



City of Sacramento City Council

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814
www.CityofSacramento.org

Meeting Date: 1/11/2011

Report Type: Consent

Title: Approval to Submit Application for Urban Forestry and Urban Greening Leading Edge Projects Grant

Report ID: 2011-00020

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution authorizing staff to submit an application to the State of California, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for an Urban Forestry and Urban Greening Leading Edge Grant.

Contact: Joe Benassini, Urban Forestry Manager, (916) 808-6258, Department of Transportation

Presenter: None

Department: Transportation Department

Division: Urban Forest

Dept ID: 15001811

Attachments:

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-Background
- 3-City Nursery Location Map
- 4-Resolution
- 5-Exhibit A - Draft Grant Concept Proposal

City Attorney Review

Approved as to Form
Jerry Hicks
1/4/2011 10:52:34 AM

City Treasurer Review

Prior Council Financial Policy Approval or
Outside City Treasurer Scope
Russell Fehr
12/27/2010 12:04:47 PM

Approvals/Acknowledgements

Department Director or Designee: Jerry Way - 1/3/2011 9:21:05 AM

Assistant City Manager: John Dangberg - 1/3/2011 12:17:38 PM



Description/Analysis

Issue: The Urban Forestry Division of the Department of Transportation is seeking authorization to apply for an Urban Forestry and Urban Greening Leading Edge Grant in the amount of \$300,000. Urban Forestry staff submitted a concept proposal to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for \$500,000 in grant funding. The proposal ranked high enough for the City of Sacramento to be eligible to submit a more detailed proposal at the \$300,000 level. City Council authorization is required to submit the final proposal.

Policy Considerations: Authorizing the submission of the Urban Forestry Leading Edge Grant Application is consistent with the City of Sacramento Strategic Plan's three year goals of improving and expanding public safety and achieving sustainability and livability.

Committee/Commission Action: None

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The action requested in this staff report does not constitute a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [CEQA Section 21065 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 (b)(4)] and are therefore exempt from environmental review.

Sustainability Considerations: Authorizing Urban Forestry to submit an Urban Forestry and Urban Greening Leading Edge Grant Application is consistent with the Sustainability Master Plan – Section 7 – Parks, Open Space & Habitat Conservation, Goal 3: Maintain and expand the urban forest and Target 5: Work with community partners to achieve an urban tree canopy goal of 35% per the Regional Greenprint Initiative.

Rationale for Recommendation: If awarded, the Urban Forestry and Urban Greening Leading Edge Grant will support a public/private partnership program between the City of Sacramento and the Sacramento Tree Foundation (STF). The funding allows STF to utilize the City Nursery to create a series of programs under the concept of a Sacramento Urban Horticulture Center. Initial programs include installation by STF of an additional 1,500 high-quality and hard-to-find shade trees in the City right-of-way and maintenance easements between the spring of 2011 and the spring of 2013, approximately tripling the Urban Forestry Division's current capacity. Additional program areas include a training component for a volunteer "Citizen Forester" effort, urban wood-waste utilization (mulch for park use and high-quality wood blanks for artists and woodworkers), demonstrations of sustainable landscapes, including river-friendly and low-water use, and ultimately a vocational training pilot program for prospective horticultural workers, dependent on continuity and level of funding. These programs are intended to supplement existing programs and add value by encouraging community participation and skilled job training for future arborists, landscape and park workers. The City would use the City nursery lease value as the required share of cost for the grant. No City employees are impacted by this program.

Financial Considerations: The City is the applicant for this grant and is required to provide a 25% (\$75,000) share-of-cost. The Department of General Services, Facility Management staff estimates the lease value of the City Nursery at between approximately \$34,000 and \$45,000 annually. The lease value will provide the required share-of-cost over the 2-year program cycle. As the lessee, STF will assume certain obligations that are currently carried by the Urban Forestry Division or the General Services Department, such as weed abatement, utilities and security. There are no general funds planned or allocated for this project.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): ESBD policies and procedures will be followed for all purchases and agreements associated with grant expenditures.

