



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-18-29
Meeting 18-13
March 28, 2018

AGENDA ITEM 6

AGENDA ITEM

Urban Greening Grant Submittal for the Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution approving an application to the Urban Greening Grant Program for the Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project.

SUMMARY

The Urban Greening Grant Program is a competitive grant program funded through the State of California's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Its purpose is to support development of green infrastructure projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide multiple benefits. This year, \$24.7 million is available through the program. The Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project is a competitive project for this grant. Approval of a Resolution by the Board of Directors (Board) is required for application submittal to certify that funds are available to complete the project. The total cost for the Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project is \$3.6 million, and the request for the Urban Greening grant will be \$1,500,000 (42%). The remaining funding will come from two other secured grants (San Mateo County and Santa Clara County) and from Measure AA (#02-002).

DISCUSSION

The Urban Greening Grant Program was created in support of AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, and is funded through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The program's purpose is to support development of green infrastructure projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide multiple benefits. Consistent with AB 32, the Urban Greening Program will competitively fund projects that reduce greenhouse gases through carbon sequestration, decrease energy consumption, and reduce vehicle miles traveled, while transforming the built environment into places that are more sustainable, enjoyable, and support healthy and vibrant communities. This is the second grant round for this program, and a total of \$24.7 million is available this year, with no grant minimum or maximum award amounts. Projects must be completed in five years.

The Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project is competitive for funding under this grant. Closing a critical commuting gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail in San Mateo County will open up 80 miles of continuous Bay Trail connecting Menlo Park to the north, Mountain View/Sunnyvale/Santa Clara to the south, and across the Dumbarton Bridge to the East Bay. The project will construct 0.6 miles of new paved trail, boardwalk, and bridge to close the gap and 0.7 miles of re-paved existing Bay Trail adjacent to Ravenswood Open Space Preserve. Eligible

projects must demonstrate a net greenhouse gas emission benefit and provide multiple other benefits, including at least one of the following: sequester and store carbon by planting trees, reduce building energy use by planting trees, or reduce vehicle miles traveled by constructing bicycle paths or pedestrian facilities. The Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project (Project) will reduce vehicle miles traveled, resulting in significant greenhouse gas emission reductions.

A priority consideration for this grant is whether projects are located within disadvantaged or low-income communities, or will directly benefit disadvantaged communities. The Project is located within a low-income community and is within ½ mile of a disadvantaged community. Other priority considerations for funding include partnerships with local community organizations and use of existing public lands. The Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project is competitive due to its cooperation and partnership with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, City of Menlo Park, and City of East Palo Alto, as well as its adjacency to Ravenswood Open Space Preserve.

To date the Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project has secured grant funding from San Mateo County (\$1,000,000) and Santa Clara County (\$400,000) for design and engineering, permitting, and construction. The estimated three-year project costs are approximately \$3.6 million. If successful, the Urban Greening Grant would contribute \$1,500,000 towards construction costs, totaling 40% of the total project cost estimate. The remaining funds not covered by grants (approximately \$868,000) would be covered by the District's Measure AA funds. District staff will submit permits for this project in March 2018, with construction expected to begin in September 2019 and be completed by January 2020.

Grant Requirements

If awarded, the District must adhere to the grant agreement set forth by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA). *This includes a commitment to execute the project within five years and ensure compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and other applicable laws.* CEQA compliance has been met (refer to CEQA Compliance section) and the project is projected to be completed in January 2020. In addition, the District would submit regular projects updates to the CNRA as part of grant reimbursement requests and maintain proper financial accounting. The District would be required to post signs acknowledging the source of the funds and commit to maintaining the project for a specified time period depending on the awarded amount (at least 20 years for up to \$1,000,000 and at least 25 years for over \$1,000,000). Thirty percent of projects will be required to provide an annual project outcome report for up to three years after project completion.

The attached Resolution (Attachment 1) authorizes the Acting General Manager to submit the application and certifies that sufficient funds are available to execute this project.

