



DATE: June 21, 2016

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Community Services

TITLE: **Santa Clara Valley Water District
2016 Safe, Clean Water and Natural
Flood Protection Priority D Grant
Funding**

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager or Designee to Apply for and, if Awarded Grant Funding, Execute a Funding Agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Water District Through Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program to restore wildlife habitat along the Permanente Creek within Shoreline at Mountain View, to be read in title only, further reading waived (Attachment 1 to the Council report).

BACKGROUND

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) released the 2016 Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Grant Program that includes five priority categories listed A through E. Priority D includes funding for projects that restore wildlife habitat and provide open space. Staff became aware of this grant opportunity and met with interested organizations to determine if these funds would be appropriate to improve areas of Shoreline at Mountain View. Staff met with representatives from the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Acterra to prepare initial projects that would support the grant outcomes.

Together, the agencies agreed upon a collaborative project that will enhance habitat along Permanente Creek for approximately 2,350' from Amphitheatre Parkway to the pedestrian bridge at Michaels restaurant within Shoreline at Mountain View. The project will span three years and involve the removal of trash and nonnative invasive plants along Permanente Creek and revegetation of 1,000 local watershed plants along the Creek providing habitat enhancement for multiple riparian species. There will be special emphasis to enhance habitat for two special status species: burrowing owls (foraging habitat) and the San Francisco common yellowthroat (nesting and foraging habitat). This project will provide unique educational and volunteer opportunities for the local community, businesses, and several educational organizations.

An initial project proposal was submitted to the SCVWD and staff received notice that this project is now being formally considered for grant approval.

ANALYSIS

The City of Mountain View will be the lead agency for this grant, working collaboratively with Acterra and the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, should funding become available. City staff will work with volunteers to remove existing nonnative plants in the project area. Acterra will collect seeds in local watershed areas and germinate perennials, shrubs, and trees in their certified nursery. Once the plants are the appropriate size for planting along the Creek, volunteers will be scheduled from local colleges, businesses, and community groups to plant in appropriate locations with assistance from City and Acterra staff. There will be a total of three planting areas along the Creek, and one planting area will be completed each year of the three-year funding cycle. As each segment is complete, appropriate irrigation will be installed.

In addition to planting along Permanente Creek, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society would educate volunteers to build and install 48 bird boxes as part of their Cavity Nesting Recovery Program to assist the population of specific bird species that have been identified through the program. Volunteers will be used to monitor the bird boxes on a regular basis and this information will be collected for the final monitoring report to the SCVWD.

City staff will be responsible for keeping the project on schedule and for submitting the necessary grant documentation, including reimbursement forms and project monitoring reports.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should City Council approve the application and the SCVWD award full grant funding, the City will receive a total of \$43,900. The City will receive these funds on a reimbursement basis following execution of a funding agreement with SCVWD.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not approve the grant submission.
2. Provide further direction to staff.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

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SA-JRM/CV/3/CAM
260-06-21-16CR-E

Attachment: 1. Resolution

Approved by:

J.P. de la Montaigne
Community Services Director

Daniel H. Rich
City Manager