

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 4/19/2010

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Resolution #2010-16, A Resolution of the Albany City Council Approving the Application for Grant Funds for the Urban Greening Grant Program under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) for Codornices Creek Restoration/San Pablo Avenue Gateway Project.

REPORT BY: Judy Lieberman, Assistant City Administrator

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution #2010-16.

BACKGROUND

The City is proposing to apply for a \$2 million Urban Greening Grant (Prop 84) to restore the Codornices Creek segment between San Pablo Avenue and 10th Street. The grant application would include the following elements:

- 1) A small entryway plaza and space for public art at San Pablo Avenue
- 2) A bicycle/pedestrian trail from San Pablo Avenue to 10th Street, and a bicycle connection around the existing ball fields to connect to 8th street. The connection at San Pablo Avenue will rely upon the bicycle master plan update, which is in process.
- 3) Complete restoration of Codornices creek from San Pablo Avenue to 10th
- 4) A rain garden/stormwater pollution prevention element along San Pablo Avenue and adjacent to the trail
- 5) Removal of the 10th street culvert and daylighting of the creek, per the hydraulic modeling and permit requirements
- 6) Replacing the culvert with a bridge for public safety vehicles only, to accommodate ambulance and fire truck access down 10th street.

DISCUSSION

The grant application for the San Pablo Avenue to 10th street segment of Codornices Creek would coordinate with a variety of existing City goals and programs, including the update of the Bicycle Master Plan, a Caltrans design grant application already submitted for San Pablo, Solano and Buchanan Streets, the City's adopted Climate Action Plan (in particular

GI 1.1 to develop Green Streets models) and city goals for enhanced gateway presence and public art.

City staff has contacted Albany Little League and Albany Rollers and Strollers regarding the project and will be working closely with both entities, along with the University, creek restoration groups, and the City of Berkeley. The proposed trail alignment is to route the bicycle trail around the Little League Fields and connecting to the 8th street segment at Jackson, and does not require moving the Little League fields. There is an informal pedestrian path that exists behind the Little League fields in the volunteer restored segment of the creek.

The grant application for the Urban Greening Grant is due April 30, 2010, and a resolution is required. A very preliminary set of sketches is attached.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The proposed project would restore the creek, improve habitat, provide stormwater pollution prevention features, add trail connections, provide recreational and environmental education opportunities, provide a model for a green street retrofit along San Pablo Avenue, and provide greater access to green space for residents.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None. The Grant does not require a match, but encourages the use of leveraging other resources and projects. This criteria will be easily met by the project.

Attachments:

1. Resolution #2010-16
- 2a,b,c. Preliminary Sketches of Proposed Project.