Background

Project Description

In late spring of 2010, the Urban Forestry division of the Department of Transportation joined with Facilities and Real Properties Management of the Department of General Services to publish a Request for Proposals for possible utilization of the City nursery site in exchange for urban forestry services. The Sacramento Tree Foundation was the sole responder, submitting a statement of qualifications and program areas within a “Sacramento Urban Horticulture Center” concept that matched the City’s interest.

The primary objective of this grant is to utilize the City nursery to its highest and best use, leverage cost savings and education opportunities to assist the Urban Forestry division in caring for the City’s urban forest, and allow the City to retain ownership of a unique property. Based on a recent inventory, there are approximately 4,000 vacant tree-planting sites in parking strips and tree wells in the City. That number is expected to increase as some of our older and more senescent trees are removed due to ill health or safety concerns. One of the most basic principles of a successful urban forestry program is to recognize that tree planting and establishment is a multi-generation effort and that today’s efforts benefit future residents of the City and the region.

High-quality tree-planting stock is increasing difficult to locate and certain species that are highly desirable due to characteristics such as low water use, adaptability, urban friendly form and other qualities are not available through typical providers. This public/private collaboration will provide programs that focus on tree-planting, especially in under-served neighborhoods, stewardship, and education about the value of maintaining and expanding the urban forest for healthy communities.

This partnership will help pilot an urban forestry nursery, education and demonstration effort. Under the concept, the Sacramento Urban Horticulture Center programs will:

- Grow high-quality trees of species that are urban-friendly and currently unavailable within the market to increase urban forest biodiversity. Trees will be grown from bare-root, cuttings and occasionally seed to economize and enhance quality and performance.
- Continue the City of Sacramento's tree planting in public spaces by leveraging the work of volunteers, interns and green jobs students. Tree planting will include species with specialized benefits, such as low water use, increased air quality, native or otherwise culturally appropriate
- Create easily accessible education and demonstration areas within the urban core showing how trees impact air quality, energy conservation, storm-water management, and climate change. Emphasis will be placed on understanding water and soil relationships, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods, and recycling.

- Provide vocational "green jobs" training and unique hands on urban forestry internships to local students.
- Establish a "Tree for the Future" project to propagate unique and high performing trees within the City.
- Create a physical location that supports collaboration and close communication between the City, the Sacramento Tree Foundation and resident stakeholders.
- Test the performance of new tree species for integration into our urban forest.

