



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 5, 2006 **ITEM NUMBER:** Item Number

SUBJECT: 2008 FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FOR FAIRVIEW PARK

DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2006

FROM: City Manager's Office/Administration

PRESENTATION BY: Ann C. Shultz, Legislative and Public Affairs Manager

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann C. Shultz, 714 754-5667

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approves application for Federal Appropriations Funding for Fiscal Year 2007-08 for the construction of the Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project at Fairview Park.

BACKGROUND:

Two years ago, the City was encouraged by Senator Dianne Feinstein to apply for funds through the Federal Appropriations Process. Through subsequent contacts with the Senator's office, the City began the application process focusing on obtaining funds for the Police Department expansion. Last year, the same process was explored with the focus on Fairview Park.

In 2005, an application was submitted but no funds were received. In 2006, the application was not submitted due to subsequent feedback received on federal spending priorities.

However, based on our contacts with our federal offices and the footwork done in the past, staff is asking for approval from the City Council regarding the upcoming year's process. Our intent is to be fully prepared and ready once the application is available in early February.

ANALYSIS:

Staff has been in contact with Ryan Hunt in Senator Dianne Feinstein's office in Washington, DC. Applications for Federal Appropriations Requests for Fiscal Year 2008 will be sent out the first week in February 2007. They are due by March 1.

Due to the enormous volume of requests the Senator receives, Mr. Hunt stressed the importance of looking at submitting projects that benefit not only Costa Mesa, but other cities, community organizations and the region as a whole.

In addition, although federal priorities can change at the eleventh hour, both the Senator's office and our congressional office have identified tentative federal spending priorities in the following areas: Homeland Security, Transportation and the Environment.

Staff has reviewed possible projects for submission that would meet one of the above targeted spending priorities as well as ones that would be supported by other "community partners".

Fairview Park is an ideal candidate. Our request would specifically target the Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project (Seasonal Creek Community). The Project is being designed by Moffatt and Nichol, Inc. and includes 25 acres of wetlands and riparian habitat, trails and a water delivery system along the Placentia Drain connecting to the Fairview Channel (see Attachment 1). The total estimated cost of the improvements is \$6.8 million. \$1.82 million in funding has been committed and consists of: \$1 million from the Army Corps of Engineers; \$500,000 from the Costa Mesa Fairview Park Development Fund; and a \$320,000 grant received from the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Recreational Trails Program for a bicycle/pedestrian trail in the project area.

In addition, city staff is pursuing grants totaling \$2.56 million from the California Department of Parks and Recreation and California Resources Agency. We will apply for the remaining \$2.42 through the appropriations process. Any funding we might receive will be used to pay for all or a portion of the construction of the wetlands and riparian habitat including necessary grading, construction of ponds and waterways, and planting of selected plant communities. Design of the Project is slated to be complete next spring making this a timely request as well.

The protection, enhancement and restoration of these wetlands and riparian habitat reduces the need for costly water treatment plants, provides high quality drinking water at a reduced cost, reduces the costs of flood damage and improves water quality for aquatic ecosystems and recreational opportunities. In addition, the natural water treatment the project will provide frees space at the water treatment plant and allows other inland cities to treat their water at this plant, thus not only benefiting Costa Mesa, but the entire Orange County region. Staff will be requesting letters of support from the: cities of Newport Beach and Huntington Beach, Army Corps of Engineers, County of Orange, Orange County Sanitation District, Department of Fish and Wildlife (federal), Department of Fish and Game (state), Water Resources Control Board, Orange Coast River Park, Santa Ana River Watershed Alliance, Harbor Soaring Society, Orange County Model Engineers, Friends of Fairview Park, Surfrider Foundation, Costa Mesa Parks and Recreation Commission, Sierra Club, Costa Mesa Historical Society, Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks, Harbor Soaring Society; Supervisor John Moorlach, Assemblyman Van Tran, State Senator Tom Harmon; and local businesses.

In addition, staff considered two other projects for submission - the construction of the hangar to house the Airborne Law Enforcement (ABLE) helicopters and the extension of the 55 freeway. Both are in the earlier stages of planning but might be ideal for the 2008 application process.

Staff is suggesting the following timeline for the application process:

Receive approval by City Council – December 5, 2006

Begin staff subcommittee meetings – December 13, 2006

Initiate draft of application and contacts for letters of support – January 5, 2007

Obtain formal application from Senator Feinstein’s office – February 5, 2007 (This is not a date certain. The Senator’s staff indicated that forms will be available sometime in early February).

Finalize and submit application – March 1, 2007

It should be noted that staff from the office of our Congressman Dana Rohrabacher have indicated that the Congressman will support our application as well.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

1. Do not approve the application for federal appropriations dollars.
2. Designate a different project(s) for the application process.

FISCAL REVIEW:

No fiscal review is required.

LEGAL REVIEW:

No legal review is required.

CONCLUSION:

Staff is recommending that the City Council approve submission of a Federal Appropriations Application for construction of the Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project at Fairview Park.

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ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Project Map](#)