



January 6, 2009

AGENDA ITEM NO.

COUNCIL MEETING 1/6/09

APPROVED BY

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

CITY MANAGER

FROM: RANDALL L. COOPER, Director
Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services Department

BY: JERRY HAYNES, Assistant Director
IRMA YEPEZ-PEREZ, Grant Writer
Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services Department

SUBJECT: APPROVE RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTING URBAN STREAMS RESTORATION GRANT

KEY RESULT AREA: One Fresno

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the City Council (1) approve the attached resolution conditionally accepting a grant from the Department of Water Resources, Division of Planning and Local Assistance for an Urban Streams Restoration Program, if funded, and (2) authorize the Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services Director, or designated representative, as agent of the City of Fresno to execute and submit all necessary documents.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parks, After School, Recreation, and Community Services (PARCS) Department was approached by the San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust, Inc. about co-sponsoring a grant application to the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Planning and Local Assistance Urban Streams Restoration Program, requesting \$689,755 to fund an invasive weed eradication and control project on the San Joaquin River. PARCS supported the grant application. Prior to award of the funds, the grant requires that the governing body approve a resolution.

KEY OBJECTIVE BALANCE

The grant will address the two Key Objectives of Customer Satisfaction and prudent Financial Management.

Customer Satisfaction will be enhanced by providing residents opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors along the San Joaquin River. The community at large will benefit through the restoration of the riparian habitat and environmental enhancements that include native grasses and other riparian understory species that prevent soil erosion. Additionally, the grant will provide temporary employment opportunities for youth conservation corps, and labor crews. Financial Management will be enhanced by receiving a grant that will reduce the City's encumbrance for improvements and maintenance.

BACKGROUND

The California Department of Water Resources, Division of Planning and Local Assistance, Urban Streams Restoration Program has funds available to help solve flooding and erosion problems.

PARCS has had a long successful partnership with the San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust. If the proposal is funded, PARCS will work with the Trust to initiate a large-scale invasive weed eradication and control project along the San Joaquin River.

The middle stretch of the San Joaquin River is infested with riparian invasive weeds, especially *Sesbania punicea* and *Arundo donax*. *Sesbania punicea*, (also known as Scarlet wisteria), reproduces by seed and spreads downstream. The San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust has been battling *Sesbania* for several years utilizing volunteers and manual removal techniques. The size of the infestation now requires an aggressive management approach. *Arundo donax* (also known as Giant Reed or False Bamboo) spreads vegetatively, and does not infest as quickly as *Sesbania*. The grant will initiate a large-scale eradication effort, follow-up treatment, and monitoring. PARCS will enter into an agreement with the Trust to provide support, and allow Fresno BEST (Business, Education, Service, Training) students to participate in service learning to assist with habitat restoration efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no match requirement for this grant and acceptance of the grant will have no impact to the General Fund. Any additional staff and resources to implement the program will be covered by the grant.

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12/22/08

Attachment: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF CITY OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA
CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTING AN URBAN STREAMS RESTORATION GRANT

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Planning and Local Assistance, Urban Streams Restoration Program announced the availability of funds for grants; and

WHEREAS, said grants are intended to help solve flooding and erosion problems in a way that provides environmental enhancement; and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust, Inc. has submitted a grant application with the City of Fresno as co-sponsor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno has concluded that the proposed Knock Out Noxious Weed project would be environmentally beneficial, and the Trust has already received a Notice of Categorical Exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the following exemptions per sections 15300-15329 of the CEQA Guidelines: Class 1, Section 15301 (i); and

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust, Inc. considers the prospects of receiving a grant to be reasonably likely.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Fresno hereby:

1. Endorses the joint application submitted by the San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust, Inc. for an Urban Streams Restoration Program grant, and
2. If awarded such a grant, delegates the authority to the City of Fresno, Director of Parks, After School, Recreation, and Community Services (PARCS) Department, or designated representative to accept and sign any contract for administration of the grant funds, and work with the River Parkway Trust Deputy Director. Written consent by both grantees is required to submit invoices to the Department of Water Resources.

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 held on the _____ day of _____, 2009.

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Mayor Approval: _____, 2009

Mayor Approval/No Return: _____, 2009

Mayor Veto: _____, 2009

Council Override Vote: _____, 2009

REBECCA E. KLISCH
City Clerk

By _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JAMES C. SANCHEZ
City Attorney

By _____

Date _____, 2009