

Department of Public Works

Board of Public Works
Office of Forest Management
Report No. 1

May 29, 2020

CD: All

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD
PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY
of Los Angeles California

MAY 29 2020

AND REFERRED TO THE MAYOR


Executive Officer
Board of Public Works

AND REFERRED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AUTHORITY TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, NEGOTIATE, AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT, AND ADOPT THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION FOR THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE) PROGRAM FOR THE "LOS ANGELES URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR THE FUTURE" PROJECT.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Public Works (Board), subject to the Mayor and City Council approval:

1. FIND that the loan proceeds will be deposited into the City's General Fund No. 100 (Dept. 74), which interest earned is retained by said fund and is also the same fund where interest earned in the Public Works Trust Fund No. 834 is transferred to on an interim basis;
2. APPROVE the waiver of interest assessment;
3. ADOPT the accompanying resolution authorizing the Board of Public Works to submit the grant application to CAL FIRE;
4. AUTHORIZE the Executive Officer of the Board of Public Works 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, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for the project "Los Angeles Urban Forest Management for the Future."
5. AUTHORIZE a new \$1,500,000 loan from the Public Works Trust Fund (Fund 834/Dept. 50), payable by the General Fund (Fund 100/Dept. 74/Revenue Source Code 5188), to front-fund the Los Angeles Urban Forest Management for the Future Project if the grant is awarded, or in the amount of the State approved award if the project is partially funded;

6. AUTHORIZE the Board of Public Works, Director of Accounting, subject to proof of grant award from CAL FIRE, to transfer up to \$1,500,000 from available funds within the Public Works Trust Fund (Fund 834/Dept. 50) to the General Fund 100, Department 74, Board of Public Works, and increase appropriation account authority, as follows:

Acct. No.	Title	Amount
001010	Salaries, General	\$ 245,000
002120	Printing and Binding	1,500
003040	Contractual Services	1,250,000
006010	Office and Admin.	<u>3,500</u>
	Total	\$ 1,500,000

7. AUTHORIZE the reimbursement of grants funds received from CAL FIRE to be deposited into the General Fund (Fund 100/Dept. 74/Revenue Source Code 5188) and subsequently transfer back to the Public Works Trust Fund (Fund 834/Dept 50) no later than one week after the deposit has been made until full repayment is made by no later than June 30, 2024; and
8. AUTHORIZE the Board of Public Works, Executive Officer, or designee, to make any technical or accounting updates to the recommendations above to effectuate the intent of the Mayor and City Council.

TRANSMITTALS

1. Resolution, as required by the State of California, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for grant submittals to the Urban and Community Forestry Program, California Climate Investments, and funded by the California Greenhouse Gas Reduction fund.

DISCUSSION

CAL FIRE is offering grant funding from the Urban and Community Forestry Program (Program) for urban forest management activities and tree planting projects that will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases. The Urban Forest Management Activities grant category is focused on projects that improve the long-term management of the urban forest, including activities like the establishing and updating city-wide inventories, development of long-term management plan documents, and/or urban forest mapping and analysis.

The Office of Forest Management is applying for funding to complete the City tree inventory, develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP), conduct community engagement activities related to UFMP development, and plant 400 trees in high need communities, as defined by AB 1550 (2015-2016 Greenhouse Gases: investment plan: disadvantaged communities).

The Project would fund the completion of the City inventory, including any outstanding street, park or city facility not included in the current funding for inventories. While the Bureau of Street

Services (StreetsLA) has \$2 million allocated for this project in the FY20 budget, it is estimated that this allocation will not be sufficient to complete the inventory of public right of way trees on City streets and landscaped median islands. Additionally, there is no funding currently identified to inventory trees located on non-park City facilities. This grant would provide additional funding to cover these trees.

Led by the City Forest Officer, the project will utilize a stakeholder group similar to the group convened for the "First Step: Developing an Urban Forest Management Plan for the City of Los Angeles" report, using these key stakeholders and experts to continue to develop a clear vision and roadmap for the future of the urban forest in Los Angeles. The funding from this grant would support the creation of the UFMP, provide funding for consultant(s) to provide technical expertise and support for compiling data to be used in the final document. This grant will allow the Office of Forest Management to utilize content experts on sections of the UFMP, which will ensure an improved work product and timely completion of this important policy document.

