



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	November 21, 2023
TITLE	Approving the Application for Grant Funds for Urban Greening Program for the Tidewater Public Access Improvements Project
DIVISION	Finance and Management Services
FROM	Katy Hornbeck, Grants Manager Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors authorize an application to the California Natural Resources Agency’s Urban Greening program for grant funds for the Tidewater Public Access Improvements Project at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline in an amount up to \$3 million.

BACKGROUND

Signed into law in 2006, Assembly Bill (AB) 32, also known as the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, required a sharp reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. AB 32 was the first program to take a comprehensive, long-term approach to addressing climate change to improve the environment and natural resources while maintaining a robust economy. Senate Bill (SB) 32 confirms the State’s continued commitment to reducing GHG emissions by directing emissions reductions to meet a target of 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.

Signed into law on September 14, 2016, SB 859 (Chapter 368, Statutes of 2016) created the California Natural Resources Agency’s (Agency) Urban Greening Program, funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). The Budget Act of 2022 (Chapters 43, 45, and 249, Statutes of 2022), as amended by the Budget Act of 2023 (Chapter 38, Statutes of 2023) allocated \$25 million from the General Fund to the Agency for its Urban Greening Program for projects that reduce GHG emissions and provide multiple benefits.

Over the years, Agency has administered a suite of programs including the California River Parkways Program, Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program, and the Urban Greening Program funded by Proposition 84 and GGRF. These programs funded projects that provided a wide variety of benefits such as environmental, health, and community revitalization throughout the State. The Urban Greening Program, funded by the General Fund, continues the legacy of these programs. Consistent with AB 32, the Urban Greening Program will fund projects that reduce greenhouse gases while also transforming the built environment into places that are more sustainable, enjoyable, and effective in creating healthy and vibrant communities. These projects will establish and enhance parks and open space, using natural solutions to improve air and water quality and reducing energy consumption, and creating more walkable and bike-able trails. Approximately \$23.7 million is available for urban greening projects.

ANALYSIS

Eligible urban greening projects will reduce GHG emissions, mitigate the effects of extreme heat, and provide multiple additional benefits, including, but not limited to, a decrease in air and water pollution or a reduction in the consumption of natural resources and energy. Eligible projects will result in the conversion of an existing built environment into green space that uses natural and green infrastructure approaches to create sustainable and vibrant communities. A competitive project will maximize opportunities to reduce GHG emissions through project design and implementation as well as incorporate green infrastructure solutions that improve the sustainability and function of existing urban hardscapes and landscapes. To facilitate statutory mandates, this program intends to award a minimum of 75% of funds to projects located within and benefiting disadvantaged communities.

The Tidewater Public Access project at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline is an eligible and competitive project. It also supports the state of California's 30x30 conservation initiative that calls for the protection of thirty percent (30%) of lands and waters by the year 2030 to meet the environmental challenges due to the devastating loss of the natural world and its life supporting systems.

The project will transform the site-- creating new park acreage with recreation opportunities in an underserved area while contributing to greenhouse gas reductions through its planned 200+ trees, shrubs, and perennial grasses. The expansion will create eight acres of green space where there is currently none. Features in the expansion area include a multi-use turf area, a nature play area, several small and group picnic spaces, paved and natural trails, an outdoor classroom, two waterfront overlooks, a restroom, and boat storage. These features will significantly expand the opportunities for larger and new interpretive and recreational programming at Tidewater and provide vital access to green space for the surrounding communities. It will help make outdoor recreation a more natural extension of the community's daily lives.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action approves a grant application in an amount up to \$3 million. No grant match is required. If awarded, grant funds for project would be budgeted into project #154300. The total project cost estimate is approximately \$15 million. This project may increase future operational costs of the East Bay Regional Park District due to ongoing maintenance and labor.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-11-
NOVEMBER 21, 2023**

**APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR URBAN GREENING
PROGRAM FOR THE TIDEWATER PUBLIC ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the California Natural Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the California Natural Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicants governing board before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Tidewater Public Access Improvements project supports the state of California's 30x30 conservation initiative that calls for the protection of thirty percent (30%) of lands and waters by the year 2030 to meet the environmental challenges due to the devastating loss of the natural world and its life supporting systems; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Tidewater Public Access Improvement Project, and
2. Certifies that applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application, and
3. Certifies that applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project consistent with the land tenure requirements; or will secure the resources to do so, and
4. Certifies that it will comply with the provisions of Section 1771.5 of the State Labor Code, and
5. If applicable, certifies that the project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, environmental laws and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable permits will have been obtained, and
6. Certifies that applicant will work towards the Governor's State Planning Priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public

health and safety as included in Government Code Section 65041.1, and

7. Appoints the General Manager or Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services/CFO, or 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 aforementioned project(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer or Budget Manager is hereby authorized to amend the current year's budget, without further Board action, upon receipt of the executed contract from the Grants Manager. The budget amendment will include an increase in budgeted revenue and a corresponding increase in appropriation for the amount stipulated in the contract.

Moved by Director _____, and seconded by Director _____, and adopted November 21, 2023, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: