


TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Meg Williamson, Assistant City Manager 
SUBJECT: Working Budget for Salinas River Parkway Grant
DATE: March 6, 2007

Needs: For the City Council to consider appropriation of a working budget to implement the work associated with a State Water Resources Board Grant and authorize the City Manager to enter into contract services for portions of the grant work.

Facts:

1. The City was awarded a \$4 million Grant by the State Water Resources Board for the acquisition of approximately 260 acres of land within the river corridor and for the restoration of portions of public property adjacent to the River and Larry Moore Park.
2. The overreaching goal of the Grant Project is to protect and improve the water quality of the Salinas River.
3. The restoration and acquisition components of the Grant are structured as follows:
 - a) Restoration – The total project scope of work will cost \$420,000, of which \$300,000 is reimbursable from the grant;
 - b) Acquisition – The total project scope is set at \$4,600,000, of which \$3,700,000 is reimbursable from the grant.
4. The Grant Project work is specialized (as specifically outlined in the attached Grant Scope). To accomplish this work, the City will need to seek contract service assistance.
5. The City will administer the contract work and seek reimbursement from the State under the guidelines of the grant.
6. The Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (RCD) has partnered with the City on the 1-1/2 mile River Parkway Trail project and has the required expertise in design and construction of restoration projects. Therefore, a contract with the RCD is proposed to be negotiated to

accomplish these specialized design and restoration aspects of the grant work scope.

7. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will be spearheading the land acquisition negotiations and providing fundraising services designed to offset the majority of funding match necessary if the City will realize the full benefit of the grant.

Analysis
and

Conclusion:

The City Council's November 7, 2006 action to participate in and accept this grant was a commitment to spending staff resources and to provide matching "seed money" on the acquisition and restoration effort over the next 2 years.

The Grant project is structured with partners that are willing to assist in project implementation and in locating funding sources. To move the project forward and leverage the benefit of the grant, it is necessary to appropriate a working budget. The proposed working budget of \$420,000 will result in \$300,000 of grant return for restoration work, and will be the window for the future additional \$3,700,000 in funding should the land negotiations be successful. The grant represents a significant and generous "return on the dollar" for a project that promotes multiple community and state wide goals.

Policy

Reference:

General Plan and City Council Adopted Goals
Council direction to proceed with preparation of River Corridor Plan (2005)
June 6, 2006 Council Authorization to file State Water Resources Grant

Fiscal Impact:

The grant agreement is structured so that to receive the full \$4 million in allocation, the City's match obligation would be \$1,335,000. The required "match" by the public agency (City) will be assembled through several resources to mitigate impact upon the General Fund.

The full grant appropriation is not being sought at this time, but rather, in "phases." This Phase I appropriation of \$420,000 will allow the restoration portion of the project to proceed. The grant will reimburse \$300,000 of this budget appropriation when the restoration project is completed (summer of 2008). It is proposed that the remaining expenditure, City match, be funded from the City's General Emergency and Contingency Fund. Later, as there is progress with the land acquisition negotiations, a framework for funding the remaining portion of the anticipated match (phase II) will be brought forward.

The TPL has requested/offered to work with the City to pursue matching funds. They have committed to \$190,000 in both hard and in-kind costs associated with the land acquisition that will be counted against the total match for the grant.

Options:

- a) For the City Council to adopt the attached resolution 07-XXX appropriating a working budget of \$420,000 and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Resource Conservation District and the Trust for Public Land to partner with and accomplish the work scope contained in the Grant agreement with the State of California for the Salinas River Parkway Project to acquire land and implement associated restoration enhancements aimed at water quality improvements along the Salinas River corridor.
- b) Amend, modify, or reject the forgoing option.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 07-XXX appropriating a budget for this project and authorizing the City Manager to enter into contract for grant scope services
2. Salinas River Parkway Project Grant Application excerpts – describing project scope & area

RESOLUTION NO. 07-XXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
TO APPROPRIATE A WORKING BUDGET TO IMPLEMENT WORK ASSOCIATED
WITH A STATE WATER RESOURCES BOARD GRANT AND AUTHORIZE THE
CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT SERVICES
FOR PORTIONS OF THE GRANT WORK

