

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 10/13/08		Item Number: <u>A-9</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: Authorization to Issue a Letter of Support to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Regarding a Proposition 84 Water Quality Grant Application Being Developed by Santa Monica Baykeeper.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Damian Skinner or Steve Finton		Phone Number: (310) 253-6421 (310) 253-6406	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification Master E-Mail Notification List (10/01/08)			
Department Approval: Charles Herbertson (10/09/08)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (10/09/08)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (10/09/08)		City Manager Approval: Jerry B. Fulwood (10/09/08)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council authorize the City Manager to issue a letter of support to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission indicating the City's support for a Proposition 84 Water Quality Grant Application being developed by Santa Monica Baykeeper. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> Proposition 84, approved by voters in November 2006, authorized the issuance of \$5.388 billion in general obligation bonds to fund water, flood control, natural resources, park and conservation projects statewide. Of this amount, \$18 million has been made available to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) for local water quality projects. The SMBRC has issued a request for proposals to public agencies and non-profit groups for projects that will improve water quality in the Santa Monica Bay. Proposals are due October 17, 2008. Santa Monica Baykeeper (Baykeeper), a non-profit environmental organization, approached the City to propose a partnership to apply for Proposition 84 grant funds to install rain gardens at four locations adjacent to Ballona Creek. The City partnered with Baykeeper in the past to install storm water pollution prevention technologies, so they are very familiar with the City and saw an opportunity to use Proposition 84 grant funds to complete another storm water pollution prevention project.			
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DISCUSSION:

The proposed grant project includes construction of rain gardens at four locations within Flood Control District right-of-way adjacent to Ballona Creek. The rain gardens would be placed in unpaved areas above the Creek abutting industrial properties. (Please see Attachment 1 for a detailed description and illustration of a rain garden, and Attachment 2 for a map of the proposed locations). Since the areas are in Los Angeles County right-of-way, the County's approval would be required before the rain gardens could be installed. The four locations were chosen due to the availability of suitable unused space and the industrial nature of the drainage areas. The rain gardens will be constructed on the south side of Ballona Creek; therefore, there should be no impact to the bike path traffic that runs along the north side of the creek.

Baykeeper has offered to take the lead role in the grant process. They would prepare the grant application and conduct all the required analysis, report writing, record keeping, design, contracting and construction management necessary to administer the grant. The City would provide staff support during the design and construction period utilizing existing staff..

The grant requires that the completed rain gardens be maintained for 25 years. It is expected that routine maintenance measures would include periodic weeding, plant replacement and annual replacement of filter screens. As pollutants collect in the rain garden, the porous substrate would become increasingly contaminated requiring complete replacement after a number of years. The frequency of the complete replacement would depend on rain garden design and the extent of pollutants reaching it. Baykeeper proposes to take the primary responsibility for maintenance and has requested that the City provide supplemental maintenance services. The City could assist with maintenance efforts to the extent that funding is provided through the grant to do so. The cost of required maintenance depends on the size and features of the rain gardens and would be determined once design of the rain gardens is completed. The City will require adequate funds from the grant award to be deposited with the City for the supplemental maintenance of the rain gardens.

If a grant is awarded, the City, Baykeeper and Los Angeles County would formalize their relationships under the grant through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). This MOA would be submitted for City Council consideration at a later date. Final designs and locations of the rain gardens must be approved by Los Angeles County and Culver City and an environmental assessment must be completed prior to installation.

The proposed project is consistent with the City Council adopted Final Design and Planning Principles (Table 5-A) of the Ballona Creek and Trail Special Focused

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Study of 2004 as it implements storm water pollution prevention technologies to mitigate the flow of pollutants into Ballona Creek.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

There is no fiscal impact caused by issuing the recommended letter of support. If the grant is secured, minimal Public Works Department staff support would be provided to complete the project. The cost of the City's maintenance participation would be funded through the grant with no City budget impact.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Description and illustration of a rain garden
2. Preliminary map of locations
3. Recommended letter of support
4. Final Design and Planning Principles (Table 5-A) of the Ballona Creek and Trail Special Focused Study of 2004

MOTION:

That the City Council:

Authorize the City Manager to issue a letter of support to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission indicating the City's support for a Proposition 84 Water Quality Grant Application Being Developed by Santa Monica Baykeeper and indicating that the City would provide staff support during design and construction and would use funds from the grant award to provide supplemental maintenance services to maintain the completed project.