

# CITY OF OAKLAND

## AGENDA REPORT

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

2008 FEB 28 PM 4: 54

TO: Office of the City Administrator  
ATTN: Deborah A. Edgerly  
FROM: Community and Economic Development Agency  
DATE: March 11, 2008

RE: **Resolution Authorizing The Application For, Acceptance, and Appropriation Of \$200,000 From The State of California Department Of Forestry And Fire Protection's Urban Forestry Management Plan Grant Program to Develop an Urban Forestry Management Plan For Oakland And \$100,000 From The State of California Department Of Forestry And Fire Protection's Urban Forestry Inventory Grant Program To Complete A Database Of Oakland's Trees**

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### SUMMARY

The proposed resolution authorizes the application for two grant programs administered by the State of California Department of Urban Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). A grant for \$100,000 would allow the City to begin the process to create and implement an Urban Forestry Management Plan and a grant for \$200,000 would allow the City to add information associated with public trees in street medians and public open spaces to its current inventory of street trees which began in 2005.

The CAL FIRE Urban Forestry Management Plan and Inventory grant programs are part of an initiative to finance efforts that will result in the production of a detailed Urban Forestry Management Plan and comprehensive inventory of publicly owned trees. Development of the management plan will allow Oakland to create a management structure and broad coalition of support throughout Oakland to foster stewardship of the urban forest.

Successful funding applications to each of the grant programs would allow the City to augment an existing street tree inventory tied to sidewalks and upon completion of an Urban Forestry Management Plan, leverage funds from other agencies and non-profit organizations for planting and maintenance programs that would support local reforestation efforts.

### FISCAL IMPACT

Grant funds, if awarded, will be appropriated to Fund (2159) State of California, Grants Other, City Planning – Other Org (88229), projects to be determined. Project budgets will include a charge for contract compliance (3%), of the total funding received.

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The 50% match requirements have been identified. The \$200,000 match for the street tree inventory will be provided from the Development Services Fund (2415) City Planning – Other Org (88229), General Plan Surcharge Account (45423). The \$100,000 match to complete the Urban Forestry Management Plan will be provided from the Development Services Fund (2415) City Planning – Other Org (88229), General Plan Surcharge Account (45423).

Costs for infrastructure development, operations and maintenance, including staffing levels, have not been determined for the projects, and will be provided as a part of each process.

## **BACKGROUND**

The objective of the CAL FIRE Urban Forestry Management Plan grant program is to produce a detailed Urban Forestry Management Plan for the City of Oakland. The City of Oakland proposes that the development of a management plan would begin with identification and analysis of the structure, nature, and effectiveness of Oakland's ordinances, specifications and policies impacting its urban forest. Definition of the natural systems that makeup the Oakland's urban forest will be provided as a basis for supplementing the current inventory systems. The plan will include prescribed precautions to protect ecosystem health and mitigate the probability of catastrophic events, such as fire; define planting methods to begin addressing conflicts between tree roots and infrastructure; identify maintenance issues and practices and define protocols and standards to measure urban forest conditions and health; address operations and management of Oakland's forest; recommend education and marketing options to promote the plan; and complete a programmatic EIR. The plan developed under this project will allow Oakland to create a management structure and broad coalition of support throughout Oakland to foster stewardship of the urban forest. The plan will also become the basis for additional products including Green Street Design Guidelines to link street design with community livability via trees; and a revised "Greenstreets" plan which would provide an illustrated guide for selecting appropriate street trees.

## **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

At this time, several projects related to tree planting and tree inventories are complete or nearly complete. Urban Releaf of Oakland successfully planted over 500 trees during the spring and summer of 2007, while drawing from youth employment programs to support labor and maintenance requirements. Over the summer of 2007, the City of Oakland completed its first GIS based tree inventory tied to sidewalk locations in Oakland and the Oakland Fire Department is in the processing of completing a flyover of the Oakland Hills to build on this database. The infrared photographic technology used will be capable of

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interpreting and mapping the location, species, and size of trees and other vegetation types. A cost benefit analysis, identification of available resources associated with managing the urban forest and assignment of relative priority will be integrated into each recommendation for managing Oakland's urban forest. The plan will incorporate recommendations for appropriate selection and location of plant materials, with respect to adjacent structures and amenities, alternatives, and propose an aesthetic design for certain ecosystems.

Recommendations for additional security precautions and fuel break management techniques at certain locations will be considered as a part of developing plan recommendations.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Today several entities are involved in operating and maintaining portions of the urban forest and parks and public improvements found within Oakland's forest. Some of these include the Port of Oakland, City of Oakland Parks and Recreation; the City's Public Works Agency, East Bay Regional Parks District, and the East Bay Municipal Utility District. Following completion of the draft Urban Forestry Management Plan, staff will make recommendations to the various responsible bodies and to City Council for improvements and revisions to the proposed governance of public improvements to the urban forest in ways that will address future maintenance and operations.

The objective of the Urban Forestry Inventory project is to expand the work completed to date to provide a comprehensive tree database that can be used as a tool to manage Oakland's urban forest and to improve wildland-urban interface risk assessment and mitigation. The City of Oakland is also proposing to work closely with students from the University of California at Berkeley's Department of Forestry and high school students from the Oakland Unified School District to assist with data collection and verification, where possible.

