



**Council Meeting: November 19, 2013**

**SUBJECT: Approval of a Resolution Supporting the City's Application for a Safe, Clean Water Grant from the Santa Clara Valley Water District in the amount of \$37,500.**

**BACKGROUND**

In 2009, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a regional permit to cities throughout the Bay Area to regulate discharges from municipal storm systems. That permit identifies trash as a pollutant of concern in stormwater discharge and requires that the City undertake significant actions to reduce trash from storm sewer systems, including:

- Identifying and annually cleaning five trash in-stream "hot-spots";
- Developing and implementing short-term and long-term trash reduction plans to reduce trash loads entering waterways from the municipal storm sewers by 40% in 2014, 70% by 2017 and 100% by 2022; and
- Retrofitting at least 164 acres (equivalent to 30% of the retail/wholesale land use area) with Board-approved "full capture" devices that allow litter to be collected and removed from the storm drain collection system.

As part of the Safe Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program special tax approved by voters in November 2012, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Water District) is offering a series of grant opportunities to partner with the community and extend their watershed stewardship mission. As part of the first cycle of grants, the Water District is offering approximately \$2 million in two grant cycles, including up to \$200,000 for projects that "Support Volunteer Cleanup Efforts and Education." Applications for this grant cycle are due by November 22, 2013. The Water District requires applicants to provide a resolution approved by their governing bodies (Council) authorizing the grant application. This draft resolution in Attachment A to this Report follows the template required by the Water District for the authorizing resolution.

The Environmental Services Department (ESD) is seeking Council approval by Resolution (Attachment A) to submit an application on the City's behalf for a Safe, Clean Water Grant from the Water District in the amount of \$37,500.

## **EXISTING POLICY**

**General Plan Policy EM-8.3-** Ensure that stormwater control measures and best management practices (BMPs) are implemented to reduce the discharge of pollutants in storm water to the maximum extent practicable.

### **Council Policy 7.1.5 - Donations, Contributions and Sponsorships:**

The City Manager may apply for grants of any dollar amount, but shall notify the Council when grants are being pursued. Council approval of a budget modification to appropriate grant monies is required before funds can be expended by staff. Such a budget modification shall include the use to which the grant would be placed; the objectives or goals of the City which will be achieved through use of the grant; the local match required, if any, plus the source of the local match; any increased cost to be locally funded upon termination of the grant; and the ability of the City to administer the grant.

## **DISCUSSION**

Litter on our streets and in our community can be washed through the City's storm sewer system or blown into local creeks and waterways, where it degrades water quality and is harmful to wildlife. This trash can flow into the San Francisco Bay and out to the Pacific Ocean. Research shows that the amount of plastic debris floating in our oceans is increasing and impacting marine wildlife. Furthermore, research shows that a large proportion of marine debris emanates from land-based sources. While there are many contributors to the litter in our community, litter is commonly found around schools and play fields. Studies show that youth, ages 16-24, have higher littering tendencies.

If awarded the grant, ESD would use the funds to work with two high schools and two middle schools to engage their service or environmental clubs to establish school wide "GreenTeams" that would conduct regular litter cleanups on and around their campus, characterize the type and sources of litter collected, and develop and implement a recycling program and an anti-littering campaign on campus including a video documentary about their efforts. The total project cost is estimated at \$50,000. The City is requesting a grant in the amount of \$37,500. The program requires a 25% local match, which equates to \$12,500. The local match would be provided in the form of in-kind staffing from ESD.

Specifically, the grant funds would be used to provide supplies and materials for the schools, an incentive program to maintain student participation, and City staffing to support the schools throughout the project term. Early feedback from Homestead High School, Fremont High School, and Sunnyvale Middle School is very supportive and these schools are very interested in participating in the project. This project engages the students, a group that is known for littering behavior, to reduce litter and supports our efforts to reduce trash

entering our waterways and the Bay as required by the Stormwater Permit. This project strives to have the students adopt lifelong appreciation for their environment and community, and instill in them an environmental stewardship ethic while promoting pride in their school and their community.

This grant project would contribute to the City's efforts to reduce trash entering our local waterways and support compliance with the Stormwater Permit requirements.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The proposed action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15308 (actions to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment).

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Applying for the Safe, Clean Water Grant will not impact the City's General Fund. If awarded, administration of the grant and the required local match can be provided with current staff in the Environmental Services Department. A portion of the grant funds would be used to augment existing staffing possibly via student interns or part-time staff hours.

### **Required Local Match**

\$12,500 local match will be provided via in-kind staffing to administer and implement the grant from the Wastewater Management Fund.

### **Increased Cost To City Upon Grant Termination**

None.

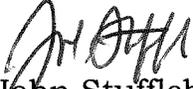
### **PUBLIC CONTACT**

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, at the Sunnyvale Senior Center, Community Center, and Department of Public Safety; and by making the agenda and report available at the Sunnyvale Public Library, the Office of the City Clerk, and on the City's Web site.

**RECOMMENDATION**

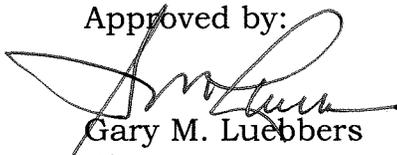
Staff recommends that Council approve the attached Resolution (Attachment A) and authorize staff to apply for a Safe, Clean Water Grant for \$37,500. If awarded, the grant provides a unique opportunity for ESD to work closely with schools to reduce litter on and around the school campuses, improving community aesthetics and protecting water quality and wildlife.

Reviewed by:



John Stuffelbean, Director, Environmental Services Department  
Prepared by: Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager

Approved by:



Gary M. Luebbers  
City Manager

**Attachments**

A) Draft Resolution Supporting Grant Application for Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program of 2012

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE SUPPORTING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS UNDER THE SAFE, CLEAN WATER AND NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM OF 2012**

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Valley Water District has enacted the 2014 Safe Clean Water Priority B Grant Program, which provides funds for environmental enhancements and restoration, pollution prevention and public access to trails and open space; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Stream Stewardship Unit has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the grant program, setting up necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Santa Clara Valley Water District require Grantee's Governing Body to certify by resolution the approval of Grantee to apply for and accept grant program funds;

WHEREAS, the City of Sunnyvale is eligible to apply for and receive grant funds from the Santa Clara Valley Water District; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sunnyvale will enter into an Agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to receive grant funds if awarded;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE HEREBY:

1. Approves the submission of an Application for local assistance funds from the Priority B Grant Program under the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program of 2012;
2. Approves the acceptance of grant funds from the Priority B Grant Program under the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program of 2012, upon approval of grant funding for the Project by the District's Board of Directors;
3. Certifies that the Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the Project(s);
4. Certifies that the Applicant will review and agree to the Special Provisions, General Provisions and Financial Provisions contained in the Agreement; and
5. Appoints the City Manager, or his or her 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 Grant Project.

Adopted by the City Council at a regular meeting held on November 19, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk  
(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joan A. Borger, City Attorney