WHEREAS, the City was awarded a \$4 million Grant by the State Water Resources Board for the acquisition of approximately 260 acres of land within the river corridor and for the restoration of portions of public property adjacent to the River and Larry Moore Park; and

WHEREAS, the overarching goal of the Grant Project is to protect and improve the water quality of the Salinas River; and

WHEREAS, the restoration and acquisition components of the Grant are structured as follows:

- a) Restoration – The total project scope of work will cost \$420,000, of which \$300,000 is reimbursable from the grant;
- b) Acquisition – The total project scope is set at \$4,600,000, of which \$3,700,000 would be reimbursable from the grant; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Project work is specialized and to accomplish this work, the City will need to seek contract service assistance; and

WHEREAS, the City will administer the contract work and seek reimbursement from the State under the guidelines of the grant; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (RCD) has partnered with the City on the 1-1/2 mile River Parkway Trail project and has the required expertise in design and construction of restoration projects and a contract with the RCD is proposed to be negotiated to accomplish these specialized design and restoration aspects of the grant work scope; and

WHEREAS, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) will be spearheading the land acquisition negotiations and providing fundraising services designed to offset the majority of funding match necessary if the City will realize the full benefit of the grant; and

WHEREAS, the City Council's November 7, 2006 action to participate in and accept this grant was a commitment to spending staff resources and to provide matching "seed money" on the acquisition and restoration effort over the next 2 years; and

WHEREAS, the Grant project is structured with partners that are willing to assist in project implementation and the location of funding sources; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate a work budget where dollars are committed to leverage the benefit of the grant. The proposed working budget of \$420,000 will result in \$300,000 of grant return for restoration work, and will be the window for the future additional \$3,700,000 in funding should the land negotiations be successful. The grant represents a significant and generous "return on the dollar" for a project that promotes multiple community and state wide goals.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles that the City Manger is authorized to enter into a contract with the Resource Conservation District and the Trust for Public Land to partner with and accomplish the work scope contained in the Grant agreement with the State of California for the Salinas River Parkway Project to acquire land and implement associated restoration enhancements aimed at water quality improvements along the Salinas River corridor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles, to appropriate from the General Emergency & Contingency Fund reserves \$420,000 to budget account # 110-910-5452-542 for Phase I public improvements.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 6th day of March 2007 by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSTAIN:
- ABSENT:

Frank R. Mecham, Mayor

ATTEST:

Deborah Robinson, Deputy City Clerk

River Parkway Grant Project

Project Description:

The Salinas River Parkway Project is for the acquisition and restoration of lands adjacent to the Salinas River within the City of Paso Robles.

Through fee title acquisition, the Project will permanently protect approximately 260 acres of land, including 1.5 miles of river frontage to protect the water quality, flood control, habitat, and groundwater recharge values of this site

Concurrent with the acquisition and protection of the approximate 260-acre site, the City of Paso Robles will implement restoration and bioremediation activities at four urban storm water channel locations that discharge directly to the Salinas River channel. Restoration will involve the removal of invasive species, stabilization of slope banks, and revegetation with native species within the riparian corridor. The restoration portion of the Project will serve as a "Demonstration Project" for implementation strategies of the City's Storm Water Management Plan and will be the subject of a public outreach and education program.

Scope of Work:

The Scope of Work for this Project can be defined through four primary overarching tasks, including: 1) purchase of the proposed 260-acre site; 2) conveyance of the property's fee title to the City of Paso Robles for long-term ownership and management; 3) implementation of storm water system bioremediation activities to enhance the water quality benefits of four drainages on existing City-owned land; and 4) submission of necessary progress reports and invoices to the SWRCB. The specific tasks of each of these overarching tasks are listed below.

Task 1: Acquire 260-acre property adjacent to the Salinas River

Purpose: Protect existing water quality, groundwater recharge, wetlands, riparian habitat, oak woodland, flood control, drinking water, and pollution prevention values of the 260-acre site and prevent future urban development. Urbanization is one of the primary causes of water quality and riparian habitat degradation to the Salinas River.

