

**TO:** JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER

**FROM:** ED GALLAGHER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** CALIFORNIA RIVER PARKWAY GRANT PROGRAM - PROPOSITION 84 - APPLICATION REQUEST FOR SALINAS RIVER PARKWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

**Needs:** For the City Council to consider approving a grant application for Salinas River Parkway improvements.

- Facts:**
1. Through Proposition 84 and the State Natural Resources Agency, grant funds are available for river parkway improvements.
  2. The City is eligible to apply for this grant program. Grant applications are due October 14, 2011. Grant awards will be announced June 30, 2012.
  3. The City's "Salinas River Vision" identifies numerous river improvement projects. One of those projects includes environmental restoration, a bridge and trail improvements to the City's recently acquired property along the river at the south end of the City.
  4. No specific monetary match is required to qualify for these grants. However it is anticipated that in-kind staff time would be needed to carry this project forward if it is awarded and the City pursues them. Additionally, in accordance with the grant criteria, the cost of the bridge may only be a minor cost component of the project. Therefore, the City should include a financial match to compete well for this grant.
  5. City Council support to apply for this grant does not commit City resources to pursue this project. However should the City be awarded the grant, it would need to provide the matching grant funds included in the grant request.
  6. Pursuing this grant is consistent with Council direction to pursue grant funding. It could leverage \$1,500,000 of Proposition 84 grant funds. It is also consistent with the Salinas River Vision Plan, Salinas River Parkway Management Plan for the Triple P LLC Property Acquisition, 2009 Bikeway Master Plan and 2011 Circulation Element.
  7. City staff would prepare the grant application for the Salinas River Parkway project.

**Analysis  
and**

**Conclusions:** The City's Salinas River Vision is gaining momentum through many successful grants to fund river-related projects. Grant-funded projects include: erosion control and habitat restoration; water quality improvements; new multi-purpose trails, and property acquisitions.

The City is now poised to apply for another grant opportunity to further enhance river improvements and provide public access to the newly-acquired 154 acre property at the south end of town. Currently this property does not have access open to the public. It is located between the river and the Union Pacific railroad tracks. The City cannot increase traffic across the at-grade railroad crossing. The property has significant soil erosion

which results in river siltation and problems with water quality. It also has deteriorated vegetation primarily from illegal off-road vehicle use, as well as dumping of trash and debris along the river.

The City's Bikeway Master Plan and the Salinas River Vision include extending a bridge across the river and installing a multi-purpose trail along this property. This project includes installation of a metal multi-purpose (bike/pedestrian) bridge over the Salinas River. It would be installed at the southern end of the existing trail along the river at Larry Moore Park and extend across the river to the west bank to the City's new property. The grant would fund restoration of degraded habitat. It would also fund extension of a multi-purpose trail from the bridge to the southern end of the property. Another aspect to the project is that the bridge could provide multiple benefits by being designed to accommodate (future) recycled water line underneath it. The total estimated project cost is \$2 million.

This project meets several of the grants eligibility requirements including: river parkway restoration; providing public access, recreational uses, water quality improvement and water conservation. However, infrastructure such as bridges may only be included if they are a "minor" component of the proposed project. Since the bridge would cost approximately \$500,000, it cannot be considered a minor component. In discussing the project with State agency staff, they suggested that the City submit an application for this project, but added that the City provide matching funds to reduce the cost of the bridge in relation to the total project cost.

A grant match of \$500,000 is recommended to leverage \$1.5 million. The matching funds are suggested to come from two sources:

Parks and Recreation Impact Fees:	\$400,000
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments - Urban Allocation:	\$100,000

The Parks and Recreation Impact Fee fund has a current balance of \$2.1 million which may be used for recreational projects. The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) will provide the City a formula-based fund, referred to as the "Urban Allocation" of \$100,000 in December. The City may use the Urban Allocation fund for transportation related projects at its discretion. Staff recommends that the City apply for a "Regional Allocation" from SLOCOG to "backfill" the City's Urban Allocation so that it could be used for other purposes. This project would likely compete well for the Regional Allocation since it would be consistent with SLOCOG's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) by providing a key linkage in the regional off-street Salinas River-Anza Trail System.

