

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

JEFF LEVINSON
INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS

HOLLY J. MITCHELL

LINDSEY P. HORVATH

JANICE HAHN

KATHRYN BARGER

May 21, 2024

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

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

34 May 21, 2024


JEFF LEVINSON
INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM AWARD TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN (ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)

SUBJECT

Adopt a resolution, as required by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) California Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant (Grant Program), to authorize the submittal of an application for grant funding to support the creation of a roadmap for a region-serving, sustainably funded, tree giveaway program for Los Angeles County (County) residents, which will include free trees as well as the provision of additional services including tree planting, tree maintenance, community engagement and education, and workforce development opportunities. The project will also include an early action "Cool Routes to School" tree planting project. This grant funded project will support the implementation of the draft LA County Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP).

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Adopt the attached resolution: 1) Approving the submittal of an application for grant funds of up to \$3,000,000 to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) California Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant (Grant Program) to support the development of a roadmap for a region-serving, sustainably funded tree giveaway program for County residents and an early-action "Cool Routes to School" tree planting project; 2) certifying that County funds are available to begin the project; 3) certifying that the County will expend the grant funds prior to March 31, 2028, and 4) authorizing the CSO, or her designee, to conduct negotiations, execute, and submit

all documents, including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests necessary for the completion of the project.

2. Delegate authority to the Executive Officer of the Board, or designee, to enter into any contracts and agreements, necessary to support the CSO's work in carrying out this grant if it is awarded up to the grant amount of \$3,000,000.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Officer of the Board, or their designee, to negotiate and execute grant-related amendments to contracts and agreements for 1) non-material, technical, and administrative changes to the contract; 2) changes to the scope of work, specifically those deliverables which are needed to support the CSO in carrying out the work of the grant proposal; 3) extending the contract term above for up to two (2) additional one (1) year option periods and one (1) six month period, for a total maximum term of 3 years, 6 months; 4) terminating the contract for convenience when such action is deemed to be in the County's best interest; and/or 5) revising the terms and conditions to align with Board policy changes and directives, with approval as to form by County Counsel.
4. Delegate authority to the Executive Officer of the Board, or designee, to authorize non-material changes to the contract, pursuant to a change notice, for general County updates.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

One of the first priorities in the OurCounty Sustainability Plan was Action 43, the creation of an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the County. In response, County Departments pursued, and were awarded, \$1,500,000 in grant funding from CALFIRE in 2020 to create an LA County UFMP. The draft UFMP, called "Room to Grow: A Community Forest Management Plan," or CFMP, was released for public comment on April 8, 2024. Following public comment, the CFMP will be finalized and recommended for adoption by the Board in summer or fall 2024.

The draft CFMP outlines ambitious goals and targets for tree management across the County, and highlights how the County can lead by example with the public trees it manages, including park trees and street trees. However, while public trees are a critical part of the community forest, opportunities to plant and maintain trees on public property are inherently limited. As the CFMP details, more than 60 percent of the trees in our community forest are located on private property.

During stakeholder engagement for the CFMP, which was a joint process with the City of Los Angeles (City) to support their own UFMP, residents reported many challenges to planting and maintaining trees on private property. These included informational challenges, such as knowing what kind of tree to plant and how to plant it; access challenges, such as having the physical ability to plant a tree or being allowed to plant a tree as a renter; and financial challenges, including the costs of not only planting and watering but also maintaining mature trees, and infrastructure costs that can result from improperly planted or sited trees. Further, residents reported that they felt confused by the various municipalities, programs, and agencies that all manage and impact tree care on private property. Residents expressed a desire for a centralized tree resource hub to serve as an informational, and even financial, resource for tree planting and management regionwide. In response to these emerging themes, the draft CFMP includes several action items related to tree care on private property. Action 1.2, "Explore and pilot programs for assisting residents with the costs and maintenance of trees," contains a short-term action item to pilot a program to provide free trees to unincorporated County residents, along with information on how to plant and care for them. It also contains a longer-term action item to explore opportunities to fund residential tree care,

including not only planting and watering but also maintenance, necessary removals, and infrastructure conflicts. It further includes a long-term item to establish a permanent program to provide free trees to residents all across the County. Further, Action 2.4, “establish a regional framework to support trees across jurisdictions” includes short-term action items to align regional actors around resource, communication, advocacy, and technical assistance needs.

