

TO: City Council
FROM: Doug Monn, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: **Repair of Centennial Creek and Protection of a City Sewer**
DATE: May 6, 2014

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider restoring a portion Centennial Creek in order to protect a major sewer line.

FACTS:

1. Centennial Creek is a natural waterway that flows along the greenbelt trail through Centennial Park. This same corridor has a major trunk sewer that serves the surrounding developed areas.
2. The creek section between Lana Street and Centennial Park is sparsely vegetated, eroded, and now functions like a straightened drainage channel rather than a natural waterway. Downward cutting creek erosion has exposed a private sewer lateral and threatens to expose and undermine a City sewer line and manholes.
3. The Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (RCD) has partnered with City staff to develop a project to restore Centennial Creek. The restoration project will:
 - Decrease the velocity of flow that is entering the creek from the conventional storm drain system;
 - Improve groundwater recharge by slowing and spreading the flow of stormwater runoff;
 - Restore and stabilize 400 feet of creek bank;
 - Improve vegetative health and density;
 - Cover and protect sewer lines from erosion; and
 - Partially fulfill the requirements of the City's Municipal Stormwater Permit by educating residents through restoration demonstrations and signage.
4. The RCD will coordinate all phases of the project, including design, permitting, public outreach, installation, and monitoring.
5. The RCD applied for and has been tentatively awarded a \$41,950 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to implement the Centennial Creek Restoration Project.
6. Award of the grant is contingent on pledges of matching funds from the RCD (\$3,750 cash), National Resources Conservation Services (\$4,000 in-kind services), One Cool Earth (\$3,000 in-kind services), Terra Verde Environmental Consulting (\$1,200 in-kind services), and City of Paso Robles (\$28,000 cash and \$2,000 in-kind services).

**ANALYSIS &
CONCLUSION:**

Continued erosion of Centennial Creek is an ongoing threat to a major City sewer and could lead to a public health problem if not addressed. Protection of the sewer through restoration of the creek channel would be less expensive than repairing the sewer if it were to be damaged. Staff recommends allocation of \$28,000 from Sewer Enterprise Fund to the Centennial Creek Restoration Project. The restoration project has many benefits and is consistent with the City's Stormwater Management Plan.

POLICY

REFERENCE: Sewer System Management Plan, Stormwater Management Plan

FISCAL

IMPACT: The proposed expenditure of \$28,000 will not adversely impact the Sewer Fund. The Sewer Fund has a capital improvements budget that provides for projects like this.

OPTIONS:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 14-XX, to allocate \$28,000 of Sewer Enterprise Funds to the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District, for the City's contribution to the Centennial Creek Restoration Project.
- b. Amend, modify or reject the above option.

ATTACHMENT: Resolution No. 14-XX

RESOLUTION NO. 14-xxx

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
TO ALLOCATE SEWER ENTERPRISE FUNDS TO RESTORATION OF CENTENNIAL CREEK
AND PROTECTION OF A SEWER LINE

WHEREAS, Centennial Creek is a natural waterway that flows along a greenbelt trail through Centennial Park. This same corridor has a major trunk sewer that serves the surrounding developed areas.

WHEREAS, the creek section between Lana Street and Centennial Park is sparsely vegetated, eroded, and functions as a straightened drainage channel rather than a natural waterway. Downward cutting creek erosion has exposed a private sewer lateral and threatens to expose and undermine a City sewer line and manholes.

WHEREAS, the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (RCD) has developed a project to restore Centennial Creek. The restoration project will:

- Restore and stabilize 400 feet of creek bank;
- Decrease the velocity of flow that is entering the creek from the conventional storm drain system;
- Improve groundwater recharge by slowing and spreading the flow of stormwater runoff;
- Improve vegetative health and density
- **Cover and protect sewer lines from erosion;** and
- Partially fulfill the requirements of the City's Municipal Stormwater Permit by educating residents through restoration demonstrations and signage.

WHEREAS, the RCD will coordinate all phases of the project, including design, permitting, public outreach, installation, and monitoring. The RCD applied for and has been tentatively awarded a \$41,950 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to implement the Centennial Creek Restoration Project.

WHEREAS, award of the grant is contingent on pledges of matching funds from various organizations, including \$28,000 in cash from the City of Paso Robles.

WHEREAS, continued erosion of Centennial Creek is an ongoing threat to a major City sewer and could lead to a public health problem if not addressed.

WHEREAS, an expenditure of \$28,000 would not adversely impact the Sewer Fund.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby allocates \$28,000 of Sewer Enterprise Funds to the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District, for the City's contribution to the Centennial Creek Restoration Project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles this 6th day of May 2014, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk