Agenda Item #:_____

Staff Report
City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Richard Thompson, Interim City Manager

FROM: Jim Arndt, Director of Public Works
Juan Price, Maintenance Superintendent
Clay Curtin, Management Analyst

DATE: October 19, 2010

SUBJECT: Consideration to Adopt a Resolution accepting the West Basin Municipal Water District's Zero-Runoff Street Median Water Conservation Program Grant in the Amount of $15,000 and Appropriate Said Amount from the Unreserved General Fund Balance, Which Will Be Reimbursed by the Grant

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RECOMMENDATION:
Staff recommends that the City Council:

a) Adopt Resolution No. 6283 accepting the West Basin Municipal Water District's Zero-Runoff Street Median Water Conservation Program Grant in the Amount of $15,000; and

b) Appropriate $15,000 to the Parks Maintenance Account (100-18-042-5217) from the unreserved General Fund balance, which will be reimbursed by the grant.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:
Under the grant agreement, the total project cost is approximately $30,000 for labor and materials. City maintenance staff will supply the labor in kind (valued at $15,000, regular straight time) and the grant award will be used to reimburse the City for the purchase of materials including plants, irrigation system, supplies, etc. (valued at $15,000). This is not a budgeted item in the FY2010-2011 budget. As a result, a General Fund appropriation is necessary in order to expend the funds in advance of the reimbursement. This project will also result in savings to the City of nearly $4,000 annually in water consumption and landscape maintenance costs.

BACKGROUND:
The West Basin Municipal Water District created the Zero-Runoff Street Median Water Conservation Program to provide funding for the replacement of existing irrigated street medians, parkways, or garden areas which currently waste water or create runoff into the storm drain system leading to the ocean.

For this program, water efficient street-adjacent medians, parkways, or garden sites must be designed to reduce water use by at least 50% and eliminate runoff by 100%. This program proposes the replacement of street medians, parkways, and garden areas with ones designed to

incorporate irrigation system improvements (including drip irrigation and a Smart Irrigation Controller), native and/or drought tolerant plants, permeable cover, or artificial turf. Up to $15,000 could be awarded.

DISCUSSION:
The Manhattan Beach Public Works Department submitted an application requesting funding for the retrofit of approximately 11,000 sq. ft. of turf located at the median between Aviation Boulevard and Aviation Way, just north of the sump area located in the southeast corner of the City. The project involves removing existing grass, while leaving existing trees in place, and converting the site to native/drought-tolerant plants and installing a water-saving drip irrigation system. Depending upon the final site design, these plants could include acorus, tulbaghia variegate, rhaphiolepis ballerina, pink stripe phormium, among others. Attached is a sample selection from the plant palette of over twenty varieties (Attachment No. 4). The City was awarded $15,000, the maximum award available for this grant program.

CONCLUSION:
This will result in the reduction of onsite potable water use by over 159,000 gallons (at least 54% of the annual site consumption) and eliminate 100% of the site's water runoff. This project will save the City nearly $4,000 annually in water consumption and landscape maintenance costs.

Attachments:
1. Resolution No. 6283
2. Project Site Map
3. Photos of Current Site
4. Sample Selection from Plant Palette

cc: Henry Mitzner, Controller
Jeanne D. O'Brien, Accountant
Eden Serina, Budget Analyst

RESOLUTION NO. 6283

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ITS INTENT TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD UNDER THE ZERO RUNOFF STREET MEDIAN WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR FY2010-2011 AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF THESE GRANT FUNDS FOR STREET MEDIAN IMPROVENTS PERTAINING TO WATER CONSERVATION AND RUNOFF ELIMINATION

WHEREAS, pursuant to its Water Conservation Master Plan, which seeks to guide regional investments and translate conservation goals into tangible initiatives for residents, businesses, and governments, the West Basin Municipal Water District has established the Zero Runoff Street Median Water Conservation Program to provide grant funding available to eligible cities and unincorporated areas within its service area for replacement of existing irrigated street medians, parkways, and garden areas along area streets that waste water and cause water runoff; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of its goal to reduce potable water usage and adopt water conservation measures as outlined in the Green Report presented to the Manhattan Beach City Council on November 20, 2007.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Manhattan Beach declares its intent to accept a grant award under this program and authorize the expenditure of these grant funds for street median improvements pertaining to water conservation and runoff elimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or his/her designee, is hereby authorized and empowered to execute in the name of the City of Manhattan Beach all documents, including but not limited to, applications, agreements, annual reports including expenditure reports and amendments necessary to secure said funds for this water conservation and water elimination project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this authorization is effective until rescinded by the City of Manhattan Beach.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the above recitals are all true and correct.

SECTION 2. The City Clerk shall make this Resolution reasonably available for public inspection within thirty (30) days of the date this Resolution is adopted.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of October, 2010.

