



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 and Waterfront  
 Subject: Grant Application: Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention Grants Program for the Berkeley Overnight Camp Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit The Berkeley Overnight Camp Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Project Application to the California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants Program (Cal Fire) in the amount up to \$3 million; to accept the grant; to execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments; and authorizing the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The grant request is for up to \$3 million for hazardous tree mitigation and education. Although this grant program does not require match, the existence of matching funds and services is a positive factor during the competitive review process and so the City will include in-kind match of City staff as the match component of the proposal. This is a reimbursement grant and projects must be completed by March 15, 2030. Revenue from this grant will be deposited into the One-Time Grants Fund (Fund 336).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On November 1, 2023, as part of the Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Strategy, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) announced the availability of up to \$117 million in funding for local projects that address the risk of wildfire and reduce wildfire potential to communities, through the department's **Wildfire Prevention Grants** program.<sup>1</sup> Funded activities include hazardous fuel reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education with an emphasis on protecting communities, improving public health and safety, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The City will submit a grant proposal of up to \$3 million to mitigate the risks of hazardous tree conditions at the three City of Berkeley overnight camps (Berkeley Tuolumne Camp, Echo Lake Camp, and Cazadero Camp).

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<sup>1</sup> [wp-grants-news-release\\_october-2023.pdf \(azureedge.net\)](#)

BACKGROUND

Due to forest fires and storms, the three City overnight camps (Berkeley Tuolumne Camp, Echo Lake Camp, and Cazadero Camp) contain large numbers of trees that present hazardous conditions that must be mitigated. The City must continually address these issues year after year in order to maintain public safety during camp operations.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Through the mitigation of hazardous tree conditions and the use of proper forestry management methods, this project will help the City advance the following Strategic Plan Goals: 3. Create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city, and 7. Be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This grant will provide funding to mitigate hazardous tree conditions at the City's three overnight camps (Berkeley Tuolumne Camp, Echo Lake Camp, and Cazadero Camp).

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSONS

Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront, 981-6700  
Justin Pitcher, Recreation Camps Manager, 981-6700

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##-###

AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE BERKELEY OVERNIGHT CAMP WILDFIRE HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS WILDFIRE PREVENTION GRANTS PROGRAM (CAL FIRE) IN THE AMOUNT UP TO \$3 MILLION

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California in cooperation with the California State Legislature has enacted State of California **Climate Investment**, which provides funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for **fire prevention programs**; and

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

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the Berkeley Overnight Camp Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **City of Berkeley**:

1. Approved the filing of an application for “**California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants Program**”; 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 the City of Berkeley are available to begin the project.
4. Certifies that said applicant will expend grant funds prior to March 15, 2030.
5. Appoints the City Manager or a designee (F. Scott Ferris), 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 aforementioned project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley authorizes the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the City of Berkeley’s Office of the City Clerk.

