

MOORPARK WATERSHED PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

A LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY EXERCISING JOINT POWERS OF THE CITY OF MOORPARK AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 6500 ET SEQ.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 3, 2020

TO: The Governing Board Members

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of Resolution Authorizing Submittal of Recreational Trails Program Grant for 80 Acre Open Space in Tierra Rejada Valley**

BACKGROUND

In 2011, the City purchased an 80 acre parcel in the Tierra Rejada Valley to preserve it as open space (80 Acres). The location of the property is outside Moorpark city limits. In 2016, the City Council approved a Joint Powers Agreement with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy creating the Moorpark Watershed Parks, Recreation and Conservation Authority ("Authority"). The JPA was created so that the City could purchase and transfer open space parcels to the Authority for care and management, as well as the potential for additional opportunities for grants for recreation and trails in open space areas. In 2017, the parcel was transferred to the Authority. Currently, funding for property maintenance on the 80 Acres is provided by the City via a pass-thru to the Authority budget. Other than that funding, there is no other funding available to open the property for public use. Staff has been exploring various grant opportunities for the 80 Acres.

DISCUSSION

There is currently an opportunity to apply for Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grant funding for provision of an improved parking lot, trail head and trail on the 80 Acre property. The RTP grant project would provide a parking lot at the current entrance off Moorpark Road, and an approximate one mile trail through the property that would take trail users to a view shed point at the highest part of the property. The project would also provide trail connectivity to the corner of Moorpark Road and Tierra Rejada, allowing those within walking distance of the trail to access it without having to drive a vehicle. The trail would be a multi-use trail for hikers, bicyclists and equestrian users.

The grant will be applied for in the name of the Authority as the landowner for the 80 Acre parcel. Since the Authority has no funding, the City would be contributing funding to the Authority which would then be used as match funds for the RTP funding. The RTP Funding is a reimbursement grant with a 12% match requirement. If awarded the RTP funding, the City will need to loan the Authority the funding to pay for the project improvements, which would then get repaid with the grant funding, less the 12% match. The 12% match for the RTP grant would be a donation to the Authority from the City to facilitate the grant. On November 20, 2019, the City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the donation of match funding to the Authority. Allocation of funding to the Authority for the RTP grant would occur after the grant is awarded.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Authority adopt Resolution N0. 20-01, authorizing application of Recreational Trails Program grant funds for trail and trail head on the 80 Acre Open Space and authorizing _____ to sign all grant related paperwork.