

TO: James L. App, City Manager

FROM: Meg Williamson, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: Natural Resources Agency - Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program
Charolais Corridor Multi-Use Trail & Restoration Project - Grant Application

DATE: September 21, 2010

Needs: For the City Council to consider filing a grant application for a multi-use trail and restoration project along an undeveloped section of the Charolais road corridor.

Facts:

1. The California Natural Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation Program (EEMP) Grant Cycle for 2010/11 makes \$10 million available for projects that will off-set impacts from new or expanded transportation facilities (e.g. roads and bridges).
2. Grant Applications are generally limited to \$350,000 for each community and must have a transportation nexus. Applications are due by October 1, 2010 and notice of preliminary grant award would be known by January 2011.
3. No matching funds are required for the grant. However, the grant application would compete better if the City contributes matching funds.
4. The EEMP grant is a well-suited opportunity to meet multiple City goals related not only to transportation, but also for recreational enhancements, watershed health and natural resource improvements.
5. The Charolais Corridor is a City of Paso Robles right-of-way near the Salinas River, approximately 2,200 feet in length. A large earthen drainage channel flows through the corridor. The west end of the channel is actively eroding and each wet season contributes to the deposit of large amounts of sediment in the Salinas River.
6. The corridor is identified in the City's Bikeway Master Plan as an ideal route for a Class 1 (off-street) bike path. There are existing multi-use pathways located adjacent to the east (along the developed Charolais Road corridor) and to the west (the River Parkway Trail along the Salinas River). This unimproved segment is a key link in connecting the populated southeast quadrant of the City to the Niblick and 13th Street Bridges, and to the City' west side. (See attached location map).

7. The proposed scope of the EEMP grant is for the design and installation of the following:
 - Restore the eroding channel using bioengineering methods (e.g., rock slope protection with willow plantings, and related riparian plan palette); and
 - Install a multi-use path with features to control stormwater runoff from the impervious surfaces (LID/low impact development design); and
 - Plant trees and vegetation to intercept rainfall, stabilize the soil, shade the path, and reduce the urban heat island effect; and
 - Install low level path lighting and related safety enhancements.

Please see the attached exhibits for the location, overview of the project, and existing site condition photos.

8. The scope of the identified project would exceed the \$350,000 available under the EEMP grant program. Those project costs in excess of the grant would be the City's match. A non-general fund source of matching funds is discussed in the fiscal impact section of this report.
9. The identified project would eliminate a major source of sediment and improve the health of the Salinas River. The project would expand beneficial uses of the Salinas River by improving pedestrian and bicyclist access.

Analysis
and

Conclusion:

Per the grant criteria, the fundamental purpose of the project would be to offset the unavoidable impacts associated with air quality and urban storm runoff that have been caused by transportation improvements over the last decade. However, overall, the project would present community opportunities consistent with General Plan policies on recreation/conservation, the River Corridor Plan vision, Bike Master Plan, Storm Water Management Plan and the City's Integrated Water Resources Plan.

The City Manager's Office, Public Works, Library & Recreation Services, and the Community Development Departments will work together as a team to procure the necessary application documents and project administration associated with the grant. With funding resources so limited to accomplish high priority goals, this EEMP grant is an ideal opportunity for the City to pursue.

Policy

Reference: General Plan (Adopted 2003); Bike Master Plan (Adopted 2009); Storm Water Management Plan; Integrated Water Resources Plan; Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Watershed Management Plan; Economic Strategy; and River Vision efforts.

Fiscal Impact: Based on preliminary budgeting for the described project scope, a total budget of \$500,000 is suggested for design and construction. Of that total, \$350,000 would be from the EEMP program and \$150,000 from either Park Development Funds, or Wastewater penalty fees that may be designated for a “supplemental environmental project” (SEP) per the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

If the City is successful in competing for the EEMP Grant, there will be an opportunity to evaluate the funding opportunities and budgetary impacts before accepting the grant. A proposal for appropriation of non-general fund resources would be presented to the City Council for consideration at that time.

Authorizing the grant filing will commit staff resources to grant application development over the coming weeks.

- Options:
- a) For the City Council to adopt the attached resolution 10-XXX authorizing the City’s filing of a Grant Application with the California Natural Resources Agency 2010-11 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program for \$350,000 in funding towards the Charolais Corridor Multi-Use Trail and Restoration Project.
 - b) Amend, modify, or reject the foregoing options.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 10-XXX authorizing grant application with Natural Resources Agency EEMP
2. Location Map
3. Site / Project Exhibit
4. Photographs of existing site conditions

RESOLUTION NO. 10-xxx

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
AUTHORIZING THE GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE CALIFORNIA
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY 2010-11 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT
AND MITIGATION PROGRAM UNDER SECTION 164.56 OF THE STREETS
AND HIGHWAYS CODE FOR THE CHAROLAIS CORRIDOR MULTI-USE TRAIL
AND RETORATION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has enacted AB 471 (Chapter 106 of the Statutes of 1989), which is intended to provide \$10 million annually for a period fo 10 years for grant funds to local, state and federal agencies and nonprofit entities for projects to enhance and mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Agency has established the procedures and criteria for reviewing grant proposals and is required to submit to the California Transportation Commission a list of recommended projects from which the grant recipients will be selected; and