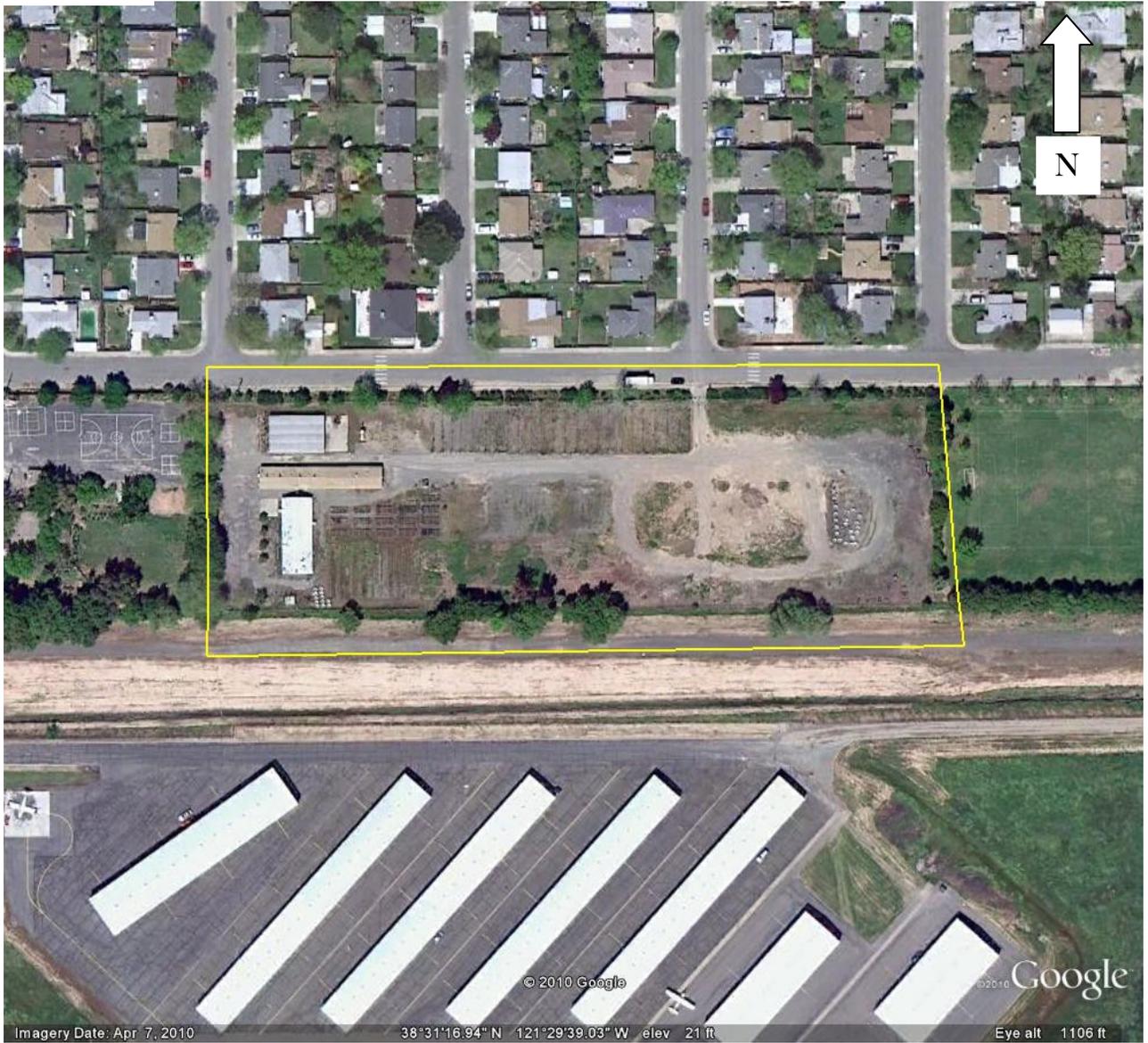
If successful, agreements will be drawn up between the City and the Sacramento Tree Foundation regarding the lease of the City nursery site and performance to meet conditions of the grant as agreed on by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as the grantor and both parties.

History

The City nursery site is located at 1920 34th Avenue in the Mangan Park neighborhood, west of and adjacent to Mangan Park itself and bordering the north boundary of Executive Airport. Constructed in the mid 1960's, the facility is 4.6 acres with significant plant production amenities, including a greenhouse, shade structure, cold frames and holding beds, and bulk storage capacity. The site has a long history of service to the community and has all the needed amenities to support a cost-effective urban forest propagation and education program. The facility is currently under-utilized due to downsizing and staff consolidation. The site is unsuitable for lease for commercial use by a typical user such as a retail nursery or landscape firm due to its location within a residential neighborhood, traffic, noise and dust concerns, and its proximity to Executive Airport. Current use is limited to stockpiling of bulk materials such as soil, mulch or wood-chips and as a receiving and storage area for planting stock during the planting season, October through April. While annual expenses to maintain the nursery grounds are modest (projected at \$12,000-\$16,000 a year), neither the City of Sacramento nor its public and nonprofit partners have the resources necessary to operate this unique and vital community asset at its highest and best use.



City Nursery Site 1920 34th Avenue





RESOLUTION NO. 2011-

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

January 11, 2011

Urban Forestry and Urban Greening Leading Edge Grant

BACKGROUND

- A.** There is a need to supplement urban forestry efforts in tree planting and establishment and community participation and education.
- B.** The City owns a horticultural nursery site that it under-utilized.
- C.** The Sacramento Tree Foundation has submitted a proposal to utilize the site for a pilot tree-planting and education program in the City of Sacramento.
- D.** Grant funding is available through the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to support a public/private partnership between the Sacramento Tree Foundation and the City of Sacramento to create a Sacramento Urban Horticulture Center concept.
- E.** The program will provide direct benefit to residents, businesses, and visitors of the City of Sacramento and beyond.

