

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

Meeting Date: 02/13/2012		Item Number: <u>C-5</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 Design of a Ramp from the Higuera Bridge to the Ballona Creek Bike Path.			
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 (02/08/12); (E-mail) Baldwin Hills Conservancy (01/30/12)			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson (02/02/12)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (02/08/12)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (02/08/12)		City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (02/09/12)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to design a ramp from the Higuera Bridge to the Ballona Creek Bike Path through the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's (BHC) Proposition 84 Grant Program. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> 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, a portion of which has been made available 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 There is a rolling deadline for this grant opportunity. In June 2011, the City was successful in securing a grant through this source for improvements such as a traffic signal, sidewalks, curb extensions, and bike lanes near Jefferson Boulevard and Hetzler Road. Staff is now proposing to seek another grant to			

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fund the design of a ramp from the Higuera Bridge to the Ballona Creek Bike Path.

DISCUSSION:

Designing a ramp from the Higuera Bridge to the Ballona Creek Bike Path will achieve the grant purpose by promoting access to and enjoyment of the coastal resources of the state. Currently, there is roughly a 1.1 mile distance between the existing ramps to the Ballona Creek Bike Path at National Boulevard and Duquesne Avenue. The design and eventual construction of a ramp at Higuera Street will create an intermediate access point that will improve connectivity to the Ballona Creek Bike Path and ultimately to the Beach Bike Path and Pacific Ocean.

This access point will also provide an improved link from nearby destinations such as the Hayden Tract and the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook to the Ballona Creek Bike Path. This connection will be facilitated by the planned installation of bike lanes along Jefferson Boulevard from approximately Higuera Street to Duquesne Avenue as part of the previously approved BHC grant-funded project (referenced previously) and the anticipated addition of bike lanes on the Higuera Bridge as part of the planned Higuera Bridge replacement (described further below). This grant application is consistent with the City's adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which specifically calls out the pursuit of grant funding for the design and construction of a ramp at the Higuera Bridge to the Ballona Creek Bike Path as an action item.

A preliminary engineering study has been completed for the Higuera Street Bridge Replacement/Rehabilitation Project, P-553. This study recommends the replacement of the existing "functionally obsolete" bridge with a wider one that accommodates two traffic lanes in each direction, bike lanes in each direction and sidewalks and standard guardrails. The detailed design work for this replacement bridge is expected to commence this year. Securing funding for the design of a ramp to this bridge at this time will allow the design of the bridge and ramp to be completed simultaneously, thus ensuring that the designs are complementary and facilitating the potential inclusion of the ramp in the construction of the project, pending funding availability.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

There is a 25 percent matching requirement for this grant. The design costs for the ramp are anticipated to be approximately \$80,000. If the grant is approved

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by the BHC and accepted by the City, roughly \$20,000 in matching funds are anticipated to be required for the design. Staff is proposing using Gas Tax funds as well as in-kind staff time as the project match. There is sufficient funding in the Gas Tax account (Fund 419) to cover the \$20,000 match. Upon completion of the design, staff anticipates seeking additional grant funds to construct the ramp. Additional matching funds may be required at that time. Once constructed, the ramp will require some on-going maintenance, but the exact cost of this maintenance is unknown at this time.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Proposed Resolution

MOTIONS:

That the City Council

1. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application through the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grant Program for design of a ramp from the Higuera Bridge to the Ballona Creek Bike Path; and
2. Approve acceptance and implementation of the grant, if awarded.
3. Approve the appropriation on \$20,000 in Gas Tax funds for the grant match, if awarded.
4. Approve the appropriation of the grant funding, if awarded.