

STAFF REPORT



ITEM NO. 16 CITY OF OCEANSIDE

DATE: August 21, 2013

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Water Utilities Department

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE WATER UTILITIES DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT \$105,300 IN GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND TO REDISTRIBUTE FUNDS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS, FOR A TURF REMOVAL PROGRAM OFFERED THROUGH THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT

SYNOPSIS

Staff recommends that the City Council approval to accept \$105,300 in grant funds from the California Department of Water Resources and the United States Bureau of Reclamation, for a turf removal program offered through the Metropolitan Water District Conservation Incentive Program; appropriate the funds to the Water Utilities Department, Parks Division, and Public Works Department; and authorization for the City Manager to act on behalf of the City as signatory to accept grant funds.

BACKGROUND

In late November 2011, the San Diego County Water Authority notified the local member agencies of a Metropolitan Water District conservation incentive program that would pay up to \$1 per square foot for turf removal and replacement with water efficient landscaping. The program start date was late December 2011 and the completion date was June 2012. The program requirements included removal of existing live turf (grass) and replacement with planted areas and permeable surfaces. Replacement with synthetic turf or impermeable surfaces was not eligible. Overall, during the first round of funding, Oceanside removed a total of 257,848 square feet of turf and upon Council approval on September 19, 2012, received \$180,493 in grant monies from the USBR and DWR. The Water Utilities Department co-funded the remaining \$77,355 as a co-funding condition of participation.

Subsequently, in early June 2012, the San Diego County Water Authority once again notified the local member agencies of a Metropolitan Water District conservation incentive program that would pay up to \$1 per square foot for turf removal and replacement with water efficient landscaping. The second phase of the program started in July 2012 and ended in June 2013. Under the second phase of the program, requirements remained the same so as to include removal of existing live turf (grass)

and replacement with planted areas and permeable surfaces. Replacement with synthetic turf or impermeable surfaces, were again not eligible.

The City of Oceanside, this time working with staff in the Water Utilities and Public Works departments, was able to incorporate turf replacement into five existing projects for city parks and the Brooks Street pool, a two-phase landscaping project at the San Luis Rey Wastewater Treatment Plant, and another two-phase landscaping project at the Robert A. Weese Water Filtration Plant. The total turf removed within the City was 105,300 square feet, which was the largest amount of turf removed compared to other San Diego water agencies during this time period.

ANALYSIS

The California Department of Water Resources and the United States Bureau of Reclamation are funding the full \$1.00 per square foot through grant monies. No additional funding contribution is required from the local retail water agency in order to participate in this conservation incentive program. With a total of 105,300 square feet of turf removed, the grant funded total of \$105,300 will be distributed to the Water Utilities Department for \$62,555, to the Parks Division for \$35,245 and to the Public Works Department for \$7,500.

Participating in this program gives the Water Utilities Department an opportunity to further test turf conversion incentives in our service area and provide a basis for considering participation in future similar conversion programs for the public.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Water Utilities Department is seeking authorization to accept these grant funds and appropriate them to revenue account 836128100272.4382 and expenditure account 836128100272.5355.

Participant	MWD Incentive
San Luis Rey Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$ 25,755
Weese Water Filtration Plant	\$ 36,800
City Operations Center	\$ 7,500
Balderrama Park	\$ 1,085
Melba Bishop Park	\$ 18,370
Buddy Todd Park	\$ 5,975
Rancho Del Oro Park	\$ 9,000
Brooks Street Pool	\$ 815
Total:	\$105,300

COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT

The Utilities Commission reviewed staff's recommendation at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 16, 2013.

CITY ATTORNEY'S ANALYSIS

The referenced documents have been reviewed by the City Attorney and approved as to form.

RECOMMENDATION

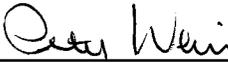
Staff recommends that the City Council approve acceptance of \$105,300 in grant funds from the California Department of Water Resources and the United States Bureau of Reclamation, for a turf removal program offered through the Metropolitan Water District Conservation Incentive Program; appropriate the funds to the Water Utilities Department, Parks Division, and Public Works Department; and authorization for the City Manager to act on behalf of the City as signatory to accept grant funds.

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