



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 16, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront
 Subject: Grant Application: Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Grant Program for the Interstate 80 at Aquatic Park Tide Tube Renovation Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to submit a grant application to the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program for the Interstate 80 at Aquatic Park Tide Tube Renovation Project; accept any grants; execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize the implementation of the projects and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grants.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On January 18, 2024, the City will submit a grant application to the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Grant Program for the planning phase of the Interstate 80 at Aquatic Park Tide Tubes Renovation Project in the amount of up to \$535,000. The grant program requires a 12% local cash match of \$63,600, which will be funded by the Parks Tax.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On October 3, 2023, The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Application Guide and Call for Applications. A total of \$53.4 million is available for transportation planning projects statewide. Within this program, the Climate Adaptation Planning grant program has \$31.9 million available. The City will submit a grant proposal to investigate feasible methods to renovate the existing failing subsurface culverts (tide tubes) that connect Aquatic Park to the Bay underneath I-80, and to the Model Yacht Basin. This project will increase the resilience of I-80, Bolivar Drive at Aquatic Park, and the adjacent local City roads (e.g., 2nd Street) from the impacts of sea-level rise and increased storms due to climate change.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, the City completed the Aquatic Park Tide Tubes Maintenance Project to evaluate the condition of the existing tide tubes and perform maintenance cleaning.

The evaluation determined that the tide tubes exhibit signs of cracking and will likely fail within ten years, and therefore need renovation. The projected increase in storms due to climate change will cause more stormwater to flow through the existing tubes, which will lead to accelerated erosion of the roadbed underneath Interstate 80 and a potential failure of the Interstate. This would create significant impacts to the region in terms of traffic congestion, delays in commuter and the movement of goods and services, increased greenhouse gases, and traffic spillover into the local roads of West Berkeley until the Interstate can be repaired.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

All parks improvement construction projects are required to comply with the City of Berkeley Climate Action Plan, specifically in terms of reducing construction waste, as well as environmentally preferred purchasing guidelines to reduce waste and increase the use of renewable resources. This project helps the City meet Strategic Goal 1 – infrastructure.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This project will increase the resilience of I-80, Bolivar Drive at Aquatic Park, and the adjacent local City roads (e.g., 2nd Street) from the impacts of sea-level rise and increased storms due to climate change.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, 981-6703

Attachments

1: Resolution – GRANT APPLICATION: CALTRANS SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM FOR THE I-80 AND AQUATIC PARK TIDE TUBE RENOVATION PROJECT

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S

GRANT APPLICATION: CALTRANS SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM FOR THE I-80 AND AQUATIC PARK TIDE TUBE RENOVATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Berkeley is eligible to receive Federal and/or State funding for certain transportation planning-related plans, through the California Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, a Restricted Grant Agreement (RGA) is needed to be executed with the California Department of Transportation before such funds can be reimbursed through the Transportation Planning Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2023, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Application Guide and Call for Applications. A total of \$53.4 million is available for transportation planning projects statewide. Within this program, the Climate Adaptation Planning grant program has \$31.9 million available; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2024, the City will submit a grant proposal in the amount of up to \$535,000 to investigate feasible methods to renovate the existing failing subsurface culverts (tide tubes) that connect Aquatic Park to the Bay underneath I-80, and to the Model Yacht Basin. This project will increase the resilience of I-80, Bolivar Drive at Aquatic Park, and the adjacent local City roads (e.g., 2nd Street) from the impacts of sea-level rise and increased storms due to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the grant program requires a 12% local match of \$63,600, which will be covered by the Parks Tax.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or a designee (F. Scott Ferris) is authorized to: submit a grant application to the Sustainable Transportation Planning Program of Caltrans for the Interstate 80 and Aquatic Park Tide Tubes Renovation Project for an amount up to \$535,000, and authorizes a 12% local cash match of \$63,600 from the Parks Tax; to accept any grants; to execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

