



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA
REPORT TO THE:

Joint City Council Housing Authority Successor Agency Oversight Board

April 3, 2018

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Regarding proposed grant application to the California Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) program for the Seven Trees Trail Restoration Project.

- 1) Resolution supporting the submittal of a Habitat Conservation Fund grant application to the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation under the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 in the amount of \$40,000, authorizing the City Manager/or her designee to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the project.

COUNCIL ACTION

Public Hearing Ordinance Consent Calendar Action Item Report Only

Approved for 4/3/18 calendar

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Submitted by:
Onnig Bulanikian, Director of Community Services and Parks

Signature

Prepared by:
Arsine Isayan, Sr. Administrative Analyst

Approved by:
Yasmin K. Beers, City Manager

Reviewed by:
Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney

Robert P. Elliot, Director of Finance *mk*

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RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends that the City Council approve the attached Resolution supporting the submittal of this grant application, as required by the grant guidelines, and authorize the City Manager/or her designee to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the project.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) Program, administered by the California State Parks Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS), is a result of the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, Chapter 9 Fish and Game Code. The purpose of this program is to assist cities, counties and districts with projects such as protection of various plant and animal species, acquisition and development of wildlife corridors and trails, and nature interpretation programs to bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas. HCF allocates approximately \$2 million each year through a competitive award, and requires 50% matching funds from local agencies. Priority is given to projects that demonstrate partnerships with federal and state agencies, local parks, nonprofit organizations, local businesses, and schools.

The Community Services & Parks Department (CSP) is responsible for the planning, development, and operation of the City's Trail System. Existing recreational trails have been established in the Verdugo Mountains, the San Rafael Hills, and the San Gabriel Mountains (Deukmejian Wilderness Park). Trails are often used as transportation routes and by walkers and bikers for health and fitness. They provide an opportunity for environmental education, and they allow urban residents to "get away" from the hectic pace of life and enjoy the peace and solitude of nature. They also add to an area's quality of life and increase property values when properly constructed and maintained.

Safety, sustainability, and accessibility are the primary concerns in development and restoration of any recreational facility. With that said, CSP has identified the Seven Trees Trail as the project to be submitted under the HFC trails grant category. The location of the trail is the Historic Brand Park, a 33-acre park located near the western boundary of the City of Glendale, two miles north of the intersection of the Golden State (I-5) and the Ventura Freeway (I-34). The majority of the park is located in, and surrounded by rugged ridges and canyons of the Verdugo Mountains. Brand Park, which is a major cultural and recreational facility, is home to the following facilities: Brand Studios, Brand Library, Whispering Pine Tea House & Friendship Garden and the Doctors House Museum and Gazebo. The park offers hiking and biking trails, softball field, picnic areas, children's playground, and seasonal children's wading pool. The park also serves as a natural wilderness preserve. In addition, the Miss American Green Cross Statue at the trail head stands as a monument to the environmental movement.

Hiking is a popular activity within the park as evidenced by the numerous trails and the number of hikers who daily hike the park's upper areas. The Seven Trees Trail starts at the east end of the park, behind the Brand Library, and begins with a moderate slope, which gradually becomes steeper as one travels up the trail. The development of this trail has increased the potential use of the Brand Park trail system by allowing more flexibility in the route selection. However, the trail's steep terrain makes recreational use difficult except for experienced hikers. The trail is mostly enjoyed by serious hikers and mountain bikers, not by urban residents, such as children, parents, and seniors.

To ensure continuous public enjoyment and accessibility of the existing trail, CSP is proposing the realignment of approximately 0.5 miles of the trail and installation of drainage drips to control wash-out and erosion. Portions of the trail will require grading ruts, adding rock armor to steeper

areas, and out-sloping the trail to prevent erosion. In addition, lodge pole fencing will be installed on the lower end of the trail to discourage off-trail hiking. Minor amenities and interpretive signage will also be part of the project scope, which will describe the area's fauna and trail connection. The completion of the project will allow residents to enjoy the trail which serves as corridor to the wilderness areas of the Verdugo Mountains

The estimated total project cost is \$40,000. The HCF grant request is for \$20,000 and City's match is \$20,000. Once funds have been awarded, staff will return to council to request appropriation of grant funds. This project is consistent with the City Council's priority, which is to develop and maintain facilities to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Glendale.

Staff submitted a report to Council on September 26, 2017, however, on March 16, 2018, staff was notified by the State Department of Parks and Recreation that Resolution No. 17-140 previously submitted did not meet the requirements of the grant application. The City must submit a revised Resolution, which conforms to the requirements, as stated in the grant guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT

Upon successful award of grant funds, staff will return to council to request a Resolution of Appropriation of \$40,000, of which \$20,000 is the grant portion, and the remaining \$20,000 is the City match. The City match component will be appropriated from the Recreation Fund (Fund 501) fund balance.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: The City Council may approve the attached Resolution authorizing the submittal of the HFC grant application.

Alternative 2: The City Council may choose not to approve the attached Resolution authorizing the submittal of the HFC grant application.

Alternative 3: The City Council may consider any other alternative not proposed by staff.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

This report does not require Campaign Finance Disclosure.

EXHIBITS

None

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS
FROM THE HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the people of the State of California have enacted the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, which provides funds to the State of California for grants to local agencies to acquire, enhance, restore or develop facilities for public recreation and fish and wildlife habitat protection purposes; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the HCF Program, setting up necessary procedures governing project application under the HCF Program; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the applicant, the City of Glendale, to certify by resolution the approval of application(s) before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the project(s).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLENDALE HEREBY:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Habitat Conservation Fund Program; and
2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, the required match and sufficient funds to complete the project; and
3. Certifies that the applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project(s); and
4. Certifies that the applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and
5. Delegates the authority to City Manager or her designee to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the project; and
6. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

Approved and adopted the _____ day of _____, 2018.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) SS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I, Ardashes Kassakhian, City Clerk of the City of Glendale, certify that the foregoing Resolution No. _____ was adopted by the Council of the City of Glendale, California, at a regular meeting held on the day ____ of _____, 2018, by the following vote:

Ayes:

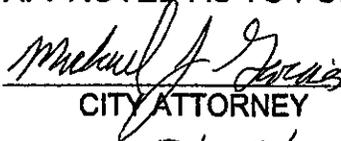
Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM



CITY ATTORNEY

DATE 3/28/18