



Date: May 10, 2010
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager
From: Dennis J. Thys, Director, Community Development Department
For: Mayor Foster and Members of the City Council
Subject: Supplemental Information: City Council Agenda Item #10

On the City Council Agenda for Tuesday night is a resolution in support of the Workforce Investment Network and Office of Sustainability's collaborative grant application to the State's Strategic Growth Council for implementation of an urban greening project. This Memorandum is supplemental to the Item, providing additional background on the project and its goals.

The Project, referred to as the Long Beach Low Impact Development Academy, is designed to connect job training and career pathways exposure to meaningful, yet simple greening activities that reduce the impacts on our urban environment. The activities are primarily tied to the interim use of a one-acre site at the southwest corner of the 48-acre property that was initially slated for adult sports park use. This Project is in partnership with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, who would issue an interim park permit for the Project on the one-acre site only.

This Project would use the one-acre site as a base of operations and service-learning site for the trainees, with many activities conducted citywide. The Project is an interim use on this one-acre site and would be the staging area for community tree plantings, rain barrel installations and mulching citywide; the location of cultivation of native plants for citywide plantings; and the growing of edible plants at an urban farm.

If the City is successfully awarded this grant, this Project would connect more than 100 youth ages 16-24 to activities and actual employment around the following five program areas over a three-year time line:

- **URBAN FORESTRY**
Strategic street- and parkway-tree plantings, ongoing tree care, and a tree census organized by watershed
- **URBAN FARMING**
Development and support of community gardens, urban farms, and edible landscapes
- **MULCHING OPERATIONS**
Distribution of municipal wood chip mulch from street tree trimming onto public and private properties

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- RAINFALL RESCUE
Rainwater harvesting through rain barrels and cistern systems, simple bio-swales and drywells

- NATIVE PLANT NURSERY
Propagation and strategic planting of drought-tolerant native California plants in public spaces, as well as a direct tie-in to a separate yet related proposed retail sales outlet to be housed in the ground floor of the Palace Hotel transitional foster youth housing site – a social enterprise to be operated by the Workforce Investment Network as a training and employment opportunity for those residents

Please contact Bryan Rogers at 83701 or Larry Rich at 85839 if you have any questions on this information.

Thank you.

PW:DJT:bsr

cc: Mayor Foster
Members of the City Council
Suzanne Frick, Assistant City Manager
Reggie Harrison, Deputy City Manager
Jyl Marden, Assistant to the City Manager