



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE

April 23, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

# ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

40 April 23, 2024

JEFF LEVINSON  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**TRANSPORTATION CORE SERVICE AREA  
ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION OF GRANT FUNDING FOR  
EARLY ACTION IMPLEMENTATION FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN  
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 1, 2, 4, AND 5)  
(3 VOTES)**

### **SUBJECT**

Public Works is seeking Board approval to accept grant funds from the United States Department of Agriculture's Urban and Community Forestry Program and to delegate authority to the Director of Public Works to execute grant documents for the Early Action Implementation for Los Angeles County Urban Forest Management Plan. This Plan will address the urban tree canopy deficit within disadvantaged communities in the unincorporated County of Los Angeles.

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find that the proposed actions set forth in this Board letter are not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this Board letter and the record.
2. Authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to accept grant funds up to \$8 million from the United States Department of Agriculture's Urban and Community Forestry Program for the Early Action Implementation for Los Angeles County Urban Forest Management Plan; to file and execute any necessary applications, contracts, certifications and assurances, agreements, reports, and amendments including extensions of time to complete the project or program, minor changes in project scope, and alterations in the grant amount, or any other required documents with the United States Department of Agriculture on behalf of the County related to the grant; and to sign and submit requests for payment from the United States Department of Agriculture.

## **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will find that they are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and allow Public Works to accept grant funds from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program to fund planning efforts to address the urban tree canopy deficit within disadvantaged communities in the unincorporated County of Los Angeles. This action also authorizes the Director of Public Works or his designee to execute all agreements, amendments, reports, and payment requests for grants awarded by the USDA.

In June 2023, Los Angeles County applied for USDA grant funding. On September 14, 2023, the County was notified that it would be awarded a grant of \$8 million for the Early Action Implementation for Los Angeles County Urban Forest Management Plan. The Plan will allow the County assess areas of low canopy coverage, plant diverse tree species, and create workforce development opportunities and engagement for the continued maintenance and monitoring of new and existing trees.

The core deliverables of community engagement, workforce development, and tree planting will be a collaborative effort between the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity, Department of Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and the Chief Sustainability Office.

Public Works will return to the Board as necessary for applicable project approvals pertaining to the project, including for authorization to advertise and award any additional contracts related to the project.

## **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

These recommendations support the County Strategic Plan: Strategy II.2, Support the Wellness of Our Communities, and Objective II.2.4, Promote Active and Healthy Lifestyles. These recommendations contribute to this goal by investing in public infrastructure and programs to enhance tree canopy and improve human health.

Additionally, the Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provisions of Strategy II.3, Make Environmental Sustainability Our Daily Reality; and Strategy III.3, Pursue Operational Effectiveness, Fiscal Responsibility, and Accountability. These actions will allow use of grant funds to augment the County's existing financial resources to fund programs and projects that protect the environment and improve the quality of life for its residents. The recommended actions are in line with the OurCounty Sustainability Plan Goal 12: A commitment to realize OurCounty sustainability goals through creative, equitable, and coordinated funding and partnerships. The recommended actions also support the County's Equity Motion to provide infrastructure improvements and education to disadvantaged communities.

## **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The estimated total project cost is \$8,000,000. UCF funds will be used to reimburse 100 percent of the total project cost up to \$8,000,000. Funding for the County's initial expenditures of \$100,000 is

included in the Road Fund (B03 – Services and Supplies) Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget. Funding for the future years will be requested through the annual budget process. Public Works will return to the Board for approval to advertise and award the contract for this project.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Plan will address the urban tree canopy deficit within disadvantaged communities in the unincorporated County of Los Angeles by assessing areas of low canopy coverage, planting diverse tree species, and creating workforce development opportunities for the continued maintenance and monitoring of new and existing trees.

On July 11, 2000, the Board approved guidelines for the acceptance of State and Federal grants of \$100 thousand or more. These guidelines include a requirement that County departments prepare a Grant Management Statement for the Board's review prior to the departments carrying out the activities covered under the grant. Accordingly, the Grant Management Statement for the Early Action Implementation for Los Angeles County Urban Forest Management is enclosed.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The recommended actions are not subject to CEQA because they are activities that are excluded from the definition of a project by Section 21065 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15378 (b) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed action would create a government funding mechanism that does not commit the County to any specific project or course of action that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. Public Works will return to your Board for project approval, including any CEQA approval and findings, and for authorization to advertise and award any additional contracts related to these projects

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The Plan will address the urban tree canopy deficit within disadvantaged communities in the unincorporated County of Los Angeles by assessing areas of low canopy coverage, planting diverse tree species, and creating workforce development opportunities for the continued maintenance and monitoring of new and existing trees.

Additionally, this action will result in augmenting the County's existing financial resources and will reimburse the County for a portion of the cost to provide planning efforts.

### **CONCLUSION**

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Road Maintenance Division.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

4/23/2024

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Pestrella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Pestrella" clearly distinguishable.

MARK PESTRELLA, PE

Director

MP:AGM:dg

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office (Chia-Ann Yen)  
County Counsel (Laura Jacobson)  
Executive Office

**Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office**  
**Grant Management Statement for Grants \$100,000 or More**

**Department:** Public Works

**Grant Project Title and Description**

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program,  
Inflation Reduction Act

**Funding Agency**

USDA

**Program (Fed. Grant #/State Bill or Code #)**

SDA-FS-2023-UCF-IRA-01

**Grant Acceptance Deadline**

4/23/24

**Total Amount of Grant Funding:** \$8,000,000

**County Match:** \$0

**Grant Period:**

**Begin Date:**

**End Date:**

**Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:**

**Full Time:** 0

**Part Time:** 0

**Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires**

Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program?

Yes \_\_\_ No X \_\_\_

Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items?

Yes \_\_\_ No X \_\_\_

Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires?

Yes \_\_\_ No X \_\_\_

If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:

a.) Absorb the program cost without reducing other services

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

b.) Identify other revenue sources (describe below)

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

c.) Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant.

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Impact of additional personnel on existing space:**

No impact.

**Other requirements not mentioned above:**

N/A

Department Head Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 4/18/24