FISCAL IMPACT

Award of an Urban Greening grant would represent a positive fiscal impact for the District, for a total of \$1,500,000, beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19. Three-year total costs for the Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project are estimated to be \$3.6 million. The District was awarded grants from San Mateo County (\$1,000,000) and Santa Clara County (\$400,000), with the District contributing the remaining balance through Measure AA funds.

The following table outlines the MAA02-002 Ravenswood Bay Trail Design and Implementation budget and costs-to-date. The total grant-funded amount shown below includes the \$1,500,000 Urban Greening grant, assuming the application is successful.

	<i>PREVIOUS YEARS</i>	<i>FY2017-18</i>	<i>FY2018-19</i>	<i>FY2019-20</i>	<i>Total</i>
MAA02-002 Budget	-	\$224,000	\$240,500	\$3,199,000	\$3,663,500
Spent-to-Date (as of 02/26/18):	\$252,667	\$116,682	N/A	N/A	\$369,349
Encumbrances:	\$0	\$85,327	\$0	\$0	\$85,327
Budget Remaining:	\$0	\$21,991	\$0	\$0	\$3,208,824
San Mateo County grant income	\$104,338	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$495,662	\$1,000,000
County of Santa Clara grant income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	\$400,000
Urban Greening grant (Proposed):	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Sub-total Grant income	\$104,338	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$2,395,662	\$2,900,000
Amount Funded through MAA:	\$148,329	\$24,000	\$40,500	\$803,338	\$1,016,167

The following table outlines the Measure AA Portfolio 02 budget, costs-to-date, and the fiscal impact related to MAA02-002. The grant-funded amount below includes the \$1,500,000 Urban Greening grant assuming the application is successful.

MAA 02 Portfolio Appropriation	\$ 5,052,000
Life-to-Date Spent, net of grant income received (02/28/2018):	\$282,615
Encumbrances FY 2017-18:	\$252,330
Future CIP for 2018-19 and 2019-20	<u>\$3,439,500</u>
Sub-total Portfolio Balance	\$1,077,555
Urban Greening grant (Proposed):	\$1,500,000
Secured grant funding other sources remaining for reimbursement for Measure AA 02:	\$1,170,379
Balance Remaining, Net of Grant Funds (Proposed):	\$3,747,934

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

This item was not previously reviewed by a Board Committee.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Submitting grant applications to secure funding is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. The Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project however, is subject to CEQA. An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND) was prepared to evaluate whether there was the potential for any significant adverse environmental impacts to result from implementation of the Project. The ISMND was circulated for public and agency review, and the Board certified the ISMND on November 16, 2016.

NEXT STEPS

If approved, the District will include the Board-adopted Resolution in the grant application, which staff will submit in April. Next steps for the Project include:

- Finalize the grant application by April 11, 2018
- Project construction is anticipated to begin Summer 2019
- Project completion is projected for January 2020

Attachment:

1. Resolution approving the District's grant application for the Urban Greening Grant Program

Responsible Department Head:

Stefan Jaskulak, CFO/Director of Administrative Services

Jane Mark, AICP, Planning Manager

Prepared by:

Melanie Askay, Grants Specialist

Gretchen Laustsen, Planner III

Contact person:

Melanie Askay, Grants Specialist

RESOLUTION 18-__

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT APPROVING
THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR CALIFORNIA CLIMATE
INVESTMENTS URBAN GREENING PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the California Natural Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the California Natural Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the applicant's governing board before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District does hereby resolve as follows:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project.
2. Certifies that applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application.
3. Certifies that applicant will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project consistent with the land tenure requirements; or will secure the resources to do so.
4. Certifies that it will comply with the provisions of Section 1771.5 of the State Labor Code.
5. If applicable, certifies that the project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, environmental laws and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable permits will have been obtained.
6. Certifies that applicant will work towards the Governor's State Planning Priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety as included in Government Code Section 65041.1.
7. Appoints the General Manager, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on _____, 2018, at a regular meeting thereof, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Secretary
Board of Directors

President
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

General Counsel

I, the Deputy District Clerk of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by the above vote at a meeting thereof duly held and called on the above day.

Deputy District Clerk