

APPROVED
MAY 16 2018

**BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

BOARD REPORT

NO. 18-089

DATE May 16, 2018

C.D. VARIOUS

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: CAL FIRE URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM GRANT – CITY OF LOS ANGELES PARK TREE INVENTORY, TREE PLANTING AND ARBORICULTURE EDUCATION PROJECT; AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION; CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION; ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS

AP Diaz	_____	V. Israel	_____
R. Barajas	_____	S. Piña-Cortez	_____
H. Fujita	_____	* N. Williams	<u>now</u>



General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____
With Corrections

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to submit the CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Program grant application for City of Los Angeles Park Tree Inventory, Tree Planting and Arboriculture Education Project, to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), subject to the approval of the Mayor and City Council, and City Attorney as to form;
2. Recommend to City Council the adoption of the accompanying Resolution (Attachment No. 1), which authorizes the City of Los Angeles to apply for the CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Program grant funds and designates RAP's General Manager, Executive Officer, or Assistant General Manager, as the agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to grant applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests, and all other required documents necessary for the completion of the proposed project;
3. Direct the Board Office to transmit a copy of the grant Resolutions to the Mayor's Office, Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), and to the City Clerk for Committee and City Council approval, pursuant to the Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6 *et seq.* as may be amended;
4. Direct staff to transmit a copy of the grant award to the Mayor's Office, Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), and to the City Clerk for Committee and City Council approval before accepting and receiving the grant award, pursuant to the Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6 *et seq.* as may be amended;

BOARD REPORT

PG. 2 NO. 18-089

5. Authorize RAP's General Manager, or designee, to accept and receive the CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Program Grant funds, if awarded, subject to the approval of the Mayor, City Council, and City Attorney approval, as to form, of the resulting agreement; and
6. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee, or designee, to establish the necessary account(s), and/or to appropriate funding received within "Recreation and Parks Grant" Fund 205 to accept the CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Program Grant funds, if awarded, from CAL FIRE.

SUMMARY

RAP is one of the largest municipal parkland agencies in North America and is responsible for managing an extensive geographic range composed of more than sixteen thousand (16,000) acres of parks and open space. Through its Urban Forestry Division, RAP provides stewardship over a few hundred thousand park trees. The City's park trees represent vital green infrastructure that provides significant environmental, social and economic benefits. As a result of staffing reductions, ongoing drought conditions, impacts associated with invasive pests (most notably the shot hole borer), and other factors, both the condition of the City's urban park tree forest and RAP's ability to manage and care for it, have declined in recent years.

The California Urban Forestry Act of 1978 supports trees as a vital urban environment resource and promotes seeking innovative solutions for sustaining our tree ecosystem. The State of California's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), which receives cap-and-trade revenue, provides funding to various State agencies to promote the equitable distribution of this funding to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions particularly in disadvantaged communities. The GGRF provides funding for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Urban and Community Forestry Program Grant.

On May 16, 2012, RAP requested funding from a CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Grant, and received One Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred Ninety-Seven Dollars (\$199,997.00) in funding for this grant in 2014. This grant award assisted RAP with the first phase of a park tree inventory, under which more than fifty thousand (50,000) park trees were inventoried by certified consulting arborists via a contract with Davey Trees. Davey Trees also developed a summary report of the inventory's findings as well as an online Geographic Information System (GIS)-based mapping platform for use by staff for ongoing inventory activities as well as a public-facing tree inventory system. While this initial effort has been successful, RAP strongly believes that a comprehensive park tree inventory is essential to the short term and long term health of park trees.

In late December 2017, the Urban and Community Forestry Program Grant was released by CAL FIRE. This competitive grant will provide approximately ~~Seventeen Thousand, Five Hundred~~ Dollars (\$17,500,000.00) of GGRF funding for Urban and Community Forestry California Climate Investments (CCI) projects in fiscal year 2017/2018. RAP learned about this grant opportunity on or about the beginning of January 2018 and submitted a grant concept proposal for the City of Los Angeles Park Tree Inventory, Tree Planting and Arboriculture

Seventeen
Million,
Five
Hundred
Thousand

BOARD REPORT

PG. 3 NO. 18-089

Education Project in the Urban Forest Management Activities category of the grant. The grant concept proposal was due on February 26, 2018.

On April 9, 2018, RAP received an invitation to submit a California Climate Initiatives Project Application for the City of Los Angeles Park Tree Inventory, Tree Planting and Arboriculture Education Project in the Urban Forest Management Activities category. The grant project application is due on May 30, 2018 and CAL FIRE must receive the City Council-approved Resolution within sixty (60) days of the grant due date. RAP staff in Grants Administration, Forestry Division, and Sustainability are working collaboratively to develop and submit a strong project application before the deadline provided.

The CAL FIRE grant requires a twenty-five percent (25%) matching contribution of the requested amount, RAP is requesting One Million, Three Hundred Twelve Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,312,500.00). This request requires a matching contribution of Three Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand, One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$328,125.00), but RAP has decided to increase its matching contribution by One Hundred Nine Thousand, Three Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$109,375.00), bringing the total matching funds to Four Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$437,500.00) to perform the following:

1. Complete a new, comprehensive inventory of all trees on City parkland by utilizing a cloud-based GIS platform;
2. Plant new park trees, with our partner Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC), to address important needs in disadvantaged and low-income communities to mitigate urban heat island effect and reduce air pollution;
3. Increase public awareness regarding the current condition and importance of the benefits gained by trees through arboriculture educational workshops;
4. Support workforce development and job training opportunities in the field of urban forestry and through LACC's workforce development program; and,
5. Successfully track, evaluate and report on all components of the project including but not limited to park tree inventory, tree planting, and outreach/education activities.

Funding from this grant will enable RAP's Forestry Division to more effectively address critical problems facing our urban tree canopy and raise consciousness about the current health of our park tree system by holding arboriculture education workshops.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

After park tree planting locations are identified, RAP staff will return to the Board with an Environmental Impact Statement.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There is anticipated fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund in the amount of Four Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$437,500.00), which is the CAL FIRE required twenty five percent (25%) matching contribution of Three Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand, One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$328,125.00) and an additional One Hundred Nine Thousand, Three Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$109,375.00). The future tree maintenance costs have yet to be determined.

BOARD REPORT

PG. 4 NO. 18-089

This Report was prepared by Leila Mirseyedi, Management Analyst, Sustainability, Finance Division and Alexander Galasso, Admin Intern, Sustainability, Finance Division and reviewed by Bill Jones, Chief Management Analyst, Grants Administration, Finance Division and Matthew Rudnick, Chief Management Analyst, Concessions, Contracts, & Sustainability, Finance Division.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS

- 1) Resolution of the City Council of the Los Angeles for funding from the Urban Forestry Grant Program entitles, "City of Los Angeles Park Tree Inventory, Tree Planting and Arboriculture Education Project."