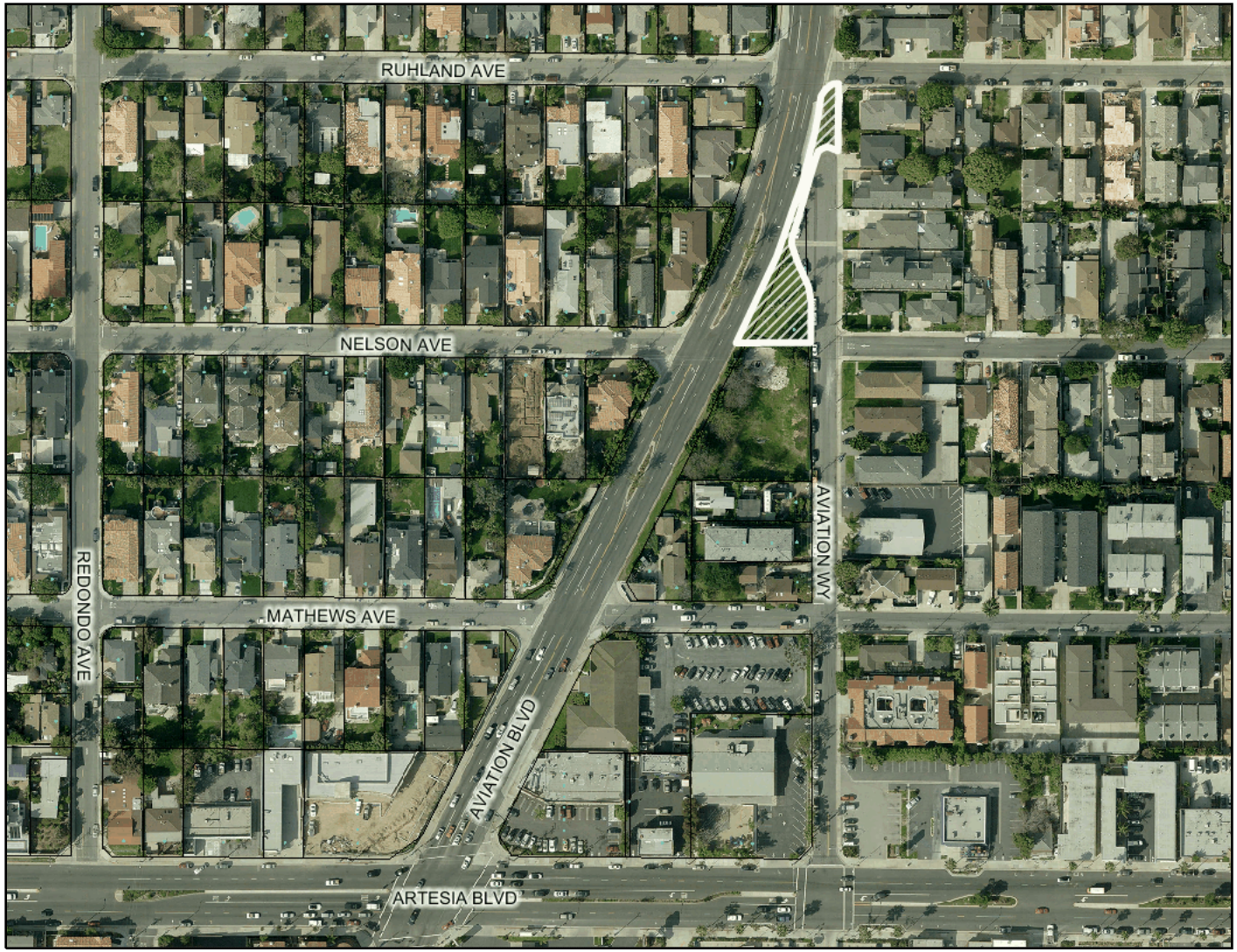
Ayes:
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:

_____
Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach, California

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk

West Basin Median Grant - Project Site Map



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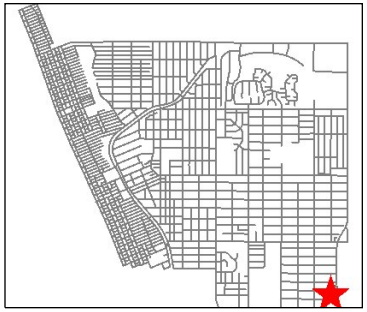


Legend

- Addresses
- Parcels
- 2008 4in color Basemap
- BEACH
- BLOCK
- DEADEND
- PARK
- PIER
- PRIVATE STREET
- SCHOOL
- STREET
- WALK STREET

N

Scale: 1:2,507

This map is a user-generated static output from the "MB GIS Info" Intranet mapping site and is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

Notes: Located just north of the City's sump pump on Aviation Blvd, between Nelson Ave and Ruhland Ave.

Photos of Current Site

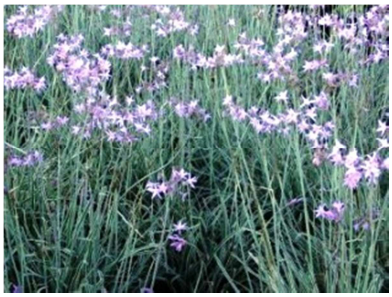
ATTACHMENT # 4: Sample Selection from Plant Palette

Drought-Tolerant & Native Plants:

*Note: plant selection will be dependent upon final design. Current concept includes 20 varieties of drought-tolerant and native plants.

Acorus: Grasslike, evergreen plant that is perennial with inconspicuous flowers. The parallel-veined leaves of some species contain ethereal oils that give a sweet scent when dried and have been used both for the scent and for presumed efficacy against pests.

Tulbaghia Variegata: This variegated perennial has a natural clumping habit and boasts attractive silvery grey foliage delicately bordered with cream. Clusters of lilac-pink flowers on slender stems compliment the subtle variegation of the strap like leaves. 'Silver Lace' creates gentle contrast within the garden and performs as an accent plant amongst darker foliaged plants.



Rhaphiolepis Ballerina:

The compact Indian hawthorn 'Ballerina' produces clusters of small, star-like, dark pink flowers in spring and summer. It has a dense rounded habit and dark green leaves that turn a bronzy red hue in winter. This plant is attractive to butterflies and birds and is very drought tolerant.

Pink Stripe Phormium:

Phormium 'Pink Stripe' is an evergreen perennial. Big, dramatic plant composed of many swordlike, stiffly vertical leaves in a fan pattern. Flowers stems reach high above leaves, bearing clusters of 1-2 in. blossoms ranging from red to yellow, which are attractive to hummingbirds.