

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16

COUNCIL MEETING 10/7/08

APPROVED BY

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

CITY MANAGER

October 7, 2008

FROM: RENE A. RAMIREZ, Public Utilities Director *RAM*
Department of Public Utilities - Administration

BY: GARTH GADDY, Assistant Director *GRG*
Department of Public Utilities - Water Division

SUBJECT: ADOPT THE 18TH AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION NO. 2008-162, APPROPRIATING \$162,100 IN CALFIRE URBAN FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS

KEY RESULT AREA

Resource Management

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the 18th amendment to the Annual Appropriation Resolution No. 2008-162 appropriating \$162,100 in CalFire Urban Forestry Grant Program funds.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Public Utilities - Water Division proposes to construct a Median Island Xeriscape Demonstration Project. The Department of Public Works - Capital Management Division is managing this existing project located at a median island on Shields Avenue from the Highway 41 southbound off-ramp to Fresno Street. The Water Division has previously appropriated \$100,000 of Water Enterprise Funds to develop this water conservation demonstration project. However, the project has an estimated total completion cost of \$262,000. Therefore, staff from both departments have worked in collaboration to secure grant funding from the Innovative Urban Forestry Projects Grant Program and the City has been awarded \$162,100 to the project, which will demonstrate to the community a quality landscape alternative to conventional landscapes through the selection of low-water consuming plant species of trees and shrubs, decorative rock or concrete features, and a drip irrigation system to minimize water waste. In addition, the project proposes to demonstrate reduced maintenance costs over time through the innovative landscape design features, which will improve weed control management and irrigation management practices.

KEY OBJECTIVE BALANCE

The resolution balances the three Key Objectives of Customer Satisfaction, Employee Satisfaction and prudent Financial Management. Customer Satisfaction is achieved by improving the landscaping of public facilities and the educational demonstration of low-water consuming plants available for landscaping to

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local residents. Employee Satisfaction is achieved by implementing median island landscape improvements to enhance the urban forest resources while conserving valuable water resources. Prudent Financial Management is achieved by utilizing grant funds to facilitate community improvements and maximizing the City resources to the fullest extent possible.

BACKGROUND

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) administers the Innovative Urban Forestry Projects Grant which is funded through the voter-approved Proposition 40, *California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood, Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002*.

The Department of Public Works is managing the demonstration project for the Department of Public Utilities for Xeriscape Landscaping of a median island on Shields Avenue from the Highway 41 southbound off-ramp to Fresno Street. Xeriscaping (pronounced Zer-i-skaping) is a term often used to describe landscaping with water conservation as a major objective. The project proposes to demonstrate a quality landscape alternative to conventional landscapes through the selection of low-water consuming plant species of trees and shrubs, decorative rock or concrete features, and a drip irrigation system to minimize water waste. The Fresno City Council approved Resolution Number 2008-59, authorizing the submission of applications for and acceptance of grant funds from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Urban Forestry Program at the March 25, 2008, City Council Meeting.

The Department of Public Utilities has appropriated \$100,000 from the Water Enterprise Funds to the existing capital project, which will also be the source to satisfy the local matching fund requirements to the Urban Forestry Program. Approximately \$21,800 has been spent on the project for the preliminary design work, construction documents, and project management. The remaining project funds will complete the final design plans, construction work, project management and inspection work. This project is a community demonstration project that will provide a visual example in the heart of Fresno that an alternative landscape feature can conserve water and extensively beautify the City. Once completed, the Department of Public Utilities Water Conservation Program will have a quality presentation tool to include in their numerous outreach events to educate the community on viable landscape alternatives for the Central Valley climate and to promote Xeriscape landscaping to the community. Additional project benefits include reducing long-term maintenance costs through a landscape design that provides better weed control management and an irrigation system that provides even distribution of water.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Department of Public Utilities must provide advance funding for the project and the Urban Forestry Program will reimburse the City with Proposition 40 funds in the amount of \$162,100. The \$100,000 previously appropriated for this project will be utilized to satisfy the local match requirements to the Urban Forestry Program. There will be no impact to the General Fund as a result of this project.

Attachment: 18th Amendment to Annual Appropriation Resolution No. 2008-162

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO ADOPTING THE 18th AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION NO. 2008-162 APPROPRIATING \$162,100 IN CALFIRE URBAN FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO:

THAT PART III of the Annual Appropriation Resolution No. 2008-162 be and is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Increase/(Decrease)</u>
TO: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES	
Water Enterprise	\$ 162,100

THAT account titles and numbers requiring adjustment by this Resolution are as follows:

Water Enterprise

Revenues:

Account: 33401 State-Grant	<u>\$ 162,100</u>
Fund: 40101	
Org Unit: 411501	

Total Revenues	<u>\$ 162,100</u>
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Appropriations:

Account: 57507 Contract Construction	<u>\$ 162,100</u>
Fund: 40101	
Org Unit: 411501	
Project: WC00061	
KRA: 0103012000	

Total Appropriations	<u>\$ 162,100</u>
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THAT the purpose is to appropriate \$162,100 of CalFire Urban Forestry Projects Grant Program Funds to develop a median island xeriscape demonstration project.

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY OF FRESNO } ss.
CITY OF FRESNO }

I, REBECCA E. KLISCH, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, California, at a regular meeting thereof, held on the _____ Day of _____, 2008

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Mayor Approval: _____, 2008
Mayor Approval/No Return: _____, 2008
Mayor Veto: _____, 2008
Council Override Veto: _____, 2008

REBECCA E. KLISCH
City Clerk
