



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 27, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront
Subject: Grant Application: USDA Forest Service – Berkeley Urban Forestry Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to submit a grant application in the amount of up to \$3,800,000 to the federal USDA Forest Service grant program for the Berkeley Urban Forestry Project; accept any grants; execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize up to \$4,200,000 in local in-kind match, including up to \$3,200,000 in local cash match, and authorizes the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This grant program requires a 100% local match that can be comprised of in-kind staff, materials, equipment, and volunteer costs as well as cash match. The PRW Department will allocate up to \$640,000 per year for five years from the Parks Tax (Fund 138) to cover the local cash match requirement, subject to grant award approval, and subject to the annual appropriations process. The total cost of the project is anticipated to be \$8,000,000 over five years

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On April 24, 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program, funded by the federal Inflation Reduction Act. The purpose of the grant program is to provide five-year, programmatic, competitive grants for tree planting and related activities, with a priority for projects that benefit underserved populations. The City's Forestry Division will submit a proposal to develop a new Urban Forestry Master Plan to guide the City's efforts to maintain and expand the City's urban forest in light of climate change and the need for resiliency for the next century. The project will involve the updating of the City's Tree Inventory, the development of climate-based tree planting and maintenance guidelines, as well as the planting of 3,000 new climate adaptable trees through staff-led projects, volunteer efforts, and effective tree giveaway programs. Proposals are due in June of 2023, and grant awards will be announced in the Fall of 2023 and must be completed within five years.

BACKGROUND

The City maintains an inventory of 35,000 trees along City rights-of-way and City parks, and will seek to create an additional 15,000 tree planting sites throughout the City, focusing on low tree canopy areas of West Berkeley. For the past three decades, the City has funded the planting of approximately 500 new trees per year through environmental grant programs from Caltrans and the State Department of Forestry. A new Urban Forestry Master Plan is needed to guide the City's efforts to maintain and expand the City's urban forest in light of climate change and the need for resiliency for the next century.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The development of a new Urban Forestry Master Plan and associated activities will help the City achieve Strategic Goal Number 7, to be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Newly-released funds from the federal Inflation Reduction Act provides the City with a unique opportunity to develop a new Urban Forestry Master Plan and plant over 3,000 new trees over the next five years.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, 981-6703
Ian Kesterson, Forestry Planting Arborist, 542,0746

Attachments
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S

GRANT APPLICATION: USDA FOREST SERVICE – THE BERKELEY URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT

WHEREAS on April 24, 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program, funded by the federal Inflation Reduction Act. The purpose of the grant program is to provide five-year, programmatic, competitive grants for tree planting and related activities, with a priority for projects that benefit underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, the City's Forestry Division will submit a proposal to develop a new Urban Forestry Master Plan to guide the City's efforts to maintain and expand the City's urban forest in light of climate change and the need for resiliency for the next century. The project will involve the updating of the City's Tree Inventory, the development of climate-based tree planting and maintenance guidelines, as well as the planting of 3,000 new climate adaptable trees through staff-led projects, volunteer efforts, and effective tree giveaway programs; and

WHEREAS, proposals are due in June of 2023, and grant awards will be announced in the Fall of 2023 and must be completed within five years; and

WHEREAS, this grant program requires a 100% local match that can be comprised of in-kind staff, materials, equipment, and volunteer costs as well as cash match. The PRW Department will allocate up to \$640,000 per year for five years from the Parks Tax (Fund 138) to cover the local match requirement, subject to grant award approval, and subject to the annual appropriations process. The total cost of the project is anticipated to be \$8,000,000 over five years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to submit a grant application in the amount of up to \$3,800,000 to the federal USDA Forest Service grant program for the Berkeley Urban Forestry Project; accept any grants; execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize up to \$4,200,000 in local in-kind match, including up to \$3,200,000 in local cash match, and authorizes the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

