

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Meg Williamson, Assistant City Manager
SUBJECT: Stewardship Council Collaboration Grant – Partnership Support of Application
DATE: March 4, 2008

Needs: For the City Council to partner with the Paso Robles School District, the Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) in filing a Grant Application for enhancement of educational opportunities related to restoration and conservation.

Facts & Background:

1. The City has previously partnered successfully with the Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (RCD) on both the Salinas River Parkway Trail Project and the Salinas River Parkway Acquisition and Restoration Grant.
2. The RCD recently approached the City with a proposal to partner with them again, along with Liberty High School and the Resource Conservation & Development Council, to pursue a private grant from the Stewardship Council.
3. The Stewardship Council is a private non-profit foundation whose mission is to foster conservation and preservation of environmental and cultural resources. The Stewardship Council has provided over \$30 million in funding to programs that provide outdoor opportunities for underserved youth and the enhancement of parks and recreation areas.
4. The grant category proposed to be pursued is a “Collaboration Grant” where the key qualifying component is to have a multi-organizational team working towards resolution of common concerns.
5. The purpose of the grant would be to create an educational curriculum oriented towards outdoor interactive recreation and learning, while accomplishing riparian restoration work in the process. (See attached memo from the RCD dated February 26, 2008 for full description).
6. The RCD would be the lead in making application for and administering the grant if it were successfully awarded. The City would not be the grant recipient or grant administrator.
7. The City’s partnership role in this grant would be to: a) provide the property locations on which outdoor teaching and restoration projects could occur; b) provide staff resources to assist in scope development; c) provide learning venue opportunities with the Planning Commission and/or City Council (for mock planning review, etc with Liberty High students); and, d) allow for public outreach and project reporting presentations to city committees, commissions and/or council.

8. The public property targeted for the grant activities would be the vicinity of Larry Moore Park and the blue line creek (Turtle Creek) outlet located north of Niblick Road. These are the same areas where the City has been working with the RCD on the parkway trail construction and storm channel restoration projects.

Analysis
and

Conclusion: This grant partnership opportunity is consistent with City General Plan and Economic Strategy goals for resource conservation, education enhancement and development of relationships that foster those goals. The focus of the grant also presents community opportunities consistent with General Plan policies on recreation/conservation, the preliminary River Corridor Plan vision, Storm Water Management Plan and the City's Integrated Water Resources Plan.

Policy

Reference: General Plan; Economic Strategy; Salinas River Vision Plan.

Fiscal Impact: The City's participation in this grant is in the use of public property as a site for outdoor educational activities. The City will also be providing "in-kind" staff time to implement portions the project scope. No significant fiscal impacts are identified.

- Options:
- a) For the City Council to adopt the attached resolution 08-XXX supporting partnership in this Stewardship Council Grant application, and authorizing the mayor to sign a letter indicating Council support of the grant application;
 - b) Amend, modify, or reject the forgoing options.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 08-XXX supporting partnership on Stewardship Council grant application
2. February 26, 2008 memo from RCD explaining Grant Project
3. Information on Stewardship Council

RESOLUTION NO. 08-XXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIP IN THE FILING OF A COLLABORATIVE GRANT
APPLICATION WITH THE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL FOR ENHANCEMENT OF OUTDOOR
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

WHEREAS, the City has previously partnered successfully with the Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (RCD) on both the Salinas River Parkway Trail Project and the Salinas River Parkway Acquisition and Restoration Grant; and

WHEREAS, the RCD recently approached the City with a proposal to partner with them again, along with Liberty High School and the Resource Conservation & Development Council, to pursue a private grant from the Stewardship Council; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the grant would be to create an educational curriculum oriented towards outdoor interactive recreation and learning, while accomplishing riparian restoration work in the process; and

WHEREAS, the RCD would be the lead in making application for and administering the grant if it were successfully awarded; and

WHEREAS, the City's partnership role in this grant would be to: a) provide the property locations on which outdoor teaching and restoration projects could occur; b) provide staff resources to assist in scope development; c) provide learning venue opportunities with the Planning Commission and/or City Council (for mock planning review, etc with Liberty High students); and, d) allow for public outreach and project reporting presentations to city committees, commissions and/or council; and

WHEREAS, this grant partnership opportunity is consistent with City General Plan and Economic Strategy goals for resource conservation, education enhancement and development of relationships that foster those goals.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles, to support partnership in this Stewardship Council Grant application and authorize the mayor to sign a letter indicating Council support of the grant application.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 4th day of March 2008 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Frank R. Mecham, Mayor

ATTEST:

Deborah Robinson, Deputy City Clerk



DATE: February 26, 2008
TO: Meg Williamson
FROM: DJ Funk
RE: Proposal for Collaboration grant to the Stewardship Council
Draft Proposal for Liberty High School Learning Opportunity.

February 21, 2008

Hi Meg,

Following is a brief summary of the proposal that our group discussed last week. We referred to the group as: High/RCD/City/RC&D GreenWorks Partner Group. This is a preliminary name until we decide on a more permanent description. The enthusiasm of the participants at both the first and second meetings was great! Attendees at the first and second meetings were: Bob Bourgault (Liberty HS), John Semenick (Liberty HS), Meg Williamson (City), Charles Lorenzen (City), Shayna Gonzales (RCD), DJ Funk (RCD), Chuck Pritchard (RCD), Gidi Pullen (RCD), Jeff Rodriguez (RC&D), and Bill Brooks (RC&D).