WHEREAS, said procedures and criteria established by the Natural Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application by the Applicant's governing body before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the application contains assurances that the Applicant must comply with; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the environmental enhancement and mitigation project; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified that the Charolais Corridor Multi-Use Trail and Restoration project has an appropriate transportation mitigation nexus and consists of the design and installation of the following general features:

- Restore the eroding channel using bioengineering methods (e.g., rock slope protection with willow plantings, and related riparian plant palette); and
- Install a multi-use path with features to control stormwater runoff from the impervious surfaces (LID/low impact development design); and
- Plant trees and vegetation to intercept rainfall, stabilize the soil, shade the path, and reduce the urban heat island effect; and
- Install low level path lighting and related safety enhancements.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles to:

1. Authorize the filing of an application for the 2010-11 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program for grant assistance; and

2. Certify that the City of Paso Robles (the applicant) will make adequate provisions for operation and maintenance of the project.
3. Appoint Doug Monn, Public Works Director as agent of the City of Paso Robles to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and son on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project;

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 21st day of September 2010 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk



NIBLICK ROAD

SOUTH RIVER ROAD

CHAROLAIS ROAD

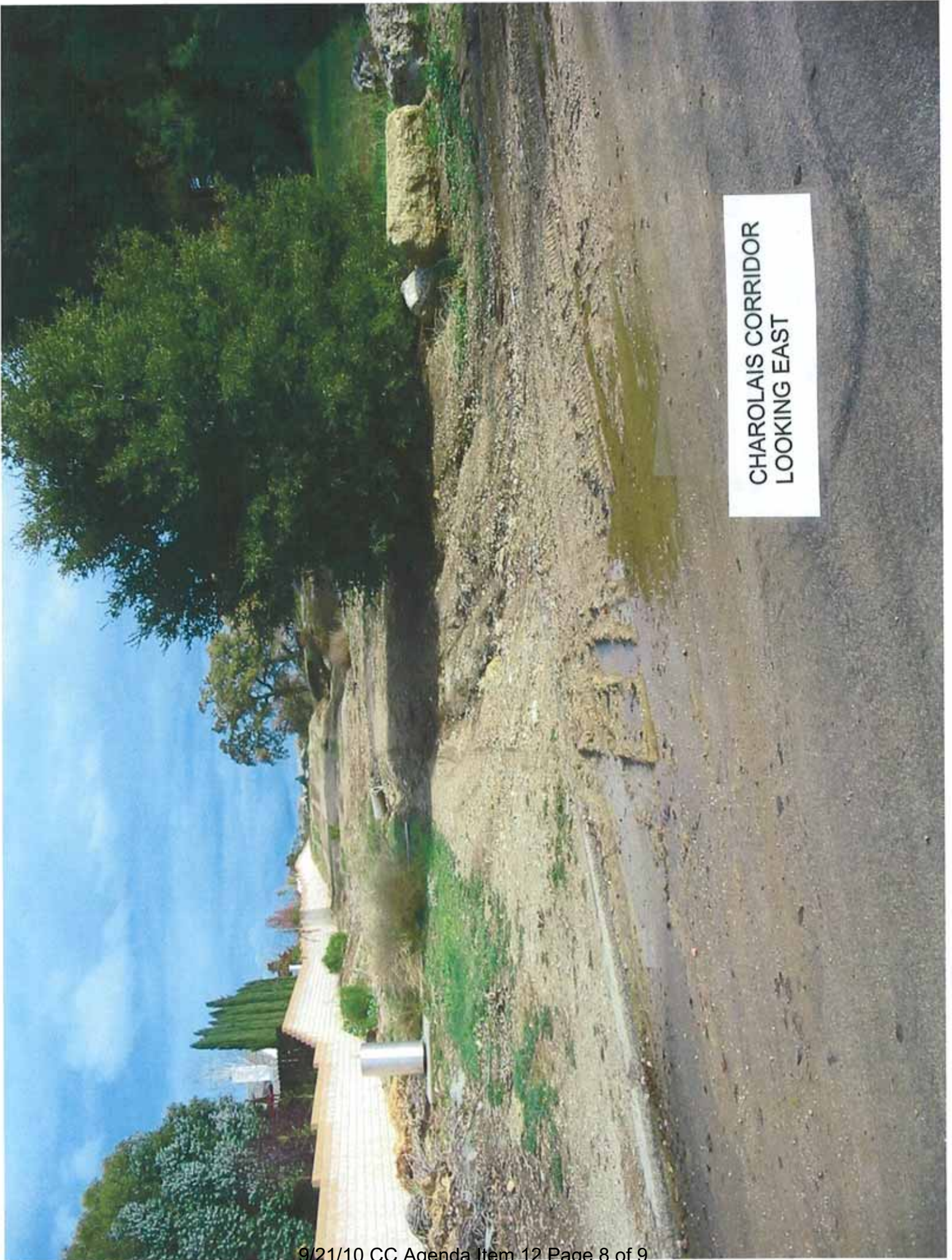
RIVER PARKWAY TRAIL

CHAROLAIS CORRIDOR PROJECT AREA

EXISTING MULTI-USE TRAIL

Charolais Corridor Multi-Use Trail & Restoration Project





CHAROLAIS CORRIDOR
LOOKING EAST



CHAROLAIS CORRIDOR
LOOKING WEST