

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

Meeting Date: 01/14/2013		Item Number: <u>C-3</u>	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit a Cal Fire Urban and Community Forestry Management Plan Grant Application for the City of Culver City Urban Forest Management and Tree Succession Plan.			
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 (01/09/13).			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson (12/31/12)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (01/09/13)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by K. Marsden) (01/09/13)		City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (01/09/13)	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application through the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (Cal Fire's) Urban and Community Forestry Management Plan Grant Program for the City of Culver City Urban Forest Management and Tree Succession Plan.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

In 2002, the City Council adopted the Culver City Street Tree Master Plan (STMP). The Public Works Department (the Department) identified the need to review and update the decade-old STMP in its Work Program for Fiscal Year 2012/2013.

Upon reviewing the STMP, the Department determined that it could benefit from a major update that would transform the STMP from a document focused narrowly on specifying a tree species for each street into a comprehensive planning document for managing the City's urban forest developed with significant community input. The resulting Urban Forest Management and Tree Succession Plan would include tree-related policies and procedures, a long-term plan for the future of the City's aging urban forest, as well as modifications to the species identified in the existing STMP in order to increase species diversity and disease resistance, facilitate environmental benefits, and ensure site-specific appropriateness.

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Recognizing the Department's limited staff availability, the Department determined that it would be necessary to seek external assistance in order to undertake this effort and identified Cal Fire's Urban Forest Management Plan Grant Program as a potential funding source.

The Department submitted a concept proposal to Cal Fire in September 2012 for the creation of an Urban Forest Management and Tree Succession Plan. In December 2012, the City was notified that it was selected to submit a final proposal. Should the City Council adopt the proposed Resolution, staff will submit a final proposal in advance of the January 25, 2013 deadline.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The project is anticipated to cost roughly \$100,000. The grant requires a 25% match (\$25,000). Staff anticipates that the matching funding for this project will come from sources such as Gas Tax. There will be some staff time associated with the management and oversight of the project. Should the City be successful in receiving the grant, a report will be presented to the City Council. Such report would request appropriation of the grant funds and the required match.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Proposed Resolution

MOTIONS:

That the City Council

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a Cal Fire Urban and Community Forestry Management Plan grant application for the City of Culver City Urban Forest Management and Tree Succession Plan.