The grant guidelines state that the project needs to be:

- Innovative and creative in their approach
- Require collaboration of several organizations
- Result in significant local or regional impact
- Bring together multiple sectors within the broader youth development field for a more cohesive and well-rounded approach to outdoor recreation and educational opportunities
- Provide an opportunity for many organizations to work together on issues of common concern

From an RCD perspective, we think that our biggest unmet need is the education of the public regarding the importance of the conservation of our resources: soil, water, plants and wildlife. This project would be an excellent tool in educating youth by getting them involved in the process of review, design, construction, monitoring and maintenance.

Project Team: Liberty HS Students, instructors, administration
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District
City of Paso Robles
Central Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council

Suggestions: Also contact with Native American groups and Department of Fish and Game

General Project Description: Student project to create an outdoor interactive recreation and learning center along and near Liberty Creek and to restore riparian vegetation along this and other local creeks and rivers in Paso Robles. This will be a “learn by doing” approach for the students; creating a real life experience in the preparation, processing, constructing, monitoring, maintaining, and setting into motion future similar projects for this High School and others around California. The facilities would be used by other school children in a manner similar to Rancho El Chorro (an outdoor educational facility located near Morro Bay). The project will align with California Technical Education Standards (CTE).

Primary Physical Elements of the Project:

1. Restoration of riparian corridors along Liberty and Turtle Creeks as well as small sections along the Salinas River. This will include native riparian plants, willow cuttings, mulch, gopher baskets, drip irrigation system and irrigation controllers. All work would be conducted by students. Guidance for installation will be provided by the RCD designers, erosion control specialist and biologist.
2. Construction of multi-use trails along Liberty Creek
3. Construction of a platform and seating for small outdoor educational amphitheater
4. Construction of one or more traditional Native American homes typical of those historically used in the Salinas River area
5. Native Plant propagation Greenhouse
6. Outdoor watershed model
7. Interpretive signs
8. Outdoor demonstration garden

Suggested Phases of the Program:

1. Project Site Surveys, topographic maps (RCD can provide the base contour maps); plant survey; others as needed for preparation of a rough constraints map. As part of this phase, the RCD would explain the relevance to planning (i.e. zoning) and environmental laws.
2. Determination of Final Scope of Project (collaboration of Students, instructors, RCD staff, City, RC&D Council, etc.)
3. Preparation of Project Plans. RCD staff would instruct students on drafting techniques, including a brief introduction to the use of computer aided design programs (CAD).
4. Mock planning review (City and RCD to provide a mock hearing review of the student proposal)
5. Scheduling and purchasing materials and tools for construction and planting
6. Construction and Planting of first phase of the project (phases to be determined by team, including students)
7. Monitoring and maintenance of the project
8. Determining a game plan to accomplish future phases
9. Outreach to show the community of the success of the project (include presentation to City Council and County Board of Supervisors)
10. Outreach to show schools and communities around California of ways to incorporate what is learned from the Liberty HS experience

Costs suggested to be covered by the grant:

Staff time working with students on the Program

Printing costs for plans (plans to be prepared by the students with guidance from Liberty HS instructors and RCD staff)

Materials costs: plants, gopher baskets, mulch, irrigation lines and controllers, building materials, decomposed granite, construction tools, etc.

Match:

Student volunteer labor

RCD owned equipment, survey equipment, tools, computer programs (CAD drafting)

Use of City areas for riparian restoration

\$1,500 donation from RC&D Council

Mulch from City



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Mission and Core Values

Mission Statement

The Stewardship Council protects and enhances watershed lands and uses, and invests in efforts to improve the lives of young Californians through connections with the outdoors.

Core Values

Collaboration

We value diversity and believe that greater outcomes are achieved by working together towards cooperative solutions. We strive for and nurture productive relationships with a diversity of communities and stakeholders, and will build alliances and encourage partnerships with people and organizations across the California landscape. We value the input of the public as part of our collaborative effort and will encourage community dialogue as part of our work.

Stewardship

We exist to protect and enhance the beneficial values and uses of the watershed lands and to improve the lives of young Californians through connections to the outdoors. We are bound individually and collectively by the obligation to be good stewards for both land conservation and youth investments, and we will ensure that every action we take and commitment we make clearly serves this purpose.

Discovery

We will encourage and welcome an atmosphere of learning, discovery, and innovation. We will be flexible and demand a culture that focuses

on how something can be accomplished, rather than focusing on why it cannot. We will seek collaborative and innovative solutions to conventional challenges, and we will not shy away from untested approaches we believe offer promising solutions.

Sustainability

We will make sustainable contributions to California, and provide a legacy of land conservation and youth enrichment that will live beyond the Stewardship Council. Our actions and decision-making will include a clear recognition of long-term stewardship to ensure the benefits of our work are shared by Californians for generations to come.

Leadership

We will strive to be leaders in the California and national environmental and philanthropic communities, and contribute to the further development and education of ourselves and others. We personally commit to and will hold one another accountable to conduct our work in a thoughtful, creative, and comprehensive manner. We will be sincere, honest, non-discriminatory, and forthcoming in all of our actions, and practice the highest standards of professional integrity in all our work.

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