The County region is already home to an exemplary model for providing tree resources to private property – the City of LA City Plants program. City Plants provides free street trees and private property residential trees to all residents of the City, along with associated communication, education, and engagement materials. However, City Plants has two important limitations. It exclusively serves residents of City of LA, who represent less than half of all residents of the County. And, it currently provides only tree planting and associated services – it does not provide other services identified as key needs by residents, such as tree inspection, mature tree maintenance, and hazardous tree removal.

The proposed grant application will explore opportunities to leverage the existing City Plants program, expanding its capacity to serve as a regionwide resource for tree planting and tree maintenance needs, especially for communities across the County with the highest need for such services. This project would allow the County, the City, other local cities, and relevant partners in the region to work with City Plants to create a roadmap for a region-serving, sustainably funded City Plants program that could help preserve and expand our community forest canopy on private property all across the region, with a focus on the most underserved and hard-to-reach locations. The project will also include an early action tree planting program that will pilot the potential impact of this program in a high need area through a “Cool Route to School,” providing shading and cooling through a combination of street tree and private property residential tree plantings.

The CALFIRE Grant Program requires that the governing board of an applicant adopt a resolution approving the filing of a grant application. The resolution further certifies that County funds are available to front-fund the project and designates the Executive Office as an agent of the Board to conduct negotiations and execute and submit any documents necessary to complete the proposed project.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action helps effectuate the County’s Strategic Plan North Star 2, “Foster vibrant and resilient communities,” which includes sustainability and a focus on environmental justice. The recommended action is also consistent with North Star 1, “Make investments that transform lives,” which includes promoting healthy individuals and families, and North Star 2, “realize tomorrow’s government today,” which includes equity-centered policies and practices to institutionalize the use of an equity lens in County policies and practices.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund. The requested actions will allow CSO to apply for grant funds in the amount of \$3,000,000 with work to be completed by March 31, 2028. The Grant Program does not require a funding match.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The CALFIRE Grant Program requires the governing board of an applicant to adopt a resolution approving the filing of a grant application. Adopting this resolution will satisfy this requirement to complete the County’s application for a CALFIRE Grant in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Adoption of this resolution, and the acceptance of grant funds will support the implementation of the OurCounty Plan and the draft CFMP, and it will result in a more equitable community forest to support the health, wellness, and resilience of County residents.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Sustainability Office.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Levinson

Interim Executive Officer

JF:RK:RF

Enclosures

RESOLUTION

NOTE: DO NOT CHANGE THE FORMAT OR VERBIAGE IN THIS RESOLUTION FORMAT WITHOUT WRITTEN APPROVAL OF CAL FIRE STAFF.

Resolution No.: 79543

RESOLUTION OF THE _____ Board of Supervisors _____ OF Los Angeles County
(Title of Governing Body) (City/County/District/nonprofit)

FOR FUNDING FROM THE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION.

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California in cooperation with the State Legislature has appropriated General Funds for the state's urban forestry programs; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary procedures governing application by local agencies and non-profit organizations under the program, and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter an agreement with the State of California to carry out an urban forestry project;

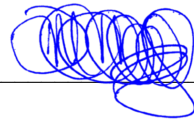
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors _____:
(Title of Governing Body)

1. Approved the filing of an application for the Urban and Community Forestry grant program funds; and
2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and,
3. Certifies that funds under the jurisdiction of _____ Board of Supervisors _____ are available to begin the project.
(Title of Governing Body)
4. Certifies that said applicant will expend grant funds prior to March 31, 2028.
5. Appoints CSO, or a designee, as agent of the Board of Supervisors _____ to conduct negotiations,
(Position Title) (Title of Governing Body)
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 afore mentioned project.

Approved and adopted the 21 day of May, 2024.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution, number 79543, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote of the _____ Board of Supervisors _____.
(City Council/Board of Supervisor/Board of Directors)

Ayes: 5 Noes: None Absent: None



(Clerk signature)

I hereby certify that pursuant to Section 25103 of the Government Code, Delivery of this document has been made.

JEFF LEVINSON
Interim Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors