

CITY COUNCIL

For City Clerk's Use:

☐ **APPROVED** ☐ **DENIED**

Reso No. _____ File No. _____

Ord No. _____

Agenda Item No.: 10

Date: December 19, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Ed Domingue, Director of Engineering
SUBJECT: Authority to Apply for Recreational Trails Program Grants

RECOMMENDATION:

It is requested that Council adopt Resolution 2012-192 authorizing the Director of Engineering Services to complete two applications to the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation for Recreational Trails Program funds to complete the Escondido Creek Bike Trail between Beven Drive and East Valley Parkway and to complete trail rehabilitation at Dixon Lake and Daley Ranch. If awarded, it is requested that the Director of Engineering Services be authorized to accept the grant funds, to complete grant documents on behalf of the City and process necessary budget adjustments.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

This action will have no impact on the General Fund Budget. The requested grants will provide 88% of required funds to complete two construction projects on the east side of Escondido. Matching funds will be provided through the Daley Ranch projects budget and TransNet sales tax funds.

BACKGROUND:

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds annually for recreational trails and trails-related projects. The RTP is administered at the federal level by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). On July 6, 2012, the President signed the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (MAP-21), reauthorizing the federal highway program and providing funds for the RTP. The program is administered at the state level by the DPR. Non-motorized projects are administered by the Department's Office of Grants and Local Services and motorized projects are administered by the Department's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division. The maximum amount of RTP funds allowed for each project is 88%. Eligible non-motorized projects include acquisition of property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors, development and rehabilitation of trails, trailside and trailhead facilities, and construction of new trails.

The City can complete a grant application for the completion of the Escondido Creek Bike Trail between Beven Drive and East Valley Parkway. On October 17, 2012, City Council adopted a new Bicycle Master Plan (via Resolution No 2012-162). The new Bicycle Master Plan recommends bike routes intended to take advantage of and be integrated with existing and programmed roadways and existing bicycle facilities to address cyclists' concerns for safety and connectivity. The factors used in prioritizing the implementation of potential bikeway project types included probable demand, regional significance, transportation efficiency, right of way and likely funding sources. In compliance with the new Bicycle Master Plan, completion of the Escondido Creek Trail bike path has the highest priority. There are three incomplete sections of Class I facilities identified in the Bicycle Master Plan, including a 0.462 mile unimproved section along the Escondido Creek from Bevin Drive to East Valley Parkway. Improving this section would complete the east portion of the Escondido Creek Trail bike trail, terminating on Valley Parkway. Planned improvements on East Valley Parkway will include Class II bike lanes, potentially connecting bicyclists to the Escondido City limits, Valley Center, and other recreational opportunities. An additional benefit of this section of the bike trail would be its dual use as a utility access road. Staff believes that a grant request for the completion of this section would be competitive as it strongly fulfills the RTP grant criteria as it solves a trail deficiency, connects into other trail systems (regional bike trails to the ocean and Daley Ranch trails), links Escondido's core commercial and residential areas to recreational areas, includes access to parking, and expands public transportation bike lanes.

The City can complete a grant application for trail rehabilitation at Daley Ranch/Dixon Lake. On September 23, 1998, City Council adopted the Daley Ranch Master Plan by Resolution 98-186. Daley Ranch is a 3,058-acre conservation area acquired and managed in perpetuity by the City of Escondido for the preservation of a biologically unique and diverse habitat area of regional importance, while providing a variety of recreational and educational opportunities and experiences for the enjoyment of the community in a historically significant setting. Daley Ranch and Dixon Lake are adjacent and managed by the Parks and Lakes Division. There are three trail rehabilitation projects proposed for Daley Ranch/Dixon Lake:

- The Caballo Trailhead, in the extreme southeast corner of Daley Ranch, is popular with equestrians, hikers and mountain bikers. Active use and poor soils has resulted in cupping along the trail, which gives rise to channeling due to erosion, which causes dangerous conditions on the trails. Staff proposes use of geocells to rehabilitate approximately 2000 linear feet of this trail.
- Boulder Loop is located in the southeast portion of Daley Ranch. It is probably the most popular trail in Daley Ranch and offers scenic views to the north, south and west. Conditions include extreme rutting along two sections of the Loop due to wet conditions. Staff proposes the use of a georunner to stabilize approximately 500 linear feet of the trail, retain soil and maintain proper drainage.

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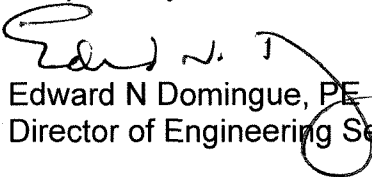
- The third trail, Chaparral Trail, is along the northern border of Dixon Lake, linking Dixon Lake and Daley Ranch. Staff proposes hardening/paving of approximately 1000 linear feet of this trail; this would complement the ADA features of this park and create a complete recreational experience for visitors with disabilities and their families.

Staff believes that a grant request for these trail rehabilitation efforts would be competitive as it fulfills the RTP grant criteria as they solve trail deficiencies, are integral portions of a trail system, provide meaningful links in recreation areas while they are well separated from highway uses, would benefit a high number of users, provide access to persons with disabilities, and have a sustainable design and diversified use.

CONCLUSIONS:

Staff recommends pursuing two Recreational Trails Program grants to fund completion of the Escondido Creek Bike Trail between Beven Drive and East Valley Parkway and trail rehabilitation at Dixon Lake and Daley Ranch.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward N Domingue, PE
Director of Engineering Services



Karen Youel
Management Analyst

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-192

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA,
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT
FUNDS FROM THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS
PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century" provides funds to the State of California for Grants to federal, state, local and non-profit organizations to acquire, develop and/or maintain motorized and non-motorized trail Projects; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary procedures governing Project Application under the program; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of Application(s) before submission of said Application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant will enter into a Contract with the State of California to complete the Project(s); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Escondido, California hereby:

1. Approved the filing of an Application(s) for the Recreational Trails Program.
2. Certifies that the Project(s) is/are consistent with the Applicant's general plan or the equivalent planning document.

3. Certifies that said Applicant has or will have available prior to commencement of any work on the Project(s) included in this Application(s), sufficient funds to operate and maintain the Project(s).

4. Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the Contract shown in the Procedural Guide.

5. Appoints the Director of Engineering Services as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to Applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the Project.

6. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines as required by this grant.