



DEPARTMENT
OF UTILITIES

ENGINEERING
SERVICES DIVISION

City Council
Sacramento, California

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA
January 21, 2005

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Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND CALFED AND AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE FY 2004/2005 OTHER CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM OF THE FY05 NPDES PROGRAM FOR THE STORMWATER QUALITY PROGRAM WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP ELEMENT (PN: WM66)

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:

Adjacent to and within Del Paso Regional Park - Council District 2

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council, by resolution:

1. Accept a State Department of Water Resources/CALFED Proposition 50 grant in the amount of \$930,000; and
2. Amend the FY2005 Other Capital Grants Revenue and Capital Improvement Program budgets of the FY05 NPDES Program (PN:WM66) to recognize the grant funds.

CONTACT PERSON: David L. Brent, Engineering Manager, 808-1420
Janet Baker, Park Development Manager, 808-8234
Bill Busath, Supervising Engineer, 808-1434

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: February 8, 2005

SUMMARY:

The Arcade Creek Watershed Management Group and the City of Sacramento co-sponsored a grant application to the State of California Department of Water Resources and CALFED for



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\$930,000 for environmental improvements along Arcade Creek in Del Paso Regional Park and throughout the Arcade Creek watershed. The state approved the application and offered the full grant to the City.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:

This project was reviewed and supported by the Citizens Advisory Committee on Parks and Recreation on February 5, 2004.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2000, the City of Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Utilities brought together stakeholders from throughout the Arcade Creek watershed in an effort to identify issues and potential improvements to the creek. Soon after, the Department of Parks and Recreation secured a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant and a State Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant to conduct work along Arcade Creek in and around the area of Del Paso Regional Park. Included in the work products of those grants were two documents, the Arcade Creek Feasibility Study and the Arcade Creek Phase I Watershed Plan, that identified the primary areas of concern on Arcade Creek, including habitat protection and restoration, flood control, recreation, and water quality, as well as funding restoration work in the Longview Oaks area.

The Arcade Creek Feasibility Study, conducted in 2002, is an overall assessment of the health of the stream channel and riparian vegetation along a 4.5-mile length of Arcade Creek from Marysville Boulevard to the Sacramento City limits. The objectives of this study were to examine factors that negatively impact water quality, investigate opportunities and constraints for flood control, evaluate the quality of riparian and aquatic habitat, and identify recreational opportunities. The data collected in the assessments assisted the development of a summary of existing problems affecting the creek system, general recommendations for improving creek health, and specific restoration and enhancement projects to meet multiple objectives. The 2002 Arcade Creek Phase I Watershed Plan is an overall watershed assessment and a watershed project plan. These grants also funded restoration of a native habitat in the Longview Oaks portion of Del Paso Regional Park that is currently underway with the restoration of a wetlands area, post and cable barriers, asphalt removal, repair of a Work Projects Administration (WPA) culvert, and tree and native grass plantings.

In 2003, the Arcade Creek Watershed Management Group and the City of Sacramento applied for, and have received, a Prop 50 grant. This new grant will build on the work already completed and allow for a more comprehensive watershed management approach to the entire Arcade Creek watershed. This grant is widely supported by municipalities and counties in the Arcade Creek watershed and by numerous community organizations and environmental

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groups including the County of Sacramento, the City of Citrus Heights, the Urban Creeks Council, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District, and the community associations that fall within the watershed boundaries.

Primary goals for this grant project are as follows:

- Increase stakeholder involvement in the Watershed Group through recruitment of a watershed coordinator, development of a watershed website, and other related activities.
- Encourage public stewardship of Arcade Creek through increased outreach effort and public education, particularly educating homeowners on the impacts of their actions to stream systems.
- Improve decision-making in the watershed by developing a comprehensive Phase II Watershed Management Plan for improving water quality, minimizing flood damage, improving riparian and aquatic habitat, and enhancing recreation opportunities in the Arcade Creek watershed.
- Enhance riparian habitat and biodiversity in the creek corridor by developing a plan to better manage invasive non-native plant species and initiating the first phase to eradicate them.
- Construct one of the primary restoration/enhancement projects identified in the Arcade Creek Feasibility Study and the Phase I Watershed Plan to detain and treat stormwater runoff from a residential neighborhood before discharge into Arcade Creek. This project will lay the foundation for potential passive recreational improvements that may include creation of additional trails and opportunities for outdoor education and nature interpretation including an environmental day camp program.

