

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 10/10/05		Item Number: <u>C-4</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of the City Council to Approve Resolution R_____ Accepting Grant Funds from the State Water Resources Control Board for the Culver City Citywide BMP Treatment "Train" Project			
Contact Person: Cathy Chang/PW		Phone Number: (310) 253-5619	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒	Attachments: ☒
Public Notification: Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission by e-mail on October 5, 2005 and Master Notification List on October 5, 2005			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson 9/29/05		CAO Approval: Scott Bixby for Jerry Fulwood 10/4/05	
City Controller: Mary Noller for Marlee Chang 10/4/05			

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Council approve Resolution R_____ accepting reimbursable grant funds from the State Water Resources Control Board for the Culver City Citywide Best Management Practice (BMP) Treatment Train Project.

BACKGROUND:

In 2002, California voters approved Proposition 50 – “*Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002*”. This bond measure provides over \$3 billion for water supply and water quality protection programs throughout the state. Within Proposition 50 (Chapter 5), \$20 million (of which \$18 million is currently available) is specifically earmarked for restoration and protection of Santa Monica Bay, in accordance with the goals and priorities of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (SMBRP).

The SMBRP is a comprehensive blue print for restoring and protecting the Santa Monica Bay. The SMBRP contains over 250 actions, the goals of which include:

- To reduce pollutant loadings and prevent degradation of the water quality of Santa Monica Bay;
- To reduce human health risks associated with swimming in or harvesting seafood from the Bay; and
- To restore, rehabilitate, and protect the marine ecosystem, living resources and biodiversity of the Bay and its watersheds.

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Proposition 50 grant funds

The Proposition 50 bond funds are being distributed through a competitive application process. In December 2004, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) solicited pre-proposals for innovative, cost-effective projects that will lead to the enhancement and restoration of Santa Monica Bay. On January 31, 2005, a pre-proposal was submitted to the SMBRC. Of approximately 40 pre-proposals received, the SMBRC chose 28 (including Culver City) for further consideration and requested the submission of a final proposal. On August 18, 2005, the SMBRC governing board approved a list of 17 submitted projects, for a total award of \$16,228,658. *Culver City's proposal was approved for a total grant amount of \$1,252,660.*

The grant provides an excellent opportunity for the City to fulfill the Long Range Goals for Future Rehabilitation of La Ballona Creek, adopted by the City Council in 1999, as well as its requirements under the federal and state surface water quality regulations, such as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

Ballona Creek

Most of the urban runoff (including storm water) and associated pollutant loads from the City of Culver City enter Ballona Creek, which is officially listed and recognized by the state and federal environmental agencies as being impaired due to trash, bacteria, metals and toxics (Estuary portion only). Approximately 25% of the total pollutant load entering Santa Monica Bay can be attributed to storm water and urban runoff from Ballona Creek. Dry weather flow from the creek is approximately 6 million to 23 million gallons per day. During a storm event, as much as 2 billion gallons of polluted runoff can be discharged to the Bay. Tremendous quantities of trash and debris are washed into the creek channel and flow into the Bay, particularly after a major storm. The creek often has an oily sheen due to oil-contaminated runoff and the presence of natural oil seeps in the watershed.

Consistent with the requirements under the Clean Water Act, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, in conjunction with the US Environmental Protection Agency, adopted TMDLs, which limit the amount of pollution that may enter each impaired waterbody. Currently, Ballona Creek has TMDLs for trash, metals, and toxics (Estuary portion only). A bacteria TMDL for Ballona Creek is expected to be adopted by 2006. All of the TMDLs have strict numerical water quality limits and compliance deadlines. Responsible agencies in the Ballona Creek Watershed, including the County of Los Angeles, Caltrans, and the Cities of Los Angeles, Culver City, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and Inglewood, are

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collaborating on joint long-term strategies to comply with the TMDLs. Cost commitments of millions of dollars are expected from each agency over the next decade. To help address the trash TMDL for Ballona Creek, the City of Culver City, through a Proposition 12 grant (\$335,820), constructed a structural solution known as Continuous Deflective Separation (CDS) system in 2004, to capture trash, debris and sediments in its urban runoff. The system is currently being evaluated for its effectiveness.

DISCUSSION

A proposal was submitted to help implement a comprehensive strategy that will directly lead to an improvement in the quality of the runoff from the City of Culver City to the Creek. The main goals of the proposed project consist of:

- completely eliminating the trash entering Ballona Creek through the City's storm drain system;
- measurably decreasing the runoff volume and pollutant loads from critical sector businesses;
- implementing innovative demonstration projects on city properties and conduct public outreach activities in order to create an impetus and increased awareness and interest among residents and businesses for continued and sustained pollution prevention in the City;
- measuring success of the project through effective monitoring.

In summary, this grant will help fund both structural treatment BMPs as well as source control measures, which, collectively, are referred to in the grant proposal as the "City-wide BMP treatment train". Included in the project proposed are green roofs (among the first in Southern California), downspout disconnect and a cistern for water reuse, innovative catch basin filter inserts, optimized irrigation for parks, schools, and recreation centers, additional trash and recycling receptacles for high trash generating locations, and high pressurized, low volume water brooms for critical sector businesses. Additional details are provided in the attachment *Project Summary*.

Much of the design, planning, and construction work will be performed through a contractor(s) to be hired through the City bid process. Culver City plans to collaborate with the Santa Monica Baykeeper for the sampling and monitoring of the water quality to establish the effectiveness of each BMP as well as the overall effect of the BMP treatment train on the City's runoff. The project, including monitoring activities, must be completed by June 2008, to be eligible for reimbursement.

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FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Total grant amount approved is \$1,252,660. Culver City proposed a match in the amount of \$313,165 (or approximately 20%, as required by Proposition 50) in the form of in-kind services (staff time), which has already been incorporated into the planned fiscal budget. The maintenance cost is uncertain but is expected not to exceed \$60,000 per year, and will be paid for by the Stormwater Discharge Program/NPDES Project, P-497. Both the grant and the maintenance costs are necessary to help Culver City comply with the NPDES and TMDL requirements.

In addition to reducing the burden on the City's budget imposed by various storm water and TMDL requirements, this grant results in direct savings of \$58,000 and \$65,000 for the Sanitation Division and Parks Division, respectively, by paying for activities and materials essential for their operations such as additional trash and recycling receptacles and improvements in the irrigation system at selected public facilities.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Project summary
- Resolution R- for signature

MOTIONS:

That the City Council:

- 1) Adopt Resolution R approving the grant application request of \$1,252,660 for the Proposition 50 Grant for the Culver City City-wide BMP Treatment Train Project; and
- 2) Authorize and direct the Chief Administrative Officer, or designee, as agent of the City of Culver City to execute and submit all documents which may be necessary for the completion of the grant application and award process