



City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: AUGUST 6, 2019

FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WARD: WARD 1
DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A 2018/2019 HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM – INCENTIVES PROGRAM GRANT AND ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$59,035.62 FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE TO IMPLEMENT SOIL CONSERVATION PRACTICES AT THE NORTHSIDE HERITAGE MEADOWS PROJECT SITE

ISSUES:

Ratify an application to the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s 2018/2019 Healthy Soils Grant; and accept a grant award in the amount of \$59,035.62 from the California Department of Food and Agriculture to implement soil conservation practices at the Northside Heritage Meadows Project site.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Ratify the application to the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s 2018/2019 Healthy Soils Program – Incentives Program Grant to implement soil conservation practices at the Northside Heritage Meadows Project site;
2. Authorize the acceptance of the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s 2018/2019 Healthy Soils Program – Incentives Program Grant award in the amount of \$59,035.62;
3. Authorize an increase in revenue in the amount of \$59,035.62 to account number 9340000 - 334100 and appropriate expenditures in the same amount to account number 9340000 - 440210; and
4. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s 2018/2019 Healthy Soils Program – Incentives Program Grant Agreement, including making minor, non-substantive changes, and to sign all documents and instruments necessary to complete the transaction, including, but not limited to agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary to complete grant funded activities.

BACKGROUND:

The Healthy Soils Program (HSP) stems from the California Healthy Soils Initiative, a collaboration of state agencies and departments to promote the development of healthy soils on California's farmlands and ranchlands. The HSP program is administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The HSP has two components: the HSP Incentives Program and the HSP Demonstration Projects. The HSP Demonstration Projects showcase California farmers and rancher's implementation of healthy soils practices. The HSP Incentives Program provides financial incentives to California growers and ranchers to implement conservation management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs), and improve soil health. GHGs benefits are estimated using quantification methodology and tools developed by California Air Resources Board (CARB), United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources and Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) and CDFA and soil health improvement will be assessed by measuring soil organic matter content. CDFA was appropriated \$10 million from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for all Act of 2018; and \$5 million from the California Climate Investments, authorized by the Budget Act of 2018 to fund 2018/2019 HSP Incentives Program and Demonstration Projects. (Source: CDFA website)

DISCUSSION:

On March 13, 2019, the City submitted an application to the Healthy Soils Grant seeking \$74,958.26 to implement soil conservation practices at the Northside Heritage Meadows Project. Funding would provide for practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and provide many ecosystems benefits. The City's proposal sought funding to implement soil management practices at the Northside Project's farm site, including: mulching on cropland, compost applications to row crops, and hedge row plantings. The goals and expected outcomes in implementing these soil conservation practices included conservation of water, controlling pests in non-toxic ways, fostering pollination, use of locally-generated and composted green waste to build soil fertility, increasing biomass and soil carbon sequestration capacity, reduce GHG emission, and produce high quality food.

HSP funds will facilitate healthy soil outcomes by funding conservation practices in the establishment of the Northside Heritage Meadows Urban Farm. Additionally, the Northside's farm site will not only grow food to serve the local community, but be at training ground for workforce development programs for priority populations. Annual soil analysis and technical assistance from the Riverside-Corona Resource Consecration District and USDA-NRCS conservationist to evaluate the success of the Project's soil management practices.

In June 2019, the City of Riverside received notification that our proposal was selected for funding in the amount of \$59,035.62. The grant funding period begins upon full execution of a grant agreement and grant funded activities must be completed by March 31, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff requests the acceptance of the Healthy Soils Grant and authorize an increase of revenue in the amount of \$59,035.62 in account number 9340000 - 334100, and appropriate the same amount to expenditure in account number 9340000 - 440210. In order to make the application

more competitive matching funds in the form of in-kind staff time and the urban greening grant were included for a total amount of \$16,640.

Prepared by: David Welch, Community & Economic Development Director
Certified as to
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. CDFA 2018/2019 Healthy Soils Program – Incentives Program Scope of Work
2. 2018/2019 Healthy Soils Grant Budget
3. Project Design Schematic Map & HSP Agriculture Management Practices