



DATE: March 20, 2018

CATEGORY: New Business

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: **Friends of Stevens Creek Trail Fish Passage Funding Request**

RECOMMENDATION

Consider providing a portion of the local matching funds required for the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail's grant application to the Santa Clara Valley Water District for fish passage improvements on Stevens Creek at Deep Cliff Golf Course.

BACKGROUND

On March 1, 2016, the City Council approved \$4,785 funding to the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail (Friends) for a portion of the local match of a Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) grant for evaluation of alternatives for improving fish passage at barriers on Stevens Creek (Attachment 1). Removal of barriers will enhance passage for in-migration of adult migratory fish during the spawning season and enhance passage of juveniles during the rearing season. The cities of Sunnyvale and Cupertino and the Midpeninsula Open Space District also contributed funding.

The study was completed in September 2017 and includes recommendations that the SCVWD consider a number of barrier-removal projects and that the SFPUC consider a project at the Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct in Mountain View. Not addressed by either agency is a barrier in the privately owned Deep Cliff Golf Course.

On February 13, 2018, a member of the public addressed Council and requested funding from the City in support of this project, and on February 21, 2018 the Friends sent a letter to Mayor Siegel requesting \$9,990 in funding (Attachment 2).

ANALYSIS

The Friends have received written permission from the SCVWD to remove the fish barrier at Deep Cliff Golf Course. The estimated project cost is \$140,000 to \$150,000, and the Friends is again seeking contributions from cities along the creek towards a

\$40,000 local match, with the remaining funding provided through a grant from the SCVWD. The Friends has pledged \$5,000 towards the local match and has requested funding from the cities of Mountain View, Cupertino, Sunnyvale, and Los Altos. The Friends members have also dedicated time at no cost to prepare the grant application, coordinated with agencies, and are providing other administrative support to the effort. Funding commitments are desired by March 30, prior to the City's normal budget process. If the \$35,000 requested from the cities were divided equally, the City's share would be \$8,750.

The City of Cupertino approved \$9,900 on March 6 and Los Altos approved \$5,000 on March 13. The Sunnyvale City Council is scheduled to consider the request on March 27.

If Council approves the request, a letter of commitment will be provided to the Friends. The Friends would request funding in August 2018, and construction of the project is expected in summer 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT

If Council supports the request, staff recommends transferring the funds from the General Fund Reserve to the Public Works Department, which will disburse the funds.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Transfer and appropriate \$9,900 from the General Fund Reserve to the Public Works Department. (Five votes required)
2. Transfer and appropriate a different amount. (Five votes required)
3. Decline to support the request.
4. Provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting and copy to Friends of Stevens Creek Trail.

Prepared by:

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Approved by:

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MAF/TS/2/CAM

905-03-20-18CR-E

- Attachments:
1. [March 1, 2016 Council Report](#)
 2. Letter from Friends Requesting Funding