

REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604

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Staff Report
October 28, 2008

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

Title: Grant: Hollow Sidewalks/Raised Streets Historic Survey

Location/Council District: District 1 and 4

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution** 1) authorizing the City Manager, or his/her designee, to accept grant awards from the United States Department of the Interior and the Capitol City Preservation Trust, and 2) increasing the Development Services Department's Grant Operating and Grant Revenue Budgets in the amount of \$18,000

Contact: Roberta Deering, Senior Planner, (916) 808-8259; William Crouch, Urban Design Manager, (916) 808-8013

Presenters: Roberta Deering, Senior Planner

Department: Development Services

Division: Planning

Department No: 21001010

Description/Analysis

Issue: The Development Services Department, at the recommendation of the City's Preservation Commission, has applied and been approved for grant funds provided by the United States Department of the Interior, through the State of California Office of Historic Preservation and the Certified Local Government Program, to prepare a survey of Sacramento's Downtown Hollow Sidewalks and Raised Streets historic resources. The State of California Office of Historic Preservation has committed a \$12,000 grant award to the City's Development Services Department. The federal grant requirements includes a stipulation that 40% of the federal funds awarded be matched by local sources. The Capitol City Preservation Trust, a not-for-profit organization in Sacramento, has committed to providing \$6,000 of that 40% match, with the remaining portion matched by eligible staff and volunteer time.

Policy Considerations: The acceptance of the grant award is consistent with the goals of the City's Preservation Element of the General Plan, the proposed Historic & Cultural Resources Element of the proposed General Plan update, as well as the City Council's strategic plan goals for public safety, enhancement of

livability, and expansion of economic development opportunities.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

This activity is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it does not constitute a "project" as defined in section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines, and is otherwise exempt pursuant to Sections 15308 (actions for protection of the environment) and 15061(b)(3) (no significant effect on the environment) of the CEQA Guidelines.

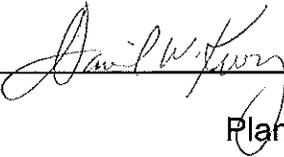
Sustainability Considerations: There are no sustainability considerations applicable to the acceptance of grant funds.

Commission/Committee Action: As part of its advisory role to the City, at its April 02, 2008, meeting, the Preservation Commission recommended that Staff apply for a Historic Preservation Fund Grant, which is open to the City of Sacramento as a Certified Local Government, in order to conduct a survey of the Downtown's Hollow Sidewalks/Raised Streets historic resources. That application was submitted and approved and it is the acceptance of these funds that is before the City Council with this report.

Rationale for Recommendation: Identification of the City's historic resources is a key component of the City's Historic Preservation program. Relative to the Hollow Sidewalks/Raised Streets features in Downtown Sacramento, there is a need to identify their eligibility as historic resources, as well as a need to evaluate their integrity, in order to then consider options to stem the loss of these features and to development the most appropriate recommendations on policies, protocols, standards or programs that could assist in their preservation or rehabilitation, in coordination with property owners and the Department of Transportation. The survey also aligns with the City Council's strategic plan goals for public safety, enhancement of livability, and expansion of economic development opportunities.

Financial Considerations: Funding for the consultant contract for the historic resources survey would be entirely covered from the grant proceeds. Except that the grant requirements stipulate that the federal portion of the grant funds will be awarded on a reimbursement basis, this grant does not obligate the City to expend additional resources. (Ref: City Grant Number: G21900100)

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): No goods or services are being purchased under this report.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
David Kwong
Planning Manager

Approved by: 
William Thomas
Development Services Director

Recommendation Approved:

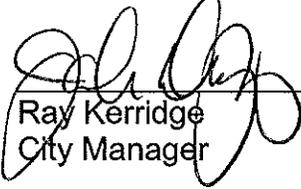

Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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Background

At its April 02, 2008, meeting the City's Preservation Commission recommended that Staff prepare a Historic Preservation Fund grant application – federal funds through the State Office of Historic Preservation's Certified Local Government program – to survey the Hollow Sidewalk/Raised Streets historic resources in downtown Sacramento. The Commission has long been concerned about the loss of these resources as development projects proceed, though there are many areas with such resources remaining.

The purpose of the project is to survey and evaluate Downtown Sacramento's "Raised Streets - Hollow Sidewalks" features, which were the result of a major 19th century public works project addressing chronic flooding within the Downtown, and their potential eligibility as contributing resources in an historic district. If determined potentially eligible, the survey will be utilized to assist in identifying protocols, means and incentives for the district's preservation and stabilization of its features. The survey could also be incorporated into and used in future design, planning or development guidelines for new projects that could impact the resource.

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

**ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR A DOWNTOWN HOLLOW SIDEWALKS /
RAISED STREETS HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY**

BACKGROUND

- A. The Development Services Department and the City's Preservation Commission recognize a need for a survey of the Downtown Sacramento Hollow Sidewalk/Raised Streets historic resources.
- B. The Development Services Department, at the recommendation of the City's Preservation Commission, has applied and been approved for grant funds provided by the United States Department of the Interior, through the State of California Office of Historic Preservation and the Certified Local Government Program, to prepare a survey of Sacramento's Downtown Hollow Sidewalks and Raised Streets historic resources.

**BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1. The City Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to accept a grant award on behalf of the City of Sacramento, from the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, as administered by the State of California Office of Historic Preservation for \$12,000, and \$6,000 from the Capitol City Preservation Trust, totaling \$18,000, to fund the survey.
- Section 2. The City Manager, or designated representative, is authorized to make the necessary grant revenue and expense budget adjustments to implement the \$18,000 in total grant awards, per City grant number G21900100, which funding shall be awarded and expended in the 2009 and 2010 budget years.