



Meeting Date: 02 / 03 / 2009

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Info:Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info:consent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Prepared By: Anthony Enmert

Agenda Item No. I-10

Reviewed By: City Manager [Signature]

City Attorney [Signature]

Finance [Signature]

Public Works [Signature]

DATE: January 26, 2009

TO: City Council

FROM: Mark Norris, Assistant Public Works Director
Public Works Department, Utilities Services Branch [Signature]

SUBJECT: **Application for Bureau of Reclamation Water for America Grant Challenge Program – Water Marketing and Efficiency Grant for Fiscal Year 2009**

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council authorize the City Manager to sign a Letter of Commitment for Grant Funding for an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000 in cost-share funds for the submission of an application for \$93,135 in Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Water for America Grant Challenge Program – Water Marketing and Efficiency Grant (Efficiency Grant) funds to be used for the Evapotranspiration (ET) Controller Change-Out and Synthetic Turf Pilot Program.

DISCUSSION

Reclamation’s Water for America Initiative is focused on addressing 21st century water challenges, including decreasing water supplies caused by climate change and population growth, and securing water resources for future generations. To this end, Reclamation posted a Request for Funding Opportunity seeking proposals for cooperative projects that create water banks and markets or improve the water delivery efficiency of a system through conservation or operational improvements. The Efficiency Grant provides cost-share funding in the amount of \$10,000,000. Reclamation can fund up to 50% of approved projects, not exceeding \$300,000.

The Calleguas Municipal Water District (CMWD) is seeking collaboration with the City, Conejo Recreation and Parks District (Conejo RPD), and the City of Thousand Oaks (Thousand Oaks) to implement the Regional Large Landscape Conservation Program, which concerns reduction of demand in irrigated landscapes such as parks, medians, and sidewalks. This opportunity would allow the entities to implement conservation programs and tools in a program supported by their peers, where successful results could propagate water use efficiency projects to the other stakeholders in the region.

Grant funding of the Regional Large Landscape Conservation Program would facilitate the installation of ET irrigation controllers at four (4) City-owned parks and implement a synthetic turf pilot program

which would target water use on existing medians, sidewalks and parkways. This would allow the City to responsibly test the efficiency of these devices, as well as to ensure that City sites are using water efficiently and not contributing to runoff and water waste.

Water Resources Division staff (Staff) believes this proposed ET Controller Change-Out and Synthetic Turf Pilot Program to be consistent with the Efficiency Grant's "New Technologies for Improved Water Management" Task B and is intended to reduce reliance on imported State Water Project and local groundwater supplies.

CMWD submitted the Efficiency Grant application by the application deadline of January 13, 2009, on behalf of the City, Conejo RPD, and Thousand Oaks. However, Reclamation requires that each party submit a signed Letter of Commitment within thirty (30) days of the application deadline before the application is considered complete. Pending Council approval to commit the required cost-share funds, the Letter of Commitment will be submitted to Reclamation. CMWD, as the contracting entity, would be the recipient of the grant and act as the grant administrator. CMWD would oversee implementation of activities outlined in the application and would also compile and submit all the required reports as proposed in the application.

Staff has targeted four (4) City-owned parks that have the highest water use to participate in an ET controller change-out program. The four (4) parks identified for this project are Oxnard Beach Park, Via Marina Park, Del Sol Park and Orchard Park. Collectively, these parks have an estimated 112 acres in area and a current water use of approximately 91 acre-feet per year (AFY). Through the replacement of nine (9) controllers at these parks with new WeatherTrak controllers to guide irrigation, the City can expect to see savings of approximately 18 AFY, which is approximately 20 percent of the current total irrigation usage.

Staff is also proposing to implement a synthetic turf pilot program which would target water use on existing medians, sidewalks and parkways. The areas planned for this pilot program are located along Gonzales Road from 'C' Street to Ventura Road totaling an estimated 14,000 square feet of area. The removal of existing turf, which currently uses approximately one (1) AFY, and replacement of synthetic turf is expected to reduce the amount of water used per year by almost 95 percent. If successful, the City could potentially implement installation of this synthetic turf in similar applications throughout the City, which would result in many additional opportunities for water savings.

Pending approval, it is estimated the ET Controller Change-Out and Synthetic Turf Pilot Program would take two (2) years to complete. Staff anticipates a project completion date of August 2011, assuming a start-date of August 2009.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approval of this recommendation will require a local match contribution and will not create new positions. If awarded, Reclamation would fund \$93,135, which equates to approximately 48% of the total program cost. The City would be responsible for providing the remainder of the funds in an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000. Upon award of the grant, Staff will return to City Council for appropriation of the grant proceeds and the City's matching contribution. There are sufficient funds in Fund 601 – Water Operating Fund to cover the City's cost-share requirement.

MSN:AE:mdt

Attachment #1 – Letter of Commitment



EDMUND F. SOTELO
City Manager

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
305 West Third Street • Oxnard, CA 93030 • (805) 385-7430 • Fax (805) 385-7595

February 3, 2009

Bureau of Reclamation
Acquisition and Assistance Management Division
Attn: Randale Jackson
Mail Code: 84-27810
PO Box 25007
Denver CO 80225

Attn: Challenge Grant Program: Water Marketing and Efficiency Funding Opportunity No. 09FC811468

Subject: City of Oxnard's Commitment for Grant Funding of the Ventura County Regional Large Landscape Conservation Program

Dear Mr. Jackson:

The City of Oxnard (City) is committed to funding our portion of the Regional Large Landscape Conservation Program (Program) which is being submitted by the Calleguas Municipal Water District on behalf of the City, Conejo Recreation and Parks District, and the City of Thousand Oaks for your Water for America Challenge Grant Program. Grant funding of the Program will facilitate the installation of evapotranspiration irrigation controllers at four City-owned parks and implement a synthetic turf pilot program which would target water use on existing medians, sidewalks and parkways. This will allow the City to responsibly test the efficiency of these devices, as well as to ensure that City sites are using water efficiently and not contributing to runoff and water waste.

There are sufficient funds in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 in the City's Water Operating Fund Balance to cover the cost-share requirement of the Program, with a time constraint on fund availability of 36 months from the date of this letter. The City is prepared to demonstrate fund availability via submittal of the Water Operating Fund Budget, upon request. The City has neither requested nor received funding from other Federal partners for the Program, nor does the City have any other pending funding requests for the Program.

Sincerely,

Edmund F. Sotelo, City Manager
City of Oxnard

cc: Ken Ortega; James Cameron; Norma Owens;
J. Lauren Everett, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, 1000 Hill Road, Suite 200, Ventura, CA 93003