



Agenda Report

Fullerton City Council

MEETING DATE: APRIL 7, 2020

TO: CITY COUNCIL / CITY MANAGER

SUBMITTED BY: KENNETH A. DOMER, CITY MANAGER

PREPARED BY: MEG McWADE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
GRACE YOON-TAYLOR, ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST II

SUBJECT: CAL FIRE GRANT APPLICATION FOR TREE MASTER PLAN AND TREE PLANTING

SUMMARY

In November 2019, the Public Works Department was authorized to partner with West Coast Arborists, Inc. (WCA) to submit a concept proposal to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for a grant to fund Fullerton's development of an Urban Forest Master Plan and tree planting project. The Public Works Department has been invited by CAL FIRE to submit a full Project Application and requests adoption of Resolution No. 2020-XX as required by the grant.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-XX.

RESOLUTION NO 2020-XX - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA, FOR FUNDING FROM THE URBAN FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM ENTITLED, "CITY OF FULLERTON URBAN FOREST IMPROVEMENT PROJECT," AS PROVIDED THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND

2. Authorize City Manager or designee to partner with West Coast Arborists, Inc. and submit the full CAL FIRE Application for development of an Urban Forest Master Plan as well as tree planting and execute any necessary documents related thereto.
3. If grant received, accept and appropriate funds and authorize WCA to perform scope of work outlined in the application.

PRIORITY POLICY STATEMENT

This item matches the following Priority Policy Statement:

- Public Safety.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total project amount is \$557,000. The grant request is \$377,000 with \$180,000 of in-kind services (Fullerton staff time to accomplish project, WCA staff participation in community events, etc.) anticipated to be provided during the term of the grant. Under Public Work's supervision, WCA will develop the grant application and perform the work. WCA has been serving the City as a selected professional contractor for the City's tree maintenance services through the Fiscal Year 2016-17 RFP process.

If selected for award, the funding should be made available in mid-2020 with project implementation beginning in Fiscal Year 2020-21.

DISCUSSION

The City of Fullerton has approximately 33,000 trees in its inventoried forest, excluding vacant sites. The City is "well known for the wealth of beautiful trees which line its streets, beautify its parks, and add charm and character to the community", excerpt from the Adopted 1998 Fullerton Community Forest Management Plan. The City has earned the honor of Tree City USA for the past 38 years. Tree City USA is a national recognition program for sound urban forest management practices, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters.

Fullerton Staff works to create an urban forest with the greatest amount of benefits, while also managing costs. However, the City's urban forest has seen a significant decline over the decades due to budgetary constraints and periodic drought. Additionally in recent years, the City has limited tree planting due to an outdated master plan that lacks a widely accepted tree planting plan. The already mature canopy is declining in health due to drought, infrastructure issues and trees planted in unsuitable locations. If this continues, the City will see a decrease in canopy cover.

In November, City Council authorized Staff to partner with WCA to submit a concept proposal to Cal Fire to develop an Urban Forest Master Plan and perform tree planting. The City has been invited by Cal Fire to participate in the next phase of the grant process and submit a complete application. As part of the application requirements, the City must adopt a resolution related to this project.

Approval of the resolution will enable the City to apply for a grant from CAL FIRE through the California Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund in the amount of \$377,000 to fund the "City of Fullerton Urban Forest Improvement Project" with the following expected Project Outcomes:

- Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) that reflects an accurate inventory, has authentic community input and has been developed by industry professionals. During the development of the Tree Master Plan and related documents, the City and WCA will perform important community engagement to discuss "right tree, right place", aesthetic and maintenance impacts and urban forest goals of residents and businesses. Fullerton UFMP will include but be not limited to:
 - Current Inventory Report and Canopy Assessment / Mapping

- Community Feedback
 - Baseline Environmental Conditions and Environmental Benefits of the Urban Forest
 - Street tree list / plan
 - Urban Wood Reuse Program
 - Policy and standards for implementing best practices.
- Additionally 500 trees will be planted with a particular focus on increasing the tree canopy in Disadvantaged Community areas of the City. Trees will be identified based on “right tree, right place” planting philosophy as well as the diversity of canopy.
 - Technical Assistance and training provided by WCA to City Staff on best management practices.
 - Community education events conducted and materials produced and distributed.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Resolution No. 2020-XX