over 30 native plant species at Adams School. Over 600 students will help plant the constructed wetland and learn about site stewardship, wetland science, and Santa Barbara's creeks. The grant funds will also be used for community outreach and to assist teachers with curriculum development associated with the project.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total estimated cost to construct Phase 1 of the Santa Barbara Golf Storm Water Management Project is \$260,229. The Creeks Division capital budget currently has \$433,597 allocated for construction of this project. The WRP grant funds will provide \$20,000 toward the purchase of native plants, irrigation, educational supplies, and a portion of the construction costs at the Adams School site. Any project costs not covered by grants will be paid with Creeks Division capital funds budgeted in Fiscal Year 2009.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Controlling the quality and amount of urban runoff from developed areas is critical for both the protection of water quality in the City and reduction of flood risks. The goal of the project is to minimize and treat polluted runoff from urbanized landscapes and improve water quality in the creeks and ocean using the most natural, effective, and energy efficient methods possible. Construction waste will be recycled, and new irrigation technology will reduce water usage up to 30% in project areas.

PREPARED BY: George Thomson, Creeks Planner

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office