

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: November 19, 2014

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: December 4, 2014

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Cecily Harris, Development Consultant
SUBJECT: Alternative Funding, Program Development and Project Management Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and accept report.

BACKGROUND:

This report covers Alternative Funding, Program Development and Project Management activities since the Commission's October 2, 2014 meeting.

DISCUSSION:

1) Alternative Funding

Two new grant applications have been submitted to State of California funding agencies since the last Commission meeting. While there is never a guarantee that these applications will result in grant awards, we have selected grant programs for which we have long-term relationships with the agency project managers, have completed or nearly completed pilot programs and have a plan in place for future site monitoring and project sustainability.

A) Calfire State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund Project

A \$377,500 Drought Funding Opportunity concept proposal was submitted to Calfire for a *Legacy Eucalyptus Removal Project* at Wunderlich County Park. Grant funds would be used to remove 12.5 acres of mature eucalyptus stands. A Registered Professional Forester would be hired to design a fuel hazard reduction vegetation removal prescription, complete permits, and serve as project manager. A contractor would remove the trees, apply herbicide treatment on stumps or remove the stumps. Follow up maintenance and complementary fuel reduction efforts would be done by Inmate crews and REEP crews. Monitoring, reports and plans would be done by the

Natural Resources Manager. We will be notified on January 5 whether a full application is desired. Final grant award decisions will be made in June 2015.

B) California State Parks Habitat Conservation Fund Project

A \$70,000 Riparian Habitat full proposal was submitted to California State Parks and Recreation for the San Vicente Creek Restoration Project at the James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. This project is informed by the the San Vicente Creek Habitat Enhancement Assessment and would follow a small pilot project on both sides of San Vicente Creek to remove non-native invasive plants such as Cape ivy, mirror plant, and Pittosperum and re-plant with native creeping wild rye glass plugs and California strawberry plugs. A contractor or conservation corps would be hired to undertake a significant portion of the work. Volunteers would assist with re-vegetation and the Natural Resources Manager will perform on-going site monitoring. We will be notified in spring 2015 whether we have been awarded the funds. We are in conversations with County Planning for two mitigation fund matches for this project.

2) Program Planning

Grant funding is cyclical and is often based on State and Federal legislation. Currently, competitive grant opportunities are available for fuel reduction and greenhouse gas reduction projects. We are now investigating grant opportunities to help restore coastal upland and wetlands habitats in coastal County Parks. We're also looking for grants to underwrite other FY 2015/2016 and FY 2016/2017 projects and projects in the Parks Strategic Plan.

3) Project Management

On December 9, the Board of Supervisors will award a \$203,866 contract to Questa Engineering Corp. for the development of plans, specifications and permits for the Green Valley Trail Project. The future Green Valley Trail will be a segment of the California Coastal Trail and will start at the southern parking area of the Devil's Slide Trail, route through the Green Valley and end at the Gray Whale Cove State Beach parking area. The trail will be designed for pedestrian, equestrian and mountain bike use, be composed of natural tread and be accessible as much as possible. This contractor will complete this work between January 1 and December 31, 2015.