


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BUREAU OF SANITATION  
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION  
JOINT REPORT NO.1  
July 6, 2015

CD: 1,2,4,6,7,8,9,10,13,14,15

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD  
PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY  
of Los Angeles California  
AND REFERRED TO THE MAYOR  
JUL - 6 2015

AND REFERRED TO THE CITY COUNCIL  
  
Executive Officer  
Board of Public Works

AUTHORITY TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, NEGOTIATE, AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT, AND ADOPT THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION (EEM) PROGRAM FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY AND AUTHORITY TO REQUEST A LOAN FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS TRUST FUND TO BE REIMBURSED AS GRANT PROCEEDS ARE RECEIVED

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve and forward this report forthwith, with its transmittal, to the Mayor and the City Council, with the recommendation that the City Council, subject to the concurrence by the Mayor, authorize the Director of the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) or designee to apply for, accept, negotiate, execute and submit all grant documents, including but not limited to, applications, agreements, and amendments, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form, which may be necessary to receive funding, if awarded a grant, from the State of California, Natural Resources Agency for the Tree WELLness Concrete to Canopy Project not exceeding the amount of \$500,000.
2. Authorize a loan from the Public Works Trust Fund (Fund 834) in the amount of \$500,000, payable by the Environmental Affairs Trust Fund (Fund 537), to front fund the Project as the grant proceeds are received on a cost reimbursement basis.
3. Request the City Council, subject to concurrence by the Mayor, to adopt the accompanying Resolution authorizing the submission of the grant application to the State of California and appointing the Director of LASAN, or designee, to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests, etc., which may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Resolution in compliance with Natural Resources Agency requirements to complete the Project and expend grant funds prior to June 30, 2020, if awarded the grant.
4. Request the Board of Public Works to authorize the Office of Community Beautification (OCB) to amend contract C-124509 with LA Conservation Corps (LACC) to increase the contract ceiling by \$500,000, and to extend the contract by two years to cover the grant implementation period, if the grant proposal is funded.
5. Request the Board of Public Works to authorize the work up to \$500,000.

6. Authorize the Director of (LASAN) to receive and appropriate \$500,000 from the Public Works Trust Fund, Fund 834 to the Environmental Affairs Trust Fund, Fund 537, Department 50, New Account (Tree WELLness: Concrete to Canopy), and to make payments to LA Conservation Corps (C-124509) and for (LASAN) expenses.
7. Authorize reimbursements from the State to be deposited into the Environmental Affairs Trust Fund and subsequently, to be transferred back to the Public Works Trust Fund.
8. Request the Controller to make technical corrections as necessary.

### TRANSMITTAL

1. Resolution, as required by the State of California, Natural Resources Agency for grant submittals to the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program.

### DISCUSSION

The Department of Public Works is currently implementing several tree planting projects through LA Sanitation (LASAN), the Office of Community Beautification (OCB), and in partnership with City Plants and several non-profit tree planting organizations. Much of the labor to plant the trees and to create new tree wells by cutting concrete in parkways is being done by the LA Conservation Corps (LACC), and their subcontracting partners, through contracts with OCB. In addition, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is providing City Plants with funding for trees and labor.

The California Natural Resources Agency is offering funding for projects that will contribute to the mitigation of the environmental effects of transportation facilities. The program encourages projects that produce multiple benefits which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase water use efficiency, reduce risks from climate change impacts, and demonstrate collaboration with local, state and community entities. Urban Forestry Projects are designed to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide and diesel particulate matter through the planting of trees.

A tool called the Cal Environ Screen 2.0, was released by CAL EPA and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Ca, that identifies the multiple sources of pollution that burden communities by census tracts. This tool allows us to work in disadvantaged communities with the greatest need to increase tree canopy, while reducing the urban heat island effect and air pollution impacts, as well as, saving energy from reduced air conditioning use.

In addition, the non-profit organizations that are under contract with City Plants are committed to working with (LASAN) and the (LADWP) to receive the training and equipment upgrades to utilize the reclaimed water that is available through the purple pipe and fill stations scattered throughout the City. Our goal is to have at least 25% of the new trees watered with recycled water.