Details: As a project partner, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is facilitating the acquisition of the proposed 260-acre site. To successfully accomplish this task, TPL will negotiate the terms of sale with the current property owners, secure a purchase option agreement, commission an appraisal and environmental review, assist with fundraising efforts, and facilitate all other legal and real estate transaction duties associated with this acquisition project.

Task 2: Convey fee-title ownership (from TPL) to the City of Paso Robles

Purpose: Protect the site through public ownership and provide City with necessary site control to implement future protection, restoration, enhancement, and recreational development efforts on the site.

Details: The City of Paso Robles will complete necessary findings of General Plan consistency (under Government Code Section 65402). Once TPL purchases the site from the willing seller, TPL will convey fee title ownership to the City of Paso Robles for long-term ownership and management.

Task 3: Implement riparian restoration and storm water remediation efforts

Purpose: Enhance the property's recharge capacity, remove invasive species, revegetate with native plant species and reduce urban pollutants through bio-engineering remedial practices applied to four urban storm water surface channels that discharge directly into the Salinas River (See attached location map).

Details: City of Paso Robles will commence restoration activities in partnership with the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (RCD). Subtasks will include the following :

- Mapping and evaluation of site conditions – A Base Map will be generated from recent aerial contour mapping, flown by the City of Paso Robles, for use in all planning and engineering design.
- Coordination/consultation with Agencies – The City and its partners will consult early in the information collection and evaluation stage of the project with responsible public agencies such as California Department of Fish and Game.
- Conduct CEQA Environmental Initial Study – The City of Paso Robles will be the lead agency in conducting the Environmental Initial Study and will circulate the draft document to the State Water Board for review and approval.
- Design and Bio-Engineer the Restoration Work – The City of Paso Robles and its partner The Upper Salinas - Las Tables Regional Conservation District (RCD) will develop design plans for the project. The Grant Manager must review and approve the draft designs prior to review by other groups.
- Design Monitoring and Performance Plan – The RCD and the City of Paso Robles will design a monitoring and performance plan based on the parameters contained in the PAEP and the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, “Streambank Soil Bio-Engineering Field Guide for Low Precipitation Areas.” The Grant Manager is to review and approve this plan before implementation.

