REQUEST TO EXECUTE CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE CREATION OF NEW TREE WELLS AND TREE MAINTENANCE FOR THE CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Request the Board of Public Works (Board) to authorize the Office of Community Beautification (OCB) to amend contract C-124509 with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) to authorize work up to $615,000, increase the contract ceiling by $615,000 for tree well creation, tree care, and maintenance work, upon approval of the grant.

2. Authorize the Board President or two members of the Board to execute the contract amendment after the City Attorney has approved the contract as to form and content.

DISCUSSION

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) is offering grant funding from the Green Infrastructure Grant Program (Program) for projects that provide multiple benefits and create sustainable, resilient, vibrant communities. Eligible projects must improve resilience to climate change, improve or protect wildlife corridors or habitat, or enhance drought tolerance and water retention. Projects must be located in disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities as defined by the State. LASAN has designed a project in Boyle Heights, an eligible area in Council District 14 that will achieve multiple benefits.

LASAN has submitted its concept proposal, which was due on June 28, 2019, and has completed the second step (site visit) of the application process. At this time, LASAN’s tree planting portion of the funding request has advanced to the third and final application phase, which requires applicants to submit supporting documentation. Unfortunately, the State did not move forward with the green alley portion of the project. Grant awards are expected to be announced in April 2020.

The Project is located in Boyle Heights, one of the most underserved and heavily contaminated neighborhoods in California. Boyle Heights is subject to air, water, and soil pollution from nearby
freeways, rail lines, and heavy industrial activities. The Project will plant a minimum of 500 15-gallon street trees to improve air quality, sequester carbon, improve community walkability, manage stormwater/mitigate water pollution, provide shade canopies, and beautify the neighborhood. The project will also remove 4,800 square feet of concrete to create 200 new tree wells. All trees planted by this project will receive full maintenance. The total cost of the Project is $852,474, and the expected project completion date is June 2022.

As encouraged by the Green Infrastructure Grant Program, consultation and selection of the State or local Conservation Corps is preferred whenever possible, and projects employing the Corps will be rewarded during the review phase by CNRA staff. The LA Conservation Corps (LACC) was consulted and has readily agreed to work on this project. LACC will be paid to remove concrete and provide tree care during the maintenance phase through an existing Office of Community Beautification contract (C-124509) with grant funds. In addition, much of the budgeted match is being provided by City Plants under a contract with LACC, so they will purchase and plant the trees as well. Approximately $100,000 of grant funds will be used for salaries for the part-time staff dedicated to the project over the 2-year implementation period. Staff will work with the community to select the final tree locations, notify the residents and business managers about the site selection, and ensure the trees are maintained with field visits and photo documentation.

LASAN is applying for $714,424 in grant funds from the CNRA. LASAN's partners, City Plants and StreetsLA, Urban Forestry Division, are providing $138,050 in matching funds. Grant receivables under this award are on a reimbursement basis (i.e., LASAN must present the grantor with appropriate documentation of expenditures prior to receiving any portion of the grant award). The total grant amount may change depending on the availability of funding and changes to the Project costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LACC Contract</td>
<td>$615,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LASAN Staff</td>
<td>$99,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATCH (City Plants &amp; StreetsLA)</td>
<td>$138,050</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Project</td>
<td>$852,474</td>
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</tbody>
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The project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article III, Section 1 of the City guidelines: Minor alterations to land, category 3 – new tree planting.
PROGRAM REVIEW BY DIRECTOR (PRD) APPROVAL

The Project was approved by PRD on January 31, 2020 for the construction amount of $852,474.

STATUS OF FINANCING

There is no impact to the General Fund. A front funding source is not yet identified as it may change based on available cash balances at the time of the grant award. Therefore, front funding will be determined by the Director and General Manager of LASAN or designee upon grant award. Reimbursements will be deposited into the designated front funding source.

Respectfully submitted,

ENRIQUE C. ZALDIVAR, P.E.
Director and General Manager
Bureau of Sanitation

PAUL RACS, Director
Office of Community Beautification

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

LISA B. MOWERY, Chief Financial Officer
Bureau of Sanitation
Date: 2/18/20

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