In summer 2007, the City of Oakland completed its first GIS based tree inventory tied to sidewalk locations in Oakland. Concurrently, the Oakland Fire Department is in the process of completing a flyover of the Oakland Hills to build on this database. The Hyperspectral and LiDar Imaging Project will be capable of interpreting and mapping the location, species, and size of trees and other vegetation types. A complete inventory of Oakland's trees will allow for comprehensive analysis and accurate projections tied to maintenance scheduling and cost estimating.

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## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Economic:** The proposed development of an Urban Forestry Management Plan and completion of an urban forest inventory will strengthen and support existing maintenance efforts and identify areas where collaborations with other entities could improve current practices.

**Environmental:** By creating an Urban Forestry Management Plan, opportunities for the protection and stewardship of natural habitats, open spaces and agricultural land can improve. Improving efficiencies in maintenance can also conserve resources, promote sustainability, and improve environmental quality.

**Social Equity:** Expanding the urban forest can increase and improve public health and provide increased property values within a community.

## **DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

The Urban Forestry Management Plan will analyze accessibility for people with disabilities to ensure fully accessible paths of travel to and from surrounding areas. The City's accessibility program coordinator will participate in project review at various stages of each planning process initiated.

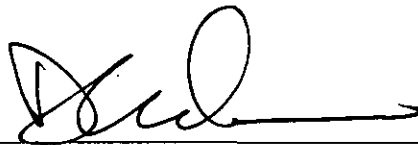
## **RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE**

Staff recommends adopting the authorizing resolution. With these approvals, staff will prepare the grant applications for submittal to CAL FIRE.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the application for, acceptance, and appropriation of \$200,000 from the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Urban Forestry Management Plan Grant Program to develop an Urban Forestry Management Plan for Oakland and \$100,000 from the State of California Department Of Forestry and Fire Protection's Urban Forestry Inventory Grant Program to complete a database of Oakland's trees.

Respectfully submitted,

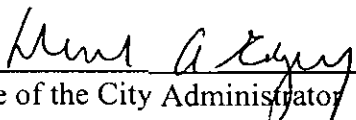


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Dan Lindheim  
Director  
Community and Economic Development Agency

Reviewed by:  
Eric Angstadt, Strategic Planning Manager  
Planning Division

Prepared by:  
Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris, Project Manager  
Planning Division

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the City Administrator

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CED Committee  
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FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

  
City Attorney

2009 FEB 28 PM 4:54 RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR, ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$200,000 FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION'S URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN GRANT PROGRAM TO DEVELOP AN URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR OAKLAND AND \$100,000 FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF URBAN FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION'S URBAN FORESTRY INVENTORY GRANT PROGRAM TO COMPLETE A DATABASE OF OAKLAND'S TREES**

**WHEREAS,** The State of California, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has announced the availability of grant funds for implementing an Urban Forestry/street tree inventory program and for creating and implementing an Urban Forestry Management Plan from the Urban Forestry Grant Program entitled "An Urban Forest For Every City"; and

**WHEREAS,** The State of California, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has set aside approximately \$2,500,000 from Proposition 40, California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood, Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 and Proposition 84, Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 for cities, counties, or districts that wish to create and implement an Urban Forestry Management Plan and for cities, counties, and districts in need of implementing or adding to an Urban Forestry/street tree inventory program; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Oakland was notified in January 2008 by CAL FIRE that the City meets criteria established in a pre-application process and can now apply for \$200,000 to complete an inventory of Oakland's urban forest and \$100,000 to create and implement and Urban Forestry Management Plan; and

**WHEREAS,** said procedures established by the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of application before submission of said application to the State; and

**WHEREAS,** the City Council action authorized by this resolution is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code sections 21000, et seq ("CEQA") pursuant to, among other provisions, CEQA Guidelines section 15262 (feasibility and planning studies) and 15183 (projects consistent with community plan, general plan or zoning) now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** that the City Council hereby

1. Approves the filing of an application, and the acceptance and appropriation of funds if awarded, for assistance of up to \$200,000 to complete an inventory of Oakland's urban forest and \$100,000 to create and implement and Urban Forestry Management Plan; and

2. Appoints the City Administrator as agent of the City to conduct all negotiations and execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests, and compliance with all applicable current state and federal laws which may be necessary for the completion of the grant funded under the CAL FIRE funding program, subject to the approval of the City Attorney; and
3. Certifies that said applicant will expend grant funds prior to March 1, 2010; and
4. Directs the Budget Office to appropriate grant funds received for this project to the State of California –Other Fund (2159), City Planning – Other Org (88229), projects to be determined; and
5. Directs the Budget Office to appropriate matching funds as required for successful grant applications. The 50% match requirement of \$200,000 for the \$200,000 grant request to complete the inventory of City street trees and \$100,000 for the \$100,000 to complete an Urban Forestry Management Plan are available in the Development Service Fund (2415) City Planning – Other Org (88229), General Plan Surcharge Account (45423).
6. Directs the City Administrator or her designee to file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with the CEQA.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES - BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
LaTonda Simmons  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California