

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

Meeting Date: <u>12/04/12</u>		Item Number: <u>A-3</u>	
PRCS COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of Issuing a Statement of Support for the Park-Related Elements of an Upcoming Application for Grant Funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District 2012 Competitive Tree Planting Grant Program which will Include Project Areas within Syd Kronenthal and Culver West Alexander Parks.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Dan Hernandez, PRCS Director		Phone Number: (310) 253-6655	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: (Email) Meetings and Agendas – Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission (11/29/12); (Email) Department Updates – Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (11/29/12); (Email) News and Events – City of Culver City (11/29/12).			
Department Approval: Dan Hernandez (11/27/12)		City Attorney Approval: N/A	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: N/A		City Manager Approval: N/A	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission consider issuing a statement of support for the park-related elements of an upcoming application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District 2012 Competitive Tree Planting Grant Program which will include project areas within Syd Kronenthal and Culver West Alexander Parks. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> In September 2012, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas announced the availability of competitive Proposition A grant funding through the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for tree planting. Grants are limited to \$150,000 and the application deadline is December 20, 2012. The Public Works Department has taken the lead in requesting approval from the City Council to submit a grant application requesting \$150,000 to pay for the planting and establishment of between 300 and 400 trees (depending on planting costs). Approximately 20 of these trees are anticipated to be planted in Culver West Alexander and Syd Kronenthal Parks and the rest of these trees are anticipated to be planted in City parkways. Public Works staff are still in the process of identifying specific locations for all the proposed trees in the parkways, but anticipate prioritizing vacant locations that are near parks and on key commercial corridors as well as vacant locations that have appropriate trees identified in the Street Tree Master Plan.			

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DISCUSSION:

The City has a modest budget for trees. This budget covers the cost of regular tree trimming for the City's urban forest and the removal of City trees that are dead or otherwise pose a hazard. However, there is only a small amount available for tree planting. As a result, in recent years, more trees have been removed than have been planted, leaving a number of vacant tree sites throughout the City. According to the most recent tree inventory, there are over 1,300 vacant tree locations in the City's parkways. Additionally, the Parks Department conducted a review of the City's parks and identified locations within Syd Kronenthal and Culver West Alexander Parks that are appropriate for tree plantings at this time (Attachments A and B, respectively). Planting the proposed trees will serve aesthetic, environmental and practical purposes. Within the City's parks, trees can help provide environmental benefits as well as help contribute to the sense of place.

The Resolution approving the submission of the application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District 2012 Competitive Tree Planting Grant Program is scheduled to go before the City Council on December 10, 2012. Although only a small percentage of the plantings will be located within Culver City parks, staff recommends that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission consider issuing a statement of support for the park-related elements of this Project.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Schematic of Proposed Tree Plantings at Syd Kronenthal Park
- B. Schematic of Proposed Tree Plantings at Culver West Alexander Park

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the discussion of this Agenda Item. No matching funds are required for this grant. If the City is awarded the grant, staff resources will be required to manage the project. Furthermore, while the grant provides some funding for plant establishment, this funding can only be used for two years and is limited to 20 percent of the grant total. Thus, additional funding will be required in future years to trim and otherwise maintain these trees.

MOTION:

That the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission:

Issue a statement of support for the park-related elements of an upcoming application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District 2012 Competitive Tree Planting Grant Program which will include project areas within Syd Kronenthal and Culver West Alexander Parks.