In late 2004 a group of local residents raised the following concerns about the project:

1. They had not been notified about the public review period for the CEQA Document;
2. The treatment basin would be a breeding ground for mosquitoes; and
3. There were no provisions in the project to address long standing safety issues in the area.

Several neighborhood meetings have been held and the concerns of the local residents have been addressed by, in addition to others, the following:

1. The CEQA document is in the process of being revised and will be re-circulated for public comment;
2. There will be no standing water in the basin between mid-April and October (it is designed as a seasonal wetland and May-September are the prime vector breeding months); and
3. City Police Department and POPs met with local residents to review the current level of effort in the area and to get input on proposed efforts.

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There will be a further and more in-depth discussion of resident concerns and City responses when the CEQA document and consultant services agreement come before the Council in the spring.

Staff projects the following approximate timeline for the completion of the grant activities:

Milestone	Approximate Date	Activities
1	Winter 2005	Contract completed and grant commences
2	Spring 2005	Website completed and public outreach campaign underway
3	Spring 2005	Commencement of watershed management plan, and invasive plant species eradication and management plan.
4	Late spring 2006	Construction begins on Del Paso Park filtration wetland
5	Fall-Winter 2006	Completion of Milestone 4 Task (<i>supra</i>)
6	Spring 2006-2008	Completion of Milestone 2 and 3 Tasks (<i>supra</i>)
7	Summer/Fall 2008	Project evaluation and final report to State

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The total program budget is \$1,065,000, including \$135,000 that would already be expended as part of the City's Stormwater Quality Program Watershed Stewardship Element and are predominantly staff costs. No additional City funding is required. Acceptance of this grant will change the capital project budget as follows:

<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>	<u>CURRENT BUDGET</u>	<u>AMENDED BUDGET</u>
Capital Grants	1,005,672	1,005,672
Water Fund	100,000	100,000
Storm Drainage Fund	1,751,000	1,751,000
Other Capital Grants	0	930,000
Total	2,856,672	3,786,672

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Environmental Planning Services has determined that acceptance of a California State Department of Water Resources/CALFED Proposition 50 Watershed Grant is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines. Exemption 15061(b)(3) consists of an activity covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects, which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. However, activities, which may be funded by the grant monies, will require future discretionary approval in order to proceed with actual construction and/or development. At the time of final action on such activities, appropriate CEQA environmental review will be considered.

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POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

The activities funded by this grant support the City of Sacramento General Plan Conservation Element, and Smart Growth Principals, to preserve natural beauty and open space, critical environmental areas, promote livable communities, and cultivate passive recreation opportunities. The recommended actions also support the City's Strategic Plan goals of establishing and strengthening regional partnerships to enhance the quality of life, and preserving neighborhoods, urban forest, parks, and recreation.

ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:

No goods or services are requested with this report.

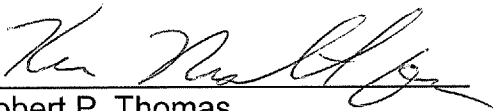
Respectfully submitted,



David L. Brent
Engineering Manager

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

APPROVED:



Robert P. Thomas
City Manager



Gary A. Reents
Director of Utilities

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RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GRANT AND AMEND THE FY 2004/2005 OTHER CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM OF THE FY05 NPDES PROGRAM FOR THE STORMWATER QUALITY PROGRAM WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP ELEMENT (PN:WM66)

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources and CALFED announced the availability of funds for grants intended to address watershed management issues that provide environmental enhancement; and

WHEREAS, the City submitted a grant application to fund water quality improvements in the Arcade Creek watershed that would be environmentally beneficial; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources and CALFED found the City's application to fulfill the intended purpose of the Proposition 50/CALFED watershed goals and decided to fund the City's grant proposal;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Sacramento accept a Proposition 50/CALFED Watershed Restoration grant in the amount of \$930,000.

1. The FY05 Other Capital Grants Revenue Budget is amended hereby to recognize revenue of \$930,000 to the Arcade Creek Watershed Improvement Project, PN:WM66 (512-500-WM66-3511).
2. The FY05 Other Capital Grants Capital Improvements Program is amended hereby to appropriate \$930,000 to the FY04-FY08 NPDES Program, Arcade Creek Watershed Improvement Project, PN:WM66 (512-500-WM66-4802).

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____