Additionally, the Office of Forest Management is looking to collaborate with the County of Los Angeles on two components of UFMP development, particularly if both the City and County receive funding from CAL FIRE for their respective UFMP projects. The City and County hope to provide regional leadership in key areas in a thoughtful, thorough and science-based manner, such that other smaller municipalities within the County could potentially adopt some of these practices. First, the County would leverage funding from both grants to fund a community engagement process similar to that used for the County's Park Needs Assessment as well as the Safe, Clean Water campaign. This process looks at reaching, educating and engaging community members through using trusted local organizations as the messenger, and has been highly effective in past projects. The output for this component is the number of events, social media posts and ultimately, numbers of residents engaged at events and through social media, as well as feedback received from those participants on urban forestry topics related to the UFMP.

Secondly, the County and City will be convening a joint Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to address key areas identified for cross-jurisdictional alignment. These topics include, but are not limited to, species selection, pest management and fire. Through the use of the TAC, the City and County anticipate developing similar or identical sections to appear in both UFMP documents. The urban forest in this region will be healthier and more resilient if the City and County are both utilizing best practices and are able to coordinate quickly with issues like emergent pests. The County has been transparent and an excellent partner in the beginning stages of project development and the Office of Forest Management anticipates a smooth process. If both entities are not awarded funding, both the City and County have still committed to some level of partnership in each other's projects. Upon receipt of grant, an MOU will be developed for both parties to sign.

Finally, all projects funded by this source are required to include a tree planting component. CAL FIRE's guidelines place highest priority on projects that will be exclusively located in census tracts described by AB 1550 to designate disadvantaged and low income communities. The Office of

Forest Management will use the AB 1550 map and CalEnviroScreen 3.0 to identify those communities and track investments in tree planting in those communities. The Office of Forest Management will centralize CAL FIRE reporting of City tree planting projects performed by Streets LA's Urban Forestry Division and the CNRA Green Infrastructure grant awarded to LASAN, up to a total of 400 trees during the grant period.

TABLE 1: GRANT BUDGET

Category	Description	Grant Amt.
Project support staff	Funding for part time, temporary staff to support grant implementation	\$ 245,000
Community Engagement	Engagement activities are limited to 20% of total grant, funds to be transferred to County if both projects are awarded	\$ 300,000
Urban Forestry consultants	\$300,000 - \$500,000 to complete inventory activities \$500,000 - \$700,000 for consultant(s) for the development of the UFMP	\$ 950,000
Other	Materials and printing for stakeholder and TAC meetings as well as other miscellaneous eligible costs related to grant activities	\$ 5,000
TOTAL		\$ 1,500,000

TABLE 2: GRANT MATCH (COST SHARE)

Source	Description	Match Amt.
Department of Public Works	Tree inventory contract, tree planting and establishment care related costs	\$ 500,000
Los Angeles Urban Center for Natural Resource Sustainability (LA Urban Center)	Funding for fellow(s) to provide research and analysis support relevant to the UFMP.	\$ 20,000
TOTAL		\$ 520,000

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There is no impact to the General Fund, if the grant is awarded as proposed. The Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) will provide the \$1,500,000 loan to front-fund the project. Loan repayment will be made as reimbursements from CAL FIRE are received. As of December 31, 2019, pending


loans in the PWTF had a total outstanding balance of \$25,528,737. Total deposits in the PWTF, as of December 31, 2019, was \$141,459,774. This equates to an 18.05% Balance-to-Loan Percentage for PWTF disbursed loans. However, the Board approved additional loans that are undisbursed in the amount of \$2.2 million and also approved a separate loan in the amount of \$10.2 million that is now pending City Council approval. Therefore, the aggregate total of loans not yet disbursed and pending approval, including the request for a \$1.5M loan for the project discussed in this report, is \$13.9M. When taking these additional items into consideration, the PWTF Balance-to-Loan percentage increases by 9.8% to 27.85%. Despite this increase, the PWTF Balance-to-Loan ratio will stay between the threshold of 25% to 30%.

Upon proof of grant award from CAL FIRE, funds will be disbursed and transferred from the PWTF No. 834, Dept. 50 to the General Fund, Fund 100, Dept. 74, Various Appropriation Accounts as described in Recommendation 6 of this report. Reimbursements are anticipated from CAL FIRE on a quarterly basis upon start of the program. The Board of Public Works, Office of Forest Management will make final loan payments by June 30, 2024 from CAL FIRE grant funds deposited into the General Fund, Fund 100, Dept. 74, Revenue Source Code 5188.

Respectfully submitted,


RACHEL MALARICH
City Forest Officer,
Office of Forest Management

Approved by:

 5/26/2020
DR. FERNANDO CAMPOS
Executive Officer, Board of Public Works

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:



MIGUEL DE LA PENA, Director
Office of Accounting
Date: 05/27/2020

Report prepared by:
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For questions related to this report, please contact:
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