Grant applications are due to the Resources Agency by July 13, 2015. The grant will fund concrete cuts and multi-year watering plans, which are usually the two most difficult pieces to fund in the tree planting projects in low canopy areas of the City. If selected, the Natural Resources Agency is expected to announce the grant awards in the spring of 2016.

The project, "Tree WELLness: Concrete to Canopy", will plant 500 parkway trees in South Los Angeles, East LA and the Pacoima areas. The request for \$500,000 will fund:

- Approximately 470 tree wells at a cost of \$225,600 and
- Two years of watering for those newly planted trees for \$186,120.
- About \$78,280 will fund part-time, as-needed LASAN staff to implement the project, find the locations, direct the planting and watering site by site to the non-profits, and to document the locations for the grant requirements.
- The remaining budget (\$10,000) will be used for mandated signage, printed materials and other hard costs.
- An additional 200 5-gallon fruit and shade trees will be planted on private property in residential areas adjacent the business corridors and funded by City Plants through tree adoption events.

The grant encourages the use of matching funds to increase the competitiveness of the applications. City Plants has committed to providing 500 fifteen gallon trees and the labor for planting the trees. Tree labor, along with the trees, is provided under contract C-124509 (funds originally from the LADWP. Currently funds from LADWP will only pay for trees and planting labor, not for concrete cuts or watering.

Funds from the Natural Resources Agency will allow City Plants to complete several mini projects in the lowest canopy neighborhoods in the City. The intent is to look for stretches of barren sidewalks primarily along streets with schools, businesses or industrial with high foot traffic that could handle 50 or more trees over a couple of blocks.

Page 4

The project areas are primarily locations along major corridors near the 110 and the 5 freeways. We have found several streets in South LA, including Main and Broadway, with several cross streets with very few trees. In Atwater Village, a portion of Glendale Blvd would be a strong candidate for new tree wells. We have also identified two Valley schools, Vena (Arleta) and Fernangeles (Sun Valley) that could serve as anchors to the corridors we hope to green. The fruit and shade tree adoptions will be held at central locations to be determined later in the project as community interest develops.

The project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) since the project will only plant trees and construct new tree wells in areas that have been previously disturbed.

On August 25, 2014, the Board of Public Works approved a contract with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps in the amount of \$1,125,000, which was fully executed on September 3, 2014 with the contract (Number C-124509) for tree planting labor, purchasing trees and supplies, and other associated elements, including concrete cuts for new tree wells. A contract amendment is needed to raise the ceiling of the contract, and add \$500,000 in funding, if awarded the grant.

Cost associated with contract C-124509 will be amended to provide (\$96,500) in match costs to plant the new wells and procure the trees, and to hire the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and other non-profits to complete this additional work to ensure seamless and timely work flow through a contract amendment. LACC and their subcontractors, the tree planting groups, will share the tree well cuts and watering work funded by the grant.

#### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There is no impact to the City's General Fund. The Public Works Trust Fund (Trust Fund) will front fund the project for \$500,000 and the Trust Fund will be reimbursed by the Environmental Affairs Trust Fund as grant proceeds are received.


#### STATUS OF FINANCING

There is no impact to the General Fund. The total funding for this project is not to exceed \$500,000. If awarded the grant, funding for Fiscal Year 2017 will be available in the Public Works Trust Fund, Fund No. 834 to transfer to the Environmental Affairs Trust Fund, Fund No. 537, Department 50, New Account (Tree WELLness: Concrete to Canopy) to front fund the project. All funds reimbursed by the grant to the Environmental Affairs Trust Fund or any other Fund based on the change of funding source or appropriations would be transferred back to the Public Works Trust Fund.

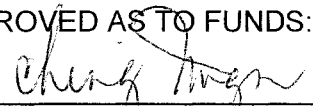
However, funds and Appropriations for future fiscal years are not yet identified and existing appropriations may change based on available cash balances. Therefore, Funds and Appropriations, once determined by the Director of Sanitation or designee, will be reviewed and certified by the Director of Sanitation or designee, and then will be reviewed and certified by the Director of the Office of Accounting or designee, as to the status and availability of funding.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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ENRIQUE C. ZALDIVAR, Director  
Bureau of Sanitation

  
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for PAUL RACS, Director  
Office of Community Beautification

APPROVED AS TO FUNDS:

 6/30/15  
for VICTORIA SANTIAGO, Director  
Office of Accounting 834/50 - \$500,000. -

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