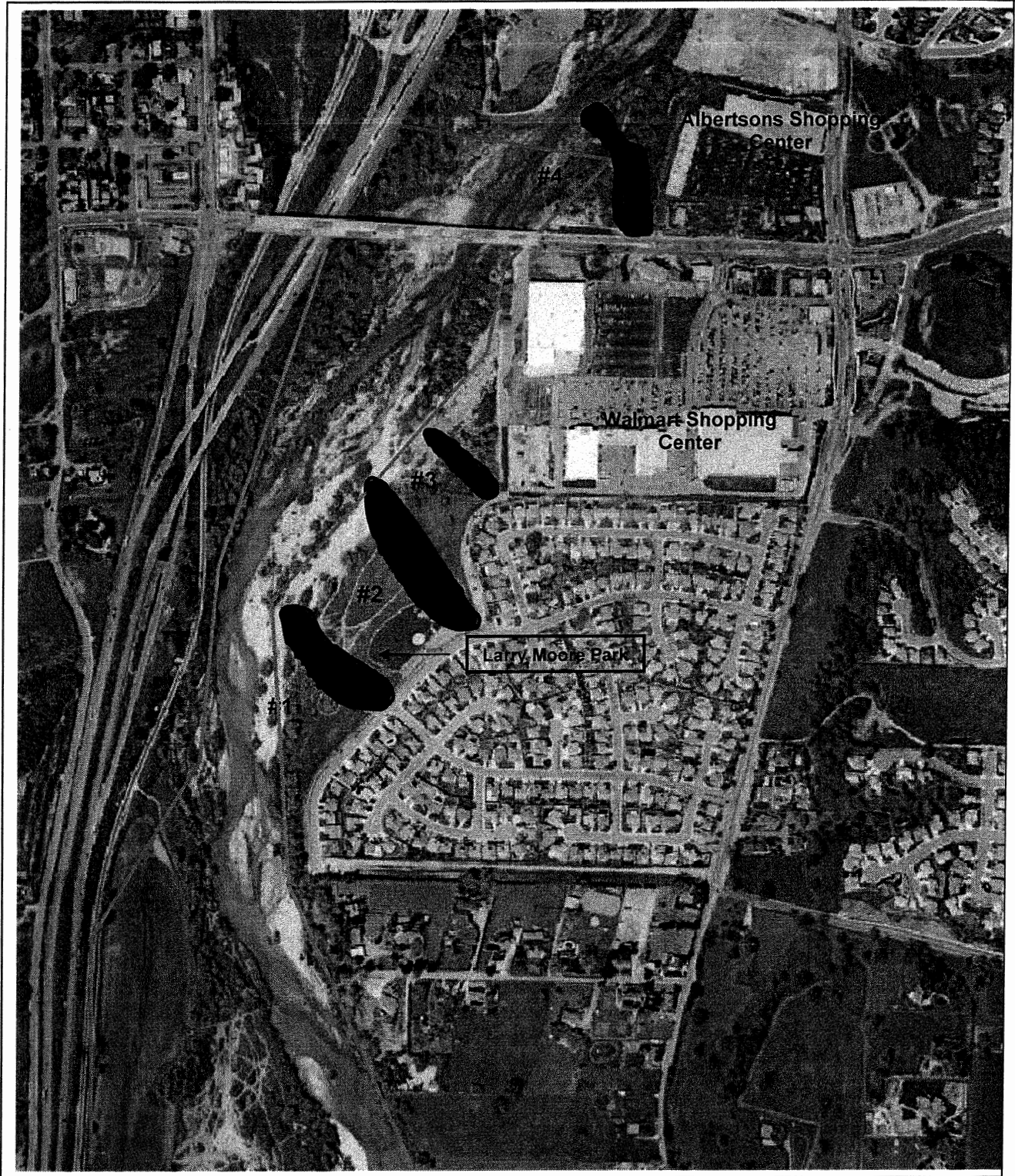
- Conduct Public Outreach and Education – The City of Paso Robles will partner with the RCD to develop an educational outreach program designed to target school age children and residents who are contributors to this urban watershed, as well as at-large citizen information. Outreach will be designed into the Design and Construction processes.
- Process and Obtain Permits – The City of Paso Robles will obtain municipal permits through its own design review process for the restoration design work, and will be an inclusive public process. Additionally, the City and RCD will obtain necessary permits from the California Department of Fish and Game.
- Obtain Notice to Proceed from State Water Board – A notice to proceed will be obtained by Grant Manager prior to work commencing in the field.
- Remove Non-native vegetation – The first construction work item will be the removal of non-native plant species in the restoration project area. The RCD will enlist the assistance of the California Conservation Corps to accomplish this work.
- Install remediation and enhancement improvements – The California Conservation Corps will assist in the installation of bio-engineered materials per the approved design plans. Riparian planting on channel slope banks will include temporary irrigation.
- Conduct Performance Measurements – The performance criteria for vegetative slope bank coverage and photo monitoring will be documented post construction/installation. Ambient water quality monitoring will be conducted in accordance with the monitoring and performance standards to be approved by the Grant Manager.

The City of Paso Robles and its partners will implement all aspects of the proposed Scope of Work in compliance with the guidelines and requirements of the Integrated Watershed Management Program. State Water Board staff will be consulted during the design/engineering stage, environmental permit process, monitoring program development, and public outreach program development portions of the project. The City will also provide the granting agency with all required Project progress reports and obtain all required notices to proceed before implementation steps.

Task 4: Submission of necessary progress reports and invoices to the SWRCB

Purpose: Demonstrate the project goals and objectives have been met, document project's completion and submit budget documentation.

Details: City of Paso Robles will provide all draft and final reporting documents in accordance with the Grant Agreement.



Bio-Remediation Areas