



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 25, 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: California Fire Foundation-Camps Wildfire Response Equipment

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the California Fire Foundation in the amount up to \$25,000; 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 \$25,000 for Wildfire Response Equipment for Berkeley camps. This grant program does not require a matching portion and all associated costs of the equipment purchase would be covered by the grant. The revenue from this grant will be deposited into the One-Time Grants Fund (Fund 336).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The California Fire Foundation¹ offers periodic application periods for several funding areas, including Specialized Equipment. In 2023 the California Fire Foundation awarded over \$1.38 million in support of 86 prevention, preparedness, relief and recovery projects statewide. Additional funding opportunities include education, planning, or community outreach campaigns, vegetation mitigation and fuels reduction, and personal protective equipment. At the end of June, 2024, the City will submit a grant proposal of up to \$25,000 to purchase Wildfire Response Equipment for Berkeley camps.

BACKGROUND

Berkeley camps have a history of being impacted by wildfires. In 2013, Berkeley Tuolumne Camp was destroyed by the Rim Fire and in 2021, Echo Lake Camp barely avoided destruction by the Caldor Fire. In preparation for future wildland fire events, the Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront Department has held standing planning meetings in collaboration with the Berkeley Fire Department to prepare for a unified response to

¹ <https://www.cafirefoundation.org/what-we-do/for-grant-seekers>

future wildfire events. Through this partnership, we have identified strategic goals to obtain the resources necessary to best defend the camps against wildfires.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Through the acquisition of this equipment, this project will help the City advance the following Strategic Plan Goal: 3. Create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city. Sub Section 3.23, Fire Prevention. By planning for and working to prevent wildfire, the City will be working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to large scale forest fires and will be better positioned to safeguard City assets in the event of a fire occurring.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This grant will provide funding to obtain equipment necessary Berkeley Fire Department and PRW staff to maintain and defend Berkeley Echo Lake Camp against wildfires in the future.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSONS

Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront, 981-6700

Justin Pitcher, Recreation Program Supervisor, 981-6700

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##-###

APPROVING THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION GRANT PROGRAM FOR UP TO \$25,000

WHEREAS, the California Fire Foundation offers periodic application periods for several funding areas, including Specialized Equipment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley Fire Department and Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront Department have collaborated to identify needs related to fire resiliency at all Berkeley camps; and

WHEREAS, wildfire prevention and defense, as well as camper safety, will be greatly improved with wildland fire equipment available for preparation and response; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into an agreement with the California Fire Foundation to carry out the acquisition of identified equipment, outlined in the grant application.

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

1. Approved the filing of an application for “**California Fire Foundation**”; and
2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and,
3. 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.

