



CITY OF LONG BEACH

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE

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April 20, 2010

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary agreements, and any subsequent amendments thereto, with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) to receive \$108,025 in grant funds to implement the Tree Planting Partnership Program; and increase appropriations in the Development Services Fund (SR137) in the Department of Development Services (DV) by \$108,025. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

On July 30, 2009, the City of Long Beach submitted an application for the Local Government Match Program - Tree Partnership (Tree Partnership), which offered matching funding towards additional qualifying tree planting projects implemented by cities and counties. The primary goal of the Tree Partnership is to assist cities and counties within the South Coast Air Basin to provide additional tree planting within their communities, educational facilities or other public land areas controlled by the city or county. The Tree Partnership also encourages employing students and providing community education as parts of the tree planting projects.

The Tree Partnership was not a traditional competitive grant. Funding was distributed to the most cost-efficient applications that also satisfy specified project requirements. The City of Long Beach's grant proposal was selected as competitive because of the ratio of trees planted to grant funding requested, the number of temporary green jobs for students/youth, the total number of hours to be used, the percentage of trees that are drought tolerant, and the amount of pollutants expected to be reduced.

The Tree Partnership will be successfully implemented through a combination of scheduled tree plantings and community/neighborhood group plantings. Scheduled planting will be implemented through the hiring of temporary green jobs (students/youth) to conduct regular plantings in medians, right-of-ways and tree wells along major arterials and corridors identified throughout Long Beach. In addition to the scheduled plantings in medians, right-of-ways and tree wells, the City also encourages community/neighborhood groups to get involved with tree plantings in their neighborhood and the City has an existing process for organizing community tree plantings, which will be used as a part of this project.

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The Tree Partnership is a partnership between the Office of Sustainability, the Community Development Department, the Public Works Department, and the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network.

This item was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Linda Trang on April 5, 2010 and Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on April 5, 2010.

SUSTAINABILITY

Long Beach's Sustainable City Action Plan, which was approved by the City Council on February 2, 2010, includes a goal to plant 10,000 trees in Long Beach by 2020. The Tree Partnership enables the City to begin to meet that goal by planting 1,000 new trees, meeting 10 percent of this overall goal in just the first year.

Urban trees provide air quality benefits by reducing criteria pollutants such as ozone, providing a large surface area to intercept particulate matter, helping remove greenhouse gases, and lowering energy costs for nearby buildings. By increasing the amount of trees planted within the South Coast Air Basin, the City of Long Beach and AQMD are working to reduce criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases along with providing communities aesthetic benefits from trees.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on April 20, 2010, to execute the necessary documents and authorize commencement of these plantings. The City is required to complete all tree planting within the 12 months of the Tree Partnership.

FISCAL IMPACT

The receipt of grant funds is not currently appropriated. Therefore, an appropriation increase of \$108,025 in the Development Services Fund (SR137) in the Department of Development Services (DV) is requested as part of the recommended action. There is no impact to the General Fund.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,


PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER