



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2019**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT **WARDS: 1, 2**

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY URBAN GREENING GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE GAGE CANAL TRAIL PHASE 1 PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,708,509 – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

ISSUE:

Adopt a resolution authorization the submission of a grant application for the California Natural Resources Agency Urban Greening Grant Program for the Gage Canal Trail Phase 1 Project, in the amount of \$3,708,509, and authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to secure grant funds and implement the approved grant project.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the California Natural Resources Agency Urban Greening Grant Program for the Gage Canal Trail Phase 1 Project;
2. Upon grant award, authorize an increase in estimated revenue in the amount of \$3,708,509, or the actual amount awarded, to the Parks Recreation and Community Services Department Revenue account and appropriate expenditures in the same amount to the Parks Recreation and Community Services Department Urban Greening Gage Canal Ph1 Program account;
3. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all necessary documents, including but not limited to applications, payment requests, agreements and amendments necessary to secure grant funds and implement the approved grant project, including making minor and non-substantive changes; and
4. Authorize the Public Works Department to return to the City Council with a request to program Capital Improvement Funds or Senate Bill 1 Roadway Funds for the completion of identified traffic crossing improvements by 2022.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Signed into law on September 14, 2016, SB 859 created the California Natural Resources Agency's (Agency) Urban Greening Program, funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), to support the development of green infrastructure projects that aim to provide multiple benefits including reduction of GHG emissions. In 2018, SB 856 allocated \$20 million from the GGRF to the Agency for its Urban Greening Program.

DISCUSSION:

The Urban Greening Program will fund projects that reduce greenhouse gases by sequestering carbon, decreasing energy consumption and reducing vehicle miles traveled, while also transforming the built environment into places that are more sustainable, enjoyable, and effective in creating healthy and vibrant communities. These projects will establish and enhance parks and open space by using natural solutions to improve air and water quality and reduce energy consumption, and by creating more walkable and bike-able trails.

The Gage Canal Trail Phase 1 Project will construct two miles of decomposed granite multi-purpose recreational trail parallel to a paved Class I trail to support active transportation modes. The project will span from Palmyrita Avenue, near the northern city limits, to Blaine Street, just north of the UC Riverside Baseball Complex, providing a connection between residential areas in the University neighborhood, the Hunter Industrial Park area, and the University of California. Landscaping, lighting, drinking water, and related trail user support amenities will be provided to facilitate and encourage community use of the trail. Trees will be planted to provide shade for trail users and to sequester carbon for greenhouse gas reductions. The paved trail can be used comfortably and efficiently by commuters traveling by bike and other faster active transportation modes, further contributing to greenhouse gas reductions by reducing automobile trips.

The Gage Canal is an integral part of Riverside's history and agricultural legacy. The trail project will include interpretive panels to tell the story of the Canal and its role in doubling the citrus producing area in Riverside.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Upon grant award, an increase will be made to Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Revenue account 9409200122-33430000 in the amount of \$3,708,509, and an appropriation will be made in the same amount to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Urban Greening Gage Canal Ph1 Program Expenditure account 9409200122-44022000. Matching funds are not required for this grant.

Additional maintenance costs will result from implementation of this project. The annual on-going maintenance costs are estimated to be \$50,000. These additional maintenance funds will be requested in future budgets to ensure that the project is maintained to meet City and California Natural Resources Agency standards.

The project requires construction of a signalized mid-block crossing at Columbia Avenue, and minor signage improvements at the Marlborough Avenue and Spruce Street crossings. The traffic control measures are expected to cost a total of \$210,000. The Public Works Department requests City Council authorization to direct future Capital Improvement Funds or Senate Bill 1 Maintenance funds to implement the traffic control measures.

Prepared by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services 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. Resolution
2. Project Map
3. Typical Cross Section