



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 30, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation and Waterfront
 Subject: Grant Application: Cal Fire Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program
 (Trees Make Berkeley Better)

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry tree planting grant application in the amount up to \$1,104,320; to accept the grant; to execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments; and authorizing the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The total cost for the “Trees Make Berkeley Better” project is \$1,589,920 and the grant requested is for \$1,104,320 which will cover the costs to plant 800 trees over a three-year period. The remaining portion of the project is \$485,600 which will be provided by the City of Berkeley as an in-kind and cash match. The match is approximately 31% of the total project cost, which exceeds the 25% match required by the grant. The increased match may make the grant application more competitive.

Item	Grant Request	City of Berkeley Match	Total
Project Management	\$105,000	\$85,000	\$190,000
Site Preparation	\$270,000	\$0	\$270,000
Materials	\$110,000	\$15,000	\$125,000
Labor	\$388,000	\$0	\$388,000
Equipment Costs	\$34,000	\$120,000	\$154,000
Other	\$22,000	\$0	\$22,000
Resident Volunteer Hours	\$0	\$110,000	\$110,000
Post-Project Maintenance	\$57,000	\$57,000	\$114,000
Indirect Costs	\$118,320	\$98,600	\$216,920
TOTAL	\$1,104,320	\$485,600	\$1,589,920

Revenue from this grant will be deposited into the One-Time Grants Fund (Fund 336).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In May of 2021, CAL FIRE announced the current round of Urban and Community Forestry grant funding. The City of Berkeley urban forestry unit has designed a program to create tree planting sites, plant and irrigate 800 new site-specific trees in West and South Berkeley. These 800 new trees will help increase the absorption of greenhouse gases, produce oxygen, add shade, stabilize temperatures, and reduce heating/cooling costs. The proposed planting areas of West and South Berkeley contain the lowest density of forest canopy in the City. Final grant award announcements are expected by January 2022.

BACKGROUND

The CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Program works to optimize the benefits of trees and related vegetation through multiple objective projects as specified in the California Urban Forestry Act of 1978 (Public Resources Code 4799.06-4799.12).

The CAL FIRE grant program funds tree planting in urban areas in order to sequester carbon and provide positive environmental effects. The program places a priority on disadvantaged communities, which are those areas that are disproportionately affected by multiple types of pollution and areas with vulnerable populations. These communities are those that are either at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income, or at or below the threshold designated as low-income by the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) 2016 State Income Limits.

Over the past two decades, the Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department has received past grants to plant trees throughout Berkeley from several state agencies. This project would continue the City's current tree planting project funded by a California State Urban Greening grant to create new sites and plant and water 500 new trees in specific Disadvantaged Communities in West Berkeley (tree planting to be completed in 2023).

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

One of the City's Climate Action Plan goals is to maintain the urban forest's present canopy coverage and to provide significant environmental benefits in the form of carbon dioxide absorption and oxygen production, as well as storm water retention and climate control. This project will use the natural systems of trees to achieve these goals. Trees also cool temperatures, beautify neighborhoods, add habitat, and provide health benefits to residents and visitors.

This project also continues the Urban Forestry Unit's goal to grow climate change-adaptable trees in well-planned and sustainable sites. Long-lived, low-maintenance trees, growing in appropriate sites to optimize their benefits will reduce the City's emissions and help it adapt to a climate uncertain future.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This grant will allow the City to expand the urban forest into historically underserved neighborhoods of West Berkeley.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSONS

Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront, (510) 981-6700

Dan Gallagher, Senior Forestry Supervisor, (510) 981-6687

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##-###

APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR CAL FIRE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM ENTITLED "TREES MAKE BERKELEY BETTER" FOR \$1,104,320 AS SPECIFIED IN THE CALIFORNIA URBAN FORESTRY ACT OF 1978 (PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE 4799.06-4799.12).

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California in cooperation with the California State Legislature has enacted the California Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which provide funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for urban and community forestry programs; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary procedures governing application by local agencies and non-profit organizations under the program, and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter an agreement with the State of California to carry out an urban and community forestry project; and

WHEREAS, funds will be deposited into the One-Time Grants Fund (Fund 336).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berkeley:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Project.
2. Certifies that funds under the jurisdiction of the City of Berkeley are available to begin the project.
3. Certifies that said applicant will expend grant funds prior to March 30, 2025.
4. Appoints the City Manager, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).
5. Certifies that applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application, and
6. Certifies that it will comply with the provisions of Section 1771.5 of the State Labor Code, and
7. If applicable, certifies that the project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, environmental laws and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable permits will have been obtained, and
8. Certifies that applicant will work towards the Governor's State Planning Priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety as included in Government Code Section 65041.1, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley authorizes the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the City of Berkeley's Office of the City Clerk.