**Options:** The City Council is requested to take one of the actions listed below:

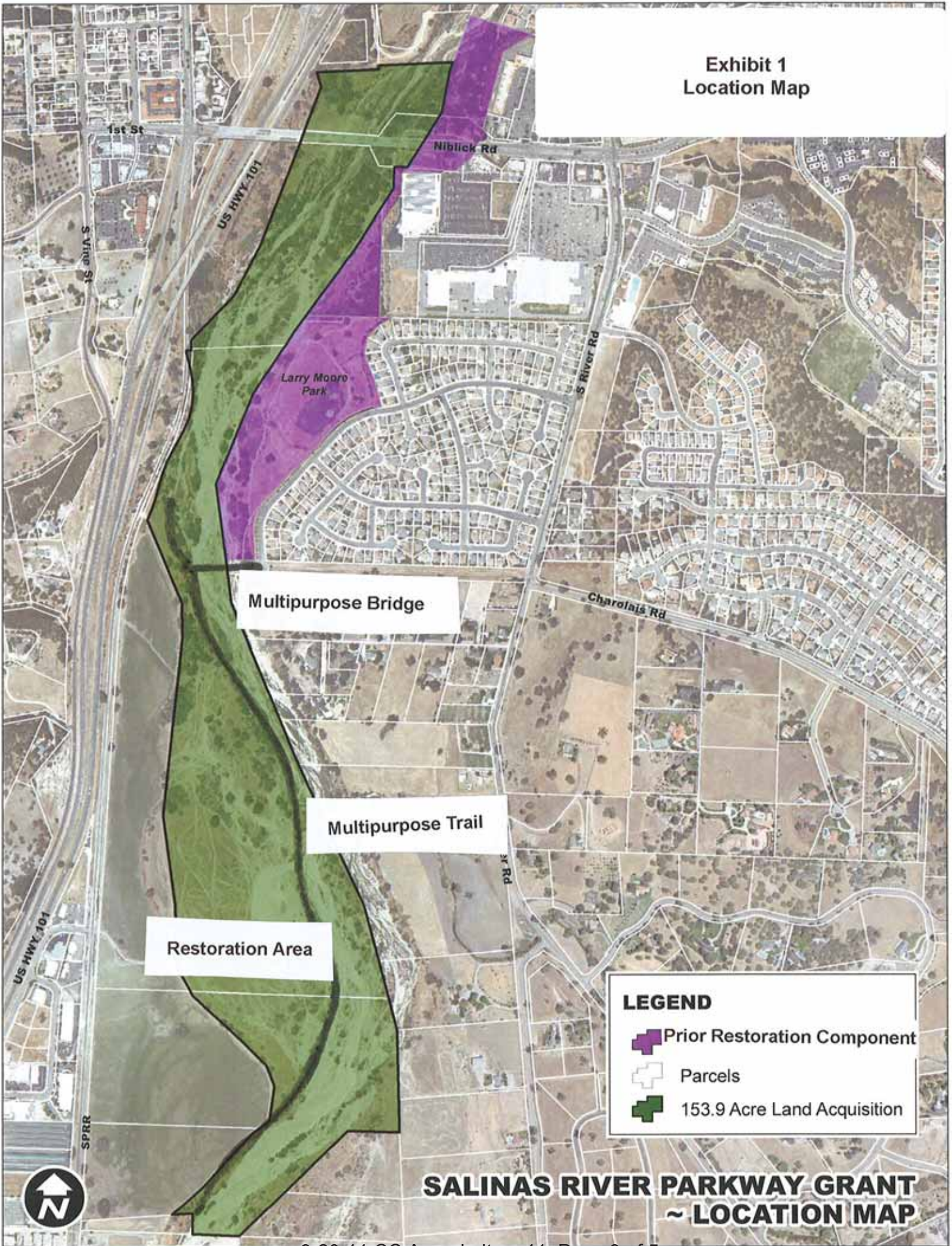
- a. Adopt the attached resolution approving the City to apply for the California River Parkway Grant Program; or
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above-listed action.

**Staff Report Prepared By:** Susan DeCarli, Planning Manager

Exhibits:

1. Project Location Map
2. Resolution

Exhibit 1  
Location Map



RESOLUTION NO. 11-xxx

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES  
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE CALIFORNIA RIVER  
PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM UNDER THE SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER  
QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION  
BOND ACT OF 2006  
(Proposition 84)

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WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the California Natural Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures and

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

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso de Robles, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Salinas River Parkway Grant; and
2. Certifies that the City of El Paso de Robles understands the assurances and certification in the application; and
3. Certifies that the City of El Paso de Robles will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project consistent with the land tenure requirements, or will secure resources to do so; and
4. Certifies that it will comply with all provision of Section 1771.5 of the California Labor Code; and
5. Certifies that the project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, and that prior to commencement of construction that all applicable permits will have been obtained; and
6. Certifies that the City will work towards the 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

7. Appoints the Public Works Director, 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.

Approved and adopted the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number \_\_\_\_ was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles.

Following Roll Call Vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk