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City of South Gate Item No. 15

CITY COUNCIL

JUL 9 - 2020

CITY OF SOUTH GATE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

AGENDA BILL

1:30pm

For the Regular Meeting of: July 14, 2020

Originating Department: Public Works

Department Director:

Arturo Cervantes

City Manager:

Michael Flad

SUBJECT: PRIVATE DONOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE URBAN OCHARD, CITY PROJECT NO. 539-PRK

PURPOSE: To authorize staff to work with The Trust For Public Land (TPL) to pursue private donor funding opportunities to further fund the Urban Orchard Project, which has a budget shortfall. Such consists of offering naming opportunities to private donors dependent on the amount of the donation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize the Trust for Public Land to pursue private donor opportunities to raise funds for the Urban Orchard Project, City Project No. 539-PRK, and to offer naming opportunities to project donors dependent on the amount of the donation.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no impact to the General Fund. TPL will seek additional funding to reduce the budget shortfall.

ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL GOALS: The approval meets the City Council's goal for "Continuing Infrastructure Improvements." The milestone identified in the 2019/20 Work Program is to "Apply for additional grant funding for the Urban Orchard Project."

ANALYSIS: The City and The Trust for Public Land have been collaborating since 2015 to fund, plan, design and construct Phase I of the Urban Orchard Project (Project). To date, the Project has been awarded \$13.4 million, under six grant programs. A total of \$24.7 Million is needed to fully fund Phase I, leaving a funding shortfall of \$11.3 Million. However, \$4 Million is needed to fully fund the baseline project and \$7.3 Million is needed to fund the additive design elements. A multi-prong strategy is in place to pursue additional grant funding (see below). One of the elements of the strategy is to pursue private donor funding opportunities. TPL is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, whose mission is to create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. TPL would utilize its philanthropic resources to help close the funding gap. If approved, TPL would seek private donor funds that will provided the naming opportunities of the funded elements contingent on the sponsorship level. Below is a sample list of amenities to be funded.

Table with 2 columns: Sponsorship Opportunity and Sponsorship Level. Rows include Urban Orchard education building, Oak knoll development, Wetland, Walking paths, Nature playground, Education garden, Picnic Area with shade structure, Orchard (upper and lower), Individual benches, and Drinking fountains.

BACKGROUND: The Urban Orchard Project is a proposal to construct a 30-acre passive park along the Los Angeles River, primarily, to treat storm water run-off. In addition to open space, the passive park will feature a community orchard with hundreds of fruit trees, a constructed wetland, an education garden, walking paths, native landscaping and a mile long extension of the Los Angeles River Trail. The Project will be implemented in three phases. Phase I is within the 7-acres City-owned land north of Thunderbird Villa Mobile Home Park, Phase II and Phase III are within the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Metropolitan Water District, Southern California Edison and other City-owned right-of-way.

Design of Phase I is substantially complete. The budget requirement is \$24.7 Million. A total of \$4 Million is needed to construct the baseline project. This excludes the additive design elements (Education Buildings, the Knoll, the nature playground, lighting, park tables and benches). The budget requirements for the additive design elements is \$7.3 Million. As such, the total budget shortfall to fully fund both the baseline project and additive design elements is \$11.3 Million.

One of the alternatives being considered to reduce the funding gap is donor participation as discussed above. The City and TPL are also pursuing other grant opportunities. TPL has submitted grant applications to the (a) Rivers and Mountain Conservancy - Lower LA River Prop 68 Grant, and the (b) Natural Resources Agency - Urban Greening Grant, with a combined value of \$7,368,988. In addition, staff will assess the potential to utilize Proposition A and Measure W funds. Finally, the City will pursue additional funds through the County of Los Angeles Flood Control.

Below is the list of grants received to date to fund the Project:

Grantor	Grant Recipient	Grant Amount	Purpose
Rivers and Mountain Conservancy	TPL	\$845,000	Design services
State Water Resources Control Board	South Gate	\$7,975,100	Storm water improvements
Land and Water Conservation Fund	South Gate	\$3,000,000	Recreation Improvements
Rivers and Mountain Conservancy	TPL	\$1,387,401	Storm water improvements
EPA Technical Assistance	South Gate	\$200,000	Environmental testing
TPL	TPL	\$25,000	Public outreach
Total Grants Received for Phase I		\$13,432,501	

ATTACHMENT: None

GD:lc