



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 04, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: David Loya, Director of Community Development

PREPARER: Kiko Barr, Community Development Specialist

DATE: September 19, 2023

TITLE: **Adopt Resolution No. 234-10 Authorizing Application for, and Receipt of, the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant for Butcher’s Slough Site Cleanup Planning.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council adopt Resolution No. 234-10 authorizing application for, and receipt of, the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant for Butcher’s Slough site cleanup planning.

INTRODUCTION:

The California Environmental Protection Agency’s Department of Toxic Substance Control provides the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG) to local governments, qualified non-profit organizations, and tribes to address impaired and underutilized properties in vulnerable communities and return them to productive use. Adoption will authorize the City Manager (or their designee) to enter into and sign the grant agreement and any subsequent amendments and execute all other documents needed in connection with the program.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Arcata acquired the Butcher’s Slough in October 1989 as part of the State of California’s conveyance of tidelands and submerged lands back to local governments (Chapter 1238 Statutes of 1989). It is located at 600 S G St. and is home to wetland habitat, a 0.8 mile nature trail, the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, the restored Jolly Giant Creek, and a small amphitheater. A Phase II Environmental Assessment was recently completed with funding from the federal Environmental Protection Agency’s Targeted Brownfields Assessment grant. Results from this investigation identified elevated levels of dioxin and metals in the soil, sediment, and surface water.

DISCUSSION:

The City’s proposal for ECRG funding includes a regulatory-approved cleanup plan and a community engagement workshop. The cleanup plan can be leveraged in the future to secure grant funding for cleanup and restoration activities. The ECRG program focuses on projects that will increase access to services by underserved populations through land reuse. To be competitive for the

grant, the City is proposing that, after cleanup, Butcher's Slough trails will be made ADA accessible and a ADA parking space will be added to the northwestern parking lot. The City is working with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Board who will be approving the cleanup plan and overseeing future cleanup activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

This action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15330 of the CEQA Guidelines, minor actions to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous waste or hazardous substances. The application, if awarded, will lead to the excavation, removal, and proper disposal of various hazardous substances in the project area. The overall project cost is anticipated to be less than \$1M. And the project will comply with all state and federal regulations pertaining both to the hazardous substance removal and the restoration of the site, including any provisions for the protection of the environment, habitats, and species.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The grant request is for \$399,235. The admin portion is \$19,950 of the full amount.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution No. 234-10 (DOCX)
- B. ECRG Round 2 Guide (PDF)