



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: Terrance Davis, Director, Public Works Department

Subject: Accepting Grant Funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for West Berkeley Aquatic Park Stormwater Improvement Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution: Authorizing the City Manager to execute a \$1.5M grant agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to plan, design, and construct a bioretention garden for the Channing Way Micro-Watershed and the installation of two Hydrodynamic separators on the Bancroft Street culvert and Channing Way.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the grant guidelines, the City is required to match the U.S. EPA funding for the proposed West Berkeley Aquatic Park Stormwater Improvement Project with \$1.5M local matching funds. Local matching funds for the Project are programmed in the Fiscal Year (FY) FY 2025 – FY 2028 capital improvement budget for the Storm Drain Program in the Clean Stormwater Fund (616). No other funding is required.

U.S EPA Grant Funds	\$1,500,000
Clean Storm Fund (616) – Local matching Funds	\$1,500,000
Total Project Cost Design & Construction Phases	\$3,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The U.S. EPA manages a grant program to support projects that protect and restore San Francisco Bay watersheds and wetlands. In 2023, the Parks Recreation & Waterfront (PRW) Department and Public Works Engineering Division applied for funding under this program for the West Berkeley Aquatic Park Stormwater Improvement Project. Implementing this Project would provide water quality benefits to the Aquatic Park lagoon by treating urban stormwater and improving sediment and trash capture from two micro-watersheds that drain to the Aquatic Park.

In March 2024, the City received a letter from the EPA selecting the City to receive a \$1.5 million San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF) grant with a \$1.5 million local match. Accepting the grant funding and implementing the West Berkeley Aquatic Park Stormwater Improvement Project supports the City’s Strategic Plan goals of providing state-of-the-art, well-maintained infrastructure, amenities, and facilities and

being a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

BACKGROUND

The Aquatic Park Lagoon in West Berkeley is an artificial inland lagoon and park area that receives bay waters through daily tidal action from the west and stormwater from City streets east of the lagoon. The lagoon's water quality and upland habitats are degraded. Bathymetric data indicate that the average depth of the lagoon has decreased by approximately 50% since 1970, highlighting a long-term concern that eutrophication could occur if hydrology and water quality improvements are not implemented.

Acceptance of grant funding would allow the City to pursue the West Berkeley Aquatic Park Stormwater Improvement Project. This Project would provide water quality benefits for the lagoon, and its implementation aligns with recommendations outlined in the Aquatic Park Improvement Program. The Project would also help the City meet its regulatory requirements for implementing green infrastructure as mandated by the Municipal Regional National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Discharge Permit (MRP), Order No. R2-2022-0018.

The proposed project calls for the planning, design, and construction of a bioretention garden for the Channing Way micro-watershed and the installation of two hydrodynamic separators (HDS), one at Bancroft Street and one at Channing Way, to treat urban runoff and capture trash from the streets of West Berkeley before its discharge into the Aquatic Park Lagoon. The bioretention garden and HDS units will treat stormwater and urban runoff traveling through the Channing Way and Bancroft Street micro-watersheds, significantly improving the stormwater entering the Aquatic Park Lagoon and, subsequently, San Francisco Bay Estuary.

The bioretention garden will remove pollutants of concern from urban runoff through physical and biological treatment processes. These pollutants include nutrients, metals, mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), organic compounds, bacteria, and suspended solids. The treatment provided by the bioretention garden can help achieve Alameda County's key goal of removing mercury and PCBs from runoff, reducing the adverse impacts of urban runoff on receiving waters, including the Aquatic Park Lagoon. The bioretention garden would occupy a portion of an existing parking lot adjacent to Dreamland Kids Playground on the east side of Aquatic Park.

The hydrodynamic separators will remove trash, debris, and floatable material by MRP requirements for trash capture.

This Project will also improve the site for a variety of local non-profit and community groups currently utilizing the location. Waterside Workshops provides job training opportunities, including revegetation projects. The Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP) provides recreational opportunities to individuals with mobility challenges and other disabilities. The Berkeley Paddling and Rowing Club regularly

uses the Park for activities. The park is additionally used by bird watchers and others who are drawn to the unique flora and fauna.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The continued efforts to reduce trash and litter entering the storm drain systems improve the health of Berkeley's creeks, Aquatic Park, and waterways, improve water quality, protect native flora and fauna, and prevent pollutants from entering San Francisco Bay.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Accepting the grant and implementing the Project would improve water quality in Aquatic Park and would be vital for the City to meet MRP requirements for implementing green infrastructure and eliminating trash discharges to San Francisco Bay.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative actions were considered, as the City must install a mandated 5 acres of Green Infrastructure by June 2027 per MRP requirements. Installing trash capture and a bioretention garden are effective ways for the City to meet regulatory requirements.

