



Office of the City Manager

RECESS ITEM
CONSENT CALENDAR
 September 10, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: LaTanya Bellow, Interim City Manager
 Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront
 Subject: Grant Application: Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program (LTCAP) for the Interstate 80 Aquatic Park Lagoon Tidetube Culvert Resiliency Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to submit a grant application to the state Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program (LTCAP) for the Aquatic Park Tidetube Culvert Resiliency 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.

NEGATIVE EFFECT IF ACTION IS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER COUNCIL RECESS

The LTCAP grant program requires applicants to submit a cover letter to the California Transportation Commission's Executive Director that nominates the project, identifies the nominating agency, authorizes and approves the project nomination, and includes the signature of the Chief Executive Officer (or other officer authorized by the nominating agency's governing board). The LTCAP grant deadline is August 30, 2024. Without authorization, the City will be unable to submit a grant application to the 2024 LTCAP grant program for this project.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The LTCAP grant program requires a 20% local match of the total project cost. For the total project cost of \$4 million, the PRW Department has identified \$800,000 in local match from the General Fund in FY2025 and will submit an application for up to \$3.2M for the Aquatic Park Tidetube Culvert Renovation and Habitat Resiliency Project.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In 2021, the City completed the Aquatic Park Tidetube Culvert maintenance and repair project that restored the full functionality of the tidetubes to properly exchange waters of the Bay with the waters of Aquatic Park. During the project, a video inspection discovered extensive cracking of the existing tidetubes which will result in full failure by 2030. In light of anticipated impacts due to climate change, the increased severity of storms will accelerate the volume and velocity of water running through the tidetubes, which will accelerate their failure. This could lead to the erosion of the roadbed above the tidetubes and the potential closure of Interstate 80, new flooding in West Berkeley, and the loss of natural habitat at Aquatic Park. The California

Grant Application: LTCAP program for I-80 Aquatic Park Tidetube Project

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Transportation Commission (CTC) recently announced the second round of the LTCAP grant program, with a submittal deadline of August 30, 2024. The City will submit a grant application for up to \$3.2M, with a local City match of \$800,000, to fund a project to design and deliver the Interstate 80 Aquatic Park Tidetube Culvert Renovation and Habitat Resiliency Project to increase the resiliency of City and Interstate infrastructure along the coastline of the Bay for the next 50 to 100 years.

BACKGROUND

In November of 2021, congress enacted the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) of 2021 to provide billions in competitive grant-funded programs to address infrastructure needs across the U.S. over the next several years. In June of 2024, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) released a Call for Projects for the Local Transportation Climate Adaption Program (LTCAP) round two funding cycle using federal BIL funds. This grant program is available for investments that help make surface transportation more resilient to natural hazards and disasters, including climate change, and can be used to support resiliency improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-threat coastal infrastructure. Grant applications are due August 30, 2024. The City will submit a grant application to address the failing tidetube culverts at Aquatic Park underneath Interstate 80 that are projected to fail in less than ten years due to the impacts of climate change.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The tidetube culverts underneath Interstate that connect the Bay waters to Aquatic Park are projected to fail within ten years, causing the potential failure of I-80, impacts to traffic throughout the Bay Area, more flooding at Aquatic Park organizations and businesses in West Berkeley, and negative impacts on the natural habitats at Aquatic Park. The failure of the tidetubes will be accelerated by the impacts of climate change. This renovation project will improve the resiliency of the tidetube system and help the City and Interstate 80 become more resilient to the impacts of climate change. This project helps the City meet Strategic Goal 1 – infrastructure.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Submitting a project to this highly competitive grant program will help the City reach its Climate Adaptation and Resiliency goals and help make the segment of Interstate 80 in Berkeley more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, 981-6703
Nelson Lam, Supervising Civil Engineer, PRW, 981-6395

Attachments

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. XX,XXX-N.S

GRANT APPLICATION: LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROGRAM (LTCAP) FOR THE INTERSTATE 80 AQUATIC PARK LAGOON TIDETUBE CULVERT RESILIENCY PROJECT

WHEREAS, in November of 2021, congress enacted the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) of 2021 to provide billions in competitive grant-funded programs to address infrastructure needs across the U.S. over the next several years; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2024, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) released a Call for Projects for the Local Transportation Climate Adaption Program (LTCAP) round two funding cycle using federal BIL funds. This grant program is available for investments that help make surface transportation more resilient to natural hazards and disasters, including climate change, and can be used to support resiliency improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-threat coastal infrastructure. Grant applications are due August 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City will submit a grant application to address the failing tidetube culverts at Aquatic Park underneath Interstate 80 that are projected to fail in less than ten years due to the impacts of climate change.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council ratifies the action taken by the City Manager during recess to: submit a grant application to the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program (LTCAP) for the Interstate 80 and Aquatic Park Tidetube Culvert Resiliency Project in the amount of up to \$3.2 million, and authorizes \$800,000 in local match from General Fund (20% of total project cost); 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.

