



Town Council Agenda Report

Date: January 14, 2020 Item No. 13

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council

Subject: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION GRANT PROGRAMS

From: Douglas Robertson, Town Manager

Submitted by: Julie Ryan, Special Projects Manager
Town Manager's Office

Budgeted Item: Yes No N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Town Council adopt Resolution No. 2020-01 and Resolution No. 2020-02 approving and authorizing (1) the submittal of applications for grant funds from the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the Apple Valley Legacy Trail; (2) authorize the Town Manager to submit grant application; and (3) authorize the Town Manager to execute all matters pertaining to assurances and agreements as required by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department).

BACKGROUND

Over the past several years, the Apple Valley Legacy Trail (AVLT) Committee, an affiliate group of the High Desert Community Foundation (a registered 501c3 non-profit), has worked as part of a large grassroots effort to develop a natural heritage trail system plan for the 20.75 acre parcel containing the historic Hilltop House ruins. The Town acquired this 20.75-acre parcel and the historical Hilltop House in a first phase of the project in 2016 with the vision of creating the entire AVLT. Due to land at the base of the Legacy Trail being privately owned, the Town also submitted a grant application in October 2019 to purchase the property. No awards have been announced to date.

The goal of the AVLT effort is to reclaim the blighted and vandalized property that was once the pride of Apple Valley and revitalize it into a spectacular multi-use destination, bringing the community together at the location of the Town's most recognizable and celebrated landmark.

ANALYSIS

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a state-administered local assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Within the State of California, the Department of Parks and Recreation is authorized to administer the program. The RTP provides funds to the States to develop and maintain Recreational Trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized Recreational Trail uses.

Grant funds are available to cities, counties, Districts, state agencies, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands on a competitive basis. Eligible projects for non-motorized projects consist of the following:

- Acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for Recreational Trails or Recreational Trail corridors;
- Development and Rehabilitation of trails, Trailside and Trailhead Facilities; and
- Construction of new trails.

The RTP Match amount is based on the cost of the total RTP Project. The maximum amount of RTP funds allowed for each Project is 88%. The Applicant is responsible for providing a Match amount that is a minimum of 12%.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is administered by the National Park Service at the federal level. Funds allocated to California are administered by the Department under the provisions of the California Outdoor Recreation Resources Plan Act of 1967. Grant funds are available to cities, counties, tribes, Joint Power Authorities, and non-state agency recreation and park districts. Eligible projects consist of either acquisition or development with a match requirement of no less than 50% of the total project cost.

As a requirement for grant application submittal, both the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund program require resolutions be adopted by the agency's governing body (see attachments "A" and "B" respectively).

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact for submittal of the applications.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Resolution No. 2020-01
- B. Resolution No. 2020-02

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (Fast-Act),” provides funds to the State of California for Grants to federal, state, local and non-profit organizations to acquire, develop and/or maintain motorized and non-motorized trail Projects; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary procedures governing Project Application under the program; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of Application(s) before submission of said Application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant will enter into a Contract with the State of California to complete the Project(s);

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Approves the filing of an Application for the Recreational Trails Program; and

Section 2: Certifies that the Project is consistent with the Applicant’s general plan or the equivalent planning document; and

Section 3: Certifies that said Applicant has or will have available prior to commencement of any work on the Project(s) included in this Application, sufficient funds to operate and maintain the Project(s); and

Section 4: Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the Contract shown in the Procedural Guide; and

Section 5: Appoints the Town Manager, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, 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 Project.

Section 6: Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

Section 7: That the Town Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley this 14th day of January 2020.

Scott Nassif, Mayor

ATTEST:

LaVonda M-Pearson, Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND FOR THE APPLE VALLEY LEGACY TRAIL PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Congress under Public Law 88-578 has authorized the establishment of a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant-In-Aid program, providing Matching funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for acquiring lands and developing Facilities for public outdoor recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for administration of the program in the State, setting up necessary rules and procedures governing Applications by local agencies under the program; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant certifies by resolution the approval of the Application and the availability of eligible Matching funds prior to submission of the Application to the State.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Approves the filing of an Application for Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance for the proposed Apple Valley Legacy Trail Project; and

Section 2: Agrees to abide by Section 6(f)(3) of Public Law 88-578 which states "No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the National Secretary of the Interior, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses. The Secretary shall approve such conversion only if he finds it to be in accord with the then existing comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan and only upon such conditions as he deems necessary to assure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location;" and

Section 3: Certifies that said agency has Matching funds from eligible source(s) and can finance 100 percent of the Project, which up to half may be reimbursed; and

Section 4: Appoints the authority to the Town Manager, or designee, as agent of the Applicant to conduct all negotiations and execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, Applications, Contracts, amendments, and payment requests, and compliance with all applicable current state and federal laws which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned Project.

Section 5: That the Town Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley this 14th day of January 2020.

Scott Nassif, Mayor

ATTEST:

LaVonda M-Pearson, Town Clerk