

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: 06/13/2011		Item Number: <u>C-9</u>	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit a Grant Application through the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grant Program for Jefferson Boulevard Streetscape and Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Improvements.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Helen Kerstein/PW		Phone Number: (310) 253-5618	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒	No ☐	General Fund: Yes ☒	No ☐
Public Hearing: ☐	Action Item: ☐	Attachments: ☒	
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒		Date: _____	
Public Notification: (E-mail) Agenda and Meetings – City Council (06/08/11); (E-mail) Baldwin Hills Conservancy (06/08/11); (E-Mail) California State Parks (06/08/11)			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson(06/06/11)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (06/08/11)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by K. Marsden) (06/08/11)		City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (06/08/11)	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application for streetscape and bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Jefferson Boulevard (near Hetzler Road) through the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's (BHC) Proposition 84 Grant Program.

BACKGROUND:

California voters passed Proposition 84 on November 7, 2006. Proposition 84 allocated \$10 million to the BHC for the protection of the Ballona Creek Watershed and the Baldwin Hills Parklands. Of this amount, \$2 million have been made available in 2011 for a grant program. The purpose of this grant program is to provide funds for planning and capital improvement projects that benefit the Ballona Creek Watershed and Baldwin Hills Conservancy territory by:

- 1) Protecting or preventing contamination and degradation of coastal waters and watersheds
- 2) Protecting and restoring the natural habitat values of coastal waters and lands
- 3) Promoting access to and enjoyment of the coastal resources of the state

Staff is proposing to submit a grant application that will meet the above grant purpose by creating environmentally-sustainable improvements that promote access to and enjoyment of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook (Overlook) and

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Ballona Creek including: median islands, sidewalks, bike lanes, signage, a parking lot near the entrance to the Overlook, curb extensions, and a pedestrian activated signal.

DISCUSSION:

Since the opening of the Overlook in 2009, it has become a popular destination for visitors from around the region. Currently, many visitors to the Overlook choose to park near the entrance on Jefferson Boulevard in order to access the climbing stairs, which have become a key attraction. There is limited parking on the south (Overlook) side of Jefferson Boulevard, so some visitors choose to park on the north (Creek) side of the road and negotiate the four-lane major arterial, which currently lacks a raised median or nearby marked or signalized crossing. There is no sidewalk on either side of the stretch of Jefferson Boulevard near the Overlook, and the shoulder was not designed for the current level of pedestrian traffic, so visitors sometimes elect to walk in the roadway adjacent to the travel lanes to access the Overlook.

Recognizing the need to improve access to the region's recreational resources and strong support from the community for doing so, the City of Culver City has been working closely with California State Parks, the City of Los Angeles, and other groups to develop collaborative solutions. The proposed project includes several improvements to create a more comfortable, pedestrian friendly way for visitors to access the Overlook, while simultaneously promoting environmental-sustainability by constructing the elements mentioned earlier.

Some of these improvements were proposed in a recent Metro Call grant application, but the BHC grant is seen as an opportunity to achieve them within a shorter time frame. Furthermore, these improvements could serve as the foundation for additional longer-term improvements to the area, such as improvements to the proposed parking lot and the addition of a full traffic signal including a pedestrian signal at the Overlook entrance at Jefferson Boulevard and Hetzler Road.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

There is a 25 percent matching requirement for this grant. The project costs are anticipated to be roughly \$755,000. If the grant is approved by the BHC and accepted by the City, roughly \$188,000 in matching funds are anticipated to be required. Staff anticipates that these matching funds will come from P-933 (Pedestrian and Bicycling Enhancement Program) as well as some in-kind staff

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time.P-933 currently has a budget of \$175,000, so if the City's grant application is approved, additional funding may need to be appropriated.

In addition to the matching funds required for the project's capital costs, the project will create new on-going maintenance requirements that will need to be covered by the General Fund. Staff will attempt to minimize these costs by proposing drought-tolerant, low maintenance plantings and by requesting funds for plant establishment in the grant application. However, there will undoubtedly be some incremental costs associated with maintenance.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Proposed Resolution

MOTIONS:

That the City Council

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application through the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grant Program for streetscape and bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Jefferson Boulevard.