CONTACT PERSON

Srinivas Muktevi, Supervising Civil Engineer (510) 981-6402

Ronald Nevels, Manager of Engineering (510) 981-6439

Wahid Amiri, Deputy Director (510) 981-6396

Attachments:

1: Resolution

2: U.S. EPA Funding Selection Letter

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

ACCEPTING GRANT FUNDS FROM THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY FOR AQUATIC PARK WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the availability of San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF) grants; and

WHEREAS, said grants are intended to help improve the water quality of San Francisco Bay; and

WHEREAS, it is in the City's interest to enhance Aquatic Park Lagoon water quality, habitat and recreational values; and

WHEREAS, the City has been selected by the EPA to receive SFBWQIF grant for \$1,500,000 with a local non-federal match of \$1,500,000 from the Clean Storm Fund 616 that is programmed in the FY25-28 Storm Capital budget; and

The project proposed for grant funding would be environmentally beneficial and aligned with regulatory requirements and the goals of the Aquatic Park Improvement Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is hereby authorized to; 1) Accept a U.S. EPA San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Funding grant to improve Water quality in the San Francisco Bay; 2) execute any resultant agreements and amendments; and 3) authorize the implementation of projects in compliance with the requirements of EPA grant and allocate funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments shall be on file in the office of the City Clerk.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Dee Williams-Ridley
2180 Milvia St.
Berkeley, CA 94704

RE: Availability of FY 2023 SF Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund Funding

Dear Dee Williams-Ridley:

Congratulations! The City of Berkeley has been selected to receive a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) SF Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF) grant in the amount of 1,500,000 with a non-federal match of 1,500,000. This letter lays out the programmatic and administrative materials needed to complete the application for federal assistance. This letter is not an official Notice of Award. Only the Grants Management Office can issue an award offer to you.

Funding Information (West Berkeley Aquatic Park Stormwater Improvement Project):
\$1,500,000 (EPA) + \$1,500,000 (Required Nonfederal Match = \$3,000,000 (Total Project Cost))

I will serve as the EPA SFBWQIF Project Officer for your grant and will work with you on the development and/or refinement of a work plan, and programmatic issues that come up during the implementation of your project. I can be reached at 415-972-3269 or tu.lyndsey@epa.gov.

An EPA Grants Specialist will be assigned to your grant and will assist with the administrative aspects of the grant, such as processing the grant award document and annual financial reporting. I will share their contact information with you when it's available.

I would like to suggest setting up a call at your earliest convenience to discuss the workplan and budget to go over any questions you might have on that as well as the forms listed below before you plan to submit them as your final complete application. We propose a deadline of February 12, 2024 for submitting all these materials in their final form. Once all materials are submitted, I will share them with the Grants Office to complete the grant award.

1. **Workplan:** The workplan is based on the project described in the original funding proposal. In addition to your application narrative, your final workplan will include:
 - a. Project Schedule that includes deliverables, outcomes, and costs associated with each task.
 - b. The latitude and longitude coordinates that best represents your project area.

- c. A representative photo of your project along with the appropriate caption to include on the SF Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund website.

2. Budget:

- a. If revised, form SF-424A for Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs.
- b. Budget Detail (template is attached; refer to the R9 Grants Handbook for budget development guidance)

3. Administrative: Complete the forms listed below if you have not already. Download the forms here by searching the form number or letter.

- a. Certification Regarding Lobbying (EPA Form 6600-06)
- b. Pre-Award Compliance Review Report (EPA Form 4700-4)
- c. Additional information for SF424, Block #19: The SFBWQIF (Program) is covered by Executive Order (EO) 12372. **The appropriate answer for this box is A.** Since your proposals have been selected for a grant award, you will need to send a copy of your SF-424 to the California Grants Coordination State Clearinghouse via their online portal: <https://cfda.opr.ca.gov/#/>
- d. SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)
- e. Current Indirect Rate Cost Negotiation Agreement (if applicable)

Please note, projects funded by the SFBWQIF are authorized under CWA Section 320 which does not require an Environmental Information Document (EID) under the National Environmental Policy Act. However, compliance with other Federal environmental laws, such as the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act, and state regulations may be required.

Please let us know if you have questions or concerns about the required documents and due dates and we can adjust the schedule accordingly. We look forward to partnering with you on this project!

Sincerely,



Lyndsey Tu, EPA Region 9
SFBWQIF Project Officer

Attachments: Budget Detail Template
R9 Grants Handbook- <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/epa-region-9-grants-handbook.pdf>