



Council Agenda Report

From: Jonathan Stornetta, Fire Chief

Subject: Approval of the Application for California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grant Program

CEQA Determination: The City find that this action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (b)(2)-(3), 15378.

Date: February 21, 2023

Facts

1. The Governor of the State of California, in cooperation with the California State Legislature, has enacted the State of California Climate Investment, which provides funding for fire prevention programs.
2. The State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program, setting up necessary procedures governing application by local agencies, non-profit organizations, and others under the program.
3. As part of the grant agreement, the city must enter into an agreement with the State of California to purchase equipment, not to exceed \$750,000, which will be utilized for the Salinas River Vegetation Management Program.
4. Because the Fire Department is seeking grant funding in the area of vegetation management equipment for hazardous fuels reduction projects, prior approval by the City Council is required.

Options

1. Take no action; or
2. Approve the filing of an application for California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants Program; or
3. Search for alternative funding sources to purchase the equipment; or
4. Provide alternative direction to staff.

Analysis and Conclusions

Due to the January Storms, the City's established firebreaks within the Salinas River have been impacted and significant amounts of debris need to be treated. Approval to file an application for California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants Program would make funds available to purchase equipment needed for debris cleanup and the continued vegetation management within the Salinas River.

If application is approved by Cal Fire, staff is seeking to purchase a remote-controlled tracked chipper with trailer, a side-by-side with pull behind mower, chainsaws, and a drone with surveying and mapping capabilities at no cost to the city. The tracked chipper and pull behind mower can be utilized for future projects in the city. The chainsaws, side-by-side and drone have been identified as equipment needed to replace or improve existing programs within the department.

The California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants Program requires approval through resolution, prior to application with CAL FIRE.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to filing the grant application. Should the City be successful in receiving this grant, the City could receive equipment of up to \$750,000 (no matching requirement) to be used towards debris cleanup and the continued vegetation management within the Salinas River.

CEQA Determination

The City find that this action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (b)(2)-(3), 15378.

Recommendation (Option 2)

Approve the filing of an application for California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants Program.

Attachments

1. Resolution 23-XXX