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

- Section 1. Staff is authorized to submit an application to the State of California, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for an Urban Forestry and Urban Greening Leading Edge Grant.
- Section 2. Exhibit A is incorporated into and made part of this Resolution.

Table of Contents:

Exhibit A – Draft Grant Concept Proposal



Concept Proposal

2010/2011 CAL FIRE Urban Forestry Program Grants

Please fill out this form completely. Be sure to save a copy of this form for you records. Submit your application via e-mail by selecting the button at the end of the form. Applications that are not completely filled out will not be considered for funding.

Organization

Requested Grant \$

Matching \$

Total Project \$

Select grant project type from menu

Project Title

Primary Source of Technical Advice

Explanation (if required):

Please provide the following information if trees will be planted as part of the proposed project.

Number of CAL FIRE-funded trees

Total number of project trees

Tree Species to be planted. (*Genus, species, common name*) if applicable.

By checking box, grantee agrees to follow "CAL FIRE Standards and Specifications For Purchasing, Planting, and Maintaining Trees".

1. Applicant information - Eligible applicants for most grant types include cities, counties, qualifying districts, or nonprofit organizations qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Only cities, counties, and qualifying districts are eligible for the Urban Forest Inventory and Urban Forest Management Plan Grants.

Type of Organization

Project Manager Title

First Name

Last Name

Email

Phone Number

Address 1

Address 2

City

State

Zip Code

2. Partner information - List any partners or co-sponsors

Name of Organization

First Name

Last Name

Name of Organization

First Name

Last Name

3. Location information - List the communities served by the project. Include all cities and counties or list as statewide. Check a box below if your community is disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged per PRC 4799.09.

Disadvantaged community **Severely disadvantaged community** **NOTE: Proof will be required later in process.**

4. Grant Information - Describe the project by answering the questions below. Responses are limited to the space provided. You may wish to refer to the grant guidelines document, specific grant program Request For Proposals (RFP), and the California Urban Forestry Act (Public Resources Code Sections 4799.06 - 4799.12) for guidance on parts 4A - 4C.

A. Background and Rationale - What is the current situation, condition, or problem to be addressed by the project?

B. Project Objective - What are the objectives of the proposed project? Explain how they are in line with the RFP for the grant type selected.

C. Project Description - How will the project achieve the objectives? Who will be involved?

5. Task and Budget Information

A. Budget - Provide an estimate of costs and budget information for the project. A specific budget displaying detailed line items will be required if a final proposal is requested. Budget total may not be adjusted upward at a later time.

Project Work Task	Task Description	Amount Requested	Matched Funds	Task Total Cost
Task 1				
Task 2				
Task 3				
Task 4				
Task 5				
Additional Tasks				
Admin / Overhead				
TOTALS				
Percentages		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Total % <input type="text"/>

B. Explanation of Budget and Costs - In the space provided, describe the basis for the budget amounts listed above. Successful applicants will be asked for a more detailed line item budget. The total amount requested in this application can not be exceeded during the final proposal process.

C. Other Funding Sources - List other funding sources, grants or applications that are considered matching funds for this proposal.

Description	Source	Requested Amount	Funded?

6. Other Project Work - List any other related activities conducted in the proposed project area over the past 3 years. These may be projects conducted by other organizations. Include any contributions of the applying organization to these projects. Include partners and sponsors of the projects, if known. Projects listed should include an explanation of how they relate to the proposed project.

Thank you for your application. Please save a copy and print a copy of the application for your records. Submit the application using the "Submit by Email" button below. You should receive a confirmation email shortly after submittal. To save a copy, please select the file menu and select "save as" or "save a copy as" from the list of options. You will be prompted about how to proceed saving the file.