

MOORPARK WATERSHED PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

A LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY EXERCISING JOINT POWERS OF THE CITY OF MOORPARK AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 6500 ET SEQ

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 3, 2020

TO: The Governing Board Members

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of Submittal of Proposition 68 Grant for Project Planning and Design for Regional Trail Connection and Requested Match Amount**

BACKGROUND

In 2011, the City purchased an 80 acre parcel in the Tierra Rejada Valley to preserve it as open space (80 Acres). The location of the property is outside Moorpark city limits. In 2016, the City Council approved a Joint Powers Agreement with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy creating the Moorpark Watershed Parks, Recreation and Conservation Authority ("Authority"). The JPA was created so that the City could purchase and transfer open space parcels to the Authority for care and management, as well as the potential for additional opportunities for grants for recreation and trails in open space areas. In 2017, the parcel was transferred to the Authority. Currently, funding for property maintenance on the 80 Acres is provided by the City via a pass-thru to the Authority budget. Other than that funding, there is no other funding available to open the property for public use. Staff has been exploring various grant opportunities for the 80 Acres.

DISCUSSION

There is currently an opportunity to apply a Proposition 68 grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for project planning and design for a future trail connection to the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA) and Conejo Valley Recreation and Park District (CVRPD) open spaces areas from the 80 Acres. The proposal for the Proposition 68 grant would provide for the services of a civil

engineer to determine the feasibility and master plan the alignment and design for the trail connection to the referenced open space areas in the City of Thousand Oaks through the Santa Rosa Valley.

The grant will be applied for in the name of the Authority as the landowner for the 80 Acre parcel. Since the Authority has no funding, the City would be contributing funding to the Authority which would then be used as match funds for Proposition 68 Funding. Proposition 68 funding match amount needs to be determined by the MWPRCA so it can be included in the application process. The match for the Proposition 68 grant would be a donation to the Authority from the City to facilitate the grant. The City's allocation of funding to the Authority for the Proposition 68 grant would occur after the grant is awarded.

City staff is suggesting that a grant request of \$41,000 be requested from the Proposition 68 Grant with \$10,000 in match funding being contributed to the Authority by the City for a total cost of \$51,000 for project planning and design. City staff will request authority for the \$10,000 match from the City Council at the January 15, 2020 meeting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Request \$10,000 in matching funding from the City of Moorpark for project planning and design for the regional trail connection; and
2. Authorize the submittal of a Proposition 68 Grant Application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Project Planning and Design for regional trail connection from the 80 Acre open space to the COSCA and CVRPD open space.