

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

AGENDA DATE: January 12, 2016

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Tracy Novak, Director (212-1708)

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: ALL

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Goal 4 - Enhance El Paso's Quality of Life through Recreational, Cultural, and Educational Environments;

SUBJECT:

Discussion and action on a Resolution authorizing the Parks and Recreation Department to apply for Water Smart Grant through the United States Bureau of Reclamation in the amount of \$300,000 for the purpose of water conservation and authorizing the City Manager to sign grant agreements, and to expend the funds on this project should the grant application be successful.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

The US Bureau of Reclamation Department is accepting grant applications for up to \$300,000 in grant funds for water conservation projects. The City recognizes water resources are a precious resource that needs to be conserved and used in the most sustainable way. If awarded the grant, the City will seek to use the funds to modernize the irrigation delivery system used in parks and street medians throughout the City, using technology to control the amount of water used and only apply the amount needed for plant material to survive and thrive. Additionally, the City will seek to convert turf that is only used for ornamental purposes and replace it with xeriscape, a landscape design that uses native trees and shrubs, combined with rock mulch, to create a lush landscape without the need for turf. The grant deadline for submittal is January 20, 2016, and if awarded the grant would be available by September 30, 2016, the City will have two years to complete the projects and utilize the funds. The grant requires a one for one match of \$300,000 from City funds for a total project cost of \$600,000. The City's match is anticipated to be from water payments made to the City from EPWU.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The grant requires 50% cash match. The total project budget is \$600,000. The grant request is for \$300,000. The City's cash match of \$300,000 is available from water payments made to the City from El Paso Water Utilities.

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

LEGAL: (if required)_____ **FINANCE:** (if required)_____

DEPARTMENT HEAD:_____

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____ **DATE:** _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS HEREIN AFTER REFERRED TO AS "APPLICANT," AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "DEPARTMENT," FOR THE WATERSMART: WATER AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "PROGRAM"; CERTIFYING THAT THE APPLICANT IS ABLE TO PROVIDE FUNDING AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000; UTILIZING THE FUNDS FOR WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS AT PUBLIC PARKS AND MEDIANS IN THE CITY OF EL PASO.

WHEREAS, the Department makes financial assistance available to local agencies through the WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program for water conservation and management projects; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has identified a need for the modernization and improvement of its irrigation delivery system used in parks and street medians, minimization of water loss, and the need to convert various turf areas into xeriscape throughout the City of El Paso in order to conserve water; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant desires to apply for financial assistance through the Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

SECTION 1: That the Applicant hereby certifies that it is eligible to receive assistance under the Program and supports and authorizes the submittal of an Application for financial assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation for City projects eligible under the Program.

SECTION 2: That the Applicant hereby certifies that if it is awarded the grant, the City is able to provide a funding match in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 and in-kind contributions that are specified in the funding plan.

SECTION 3: That the City Manager or his designee agrees to work with the Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a cooperative agreement.

SECTION 4: That the City Manager or his designee is hereby authorized to execute and submit all necessary documents related to the City's application for the WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant funds and administration of any grant funds received.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2016.

(Signatures begin on following page)

CITY OF EL PASO

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Lauren Ferris
Assistant City Attorney

Tracy Novak, Director
Parks and Recreation Department