

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

Agenda Date: 10/3/11  
Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** A Resolution of the Albany City Council Approving the Application For Grant Funds for the California River Parkways Grant Program Under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) For the Codornices Creek/San Pablo Avenue Gateway Project

**REPORT BY:**       **Jeff Bond, Community Development Director**  
                          **Ana Bernardes, Project Manager**

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council approve Resolution No. 2011-48.

**BACKGROUND**

The planning and implementation of the restoration of Codornices Creek between San Pablo Avenue to Interstate 80 has been underway for more than ten years. The original master plan was prepared in 2001. In 2004, the City Council approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. In addition, in 2004, the City entered into a three-way Memorandum of Understanding with the University of California and the City of Berkeley.

Three phases of the project, from 8<sup>th</sup> Street downstream to the UP railroad tracks, have been completed to date. In 2010, the Association of Bay Area Governments recognized the project as part of the Growing Smarter Together Awards Program.

**DISCUSSION**

The City is proposing to apply for approximately \$2 million grant from the California River Parkways Grant Program (Prop 84) to restore the Codornices Creek segment between San Pablo Avenue and 8th Street. The grant application would include the following elements:

1. A entryway plaza and space for public art at San Pablo Avenue
2. A bicycle/pedestrian trail from San Pablo Avenue to 8th street.
3. Complete restoration of Codornices creek from San Pablo Avenue to 10th

4. Bicycle/pedestrian connections from 10<sup>th</sup> Street to 8<sup>th</sup> Street next to areas of the creek restored by volunteers
5. Removal of the 10th street culvert and daylighting of the creek, per the hydraulic modeling and permit requirements, and replacing the culvert with a pedestrian/bicycle bridge.
6. A rain garden/stormwater pollution prevention element along San Pablo Avenue and adjacent to the trail
7. Interpretative signage

The grant application for the San Pablo Avenue to 8th street segment of Codornices Creek would coordinate with a variety of existing City goals and programs, including the draft Active Transportation Plan, the City's Climate Action Plan 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 bike path and walkway between the creek and the Little League Fields, connecting to the recently completed 8th street segment at Jackson.

The grant application for the Urban Greening Grant is due October 14, and a resolution from the City Council is required. A preliminary sketch of the project 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**

The Grant does not require a match, but encourages the use of leveraging other resources and projects. This criterion will be easily met by the project.

### **Attachments**

Preliminary Sketch of Proposed Project  
Resolution No. 2011-48