



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 22, 2011

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Application For Grant Funding For Mission Creek Lagoon And Laguna Channel Restoration And Flood Reduction Project

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Approving the Application for \$5,175,000 in Grant Funds from the Flood Corridor Program under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) and the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1E).

DISCUSSION:

Background

The Creeks Division has been working with staff from the Waterfront Department, Public Works Department, and Parks and Recreation Department to define the scope of work, estimated cost, and timeline for the Mission Creek Lagoon and Laguna Channel Restoration and Flood Reduction Project ("Project"). The Project, which is included in the City's six-year Capital Improvement Plan, is focused on improving the water quality and habitat of the Mission Creek Lagoon and Laguna Channel. The area serves as an important recreational destination for residents and tourists, as well as critical habitat for the federally-listed endangered steelhead trout. The Laguna Channel also houses essential flood control infrastructure that serves a large portion of the downtown area.

Project Planning

As part of the initial Project planning process, the Creeks Division hosted several public forums and met with specific groups and individuals in an effort to solicit input from stakeholders and the wider community. Water quality improvements, habitat restoration, flood control infrastructure upgrades, and enhancements to recreational activities were all identified as important components of any future efforts in this area. Local, state, and federal regulatory agencies were also involved in the development of appropriate Project goals to ensure the protection of natural resources and compliance with existing laws and permits. The Project is currently in the conceptual design phase, with preliminary design

expected to begin by June 2011. The final design phase will commence once public input on the preliminary design plans is complete. The Project is expected to be built in 2013 and 2014, pending completion of the design, permitting, and funding phases. Other Public Works projects adjacent to the Project area, such as the Cabrillo Bridge Replacement Project and the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project, are being coordinated by staff to ensure logistical and budgetary issues are resolved efficiently.

California Department Of Water Resources (DWR) Flood Corridor Program

The Creeks Division submitted an application to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Flood Corridor Program for \$5,175,000 in grant funds to cover a portion of the Project design and construction. The Flood Corridor Program funds primarily nonstructural flood management solutions through direct expenditures and grants to local public agencies and nonprofit organizations. Funding under this Program is intended to be used for acquisition, restoration, enhancement and protection of real property while enhancing wildlife habitat in and near flood corridors throughout the state. The Flood Corridor Program has substantial funding in the 2011 grant cycle from voter-approved Proposition 84 and Proposition 1E.

The DWR requires a resolution from the City Council as part of the grant application. The resolution must be executed within 30 days of the proposal due date (March 3rd) and no later than 60 days after the due date.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL:

Preliminary design and construction cost estimates for this project are approximately \$7,000,000. The Creeks Division requested \$5,175,000 in grant funding through the Flood Corridor Program. The remaining amount would be funded with a combination of funds, including Measure B matching funds and other grant sources.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The purpose of the project is to enhance the habitat and water quality of the Mission Creek Lagoon, Laguna Channel, and surrounding environment. Additional sustainable practices may be realized by reducing the energy costs associated with pumping storm water around the Laguna Channel tide gates. More efficient motors and renewable energy sources will be considered during the Project design phase.

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

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

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office