



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 19, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

PREPARER: Brigitte Price, Administrative Specialist

DATE: April 12, 2023

TITLE: **Adopt Resolution No. 223-51, Approving an Application to the Clean California Local Grant Program for the Valley West Connectivity and Beautification Project; and Authorize the City Manager to Execute All Applicable Documents.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council adopt Resolution No. 223-51 approving an application to the Clean California Local Grant Program for the Valley West Connectivity and Beautification Project; and authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable documents.

INTRODUCTION:

The City has been successful at bringing in state and federal funding in recent years to enhance transportation safety and connectivity as well as implement park improvements throughout the City. Investment in our streetscape and facilities support not only community health and recreation but also economic vitality attracting both residents and visitors to facilities and activities.

Caltrans and Governor Newsom launched the Clean California Initiative to remove litter, create jobs and beautify California. The City has an opportunity to build upon significant momentum in the Valley West area to secure funding through the Clean California Local Grant Program to improve connectivity, beautify public spaces and enhance placemaking in north Arcata.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Clean California Local Grant Program is a competitive grant program for local communities looking to beautify and improve local streets, parks, paths and transit facilities. The goals of the Clean CA Local Grant Program are to reduce the amount of waste and debris within public rights-of-way, paths, parks and transit centers; enhance measures to beautify and improve public spaces; enhance public health, cultural connection and community placemaking by improving public spaces for walking and recreation; and advance equity for underserved communities. The grant program funds both infrastructure improvements and non-infrastructure campaigns focused on community litter abatement and education.

City staff identified potential opportunities to support beautification and transportation connectivity throughout the City and considered the Council's identified priorities for the current and upcoming

fiscal year. The Environmental Services and Engineering Departments are collaborating to develop a grant proposal focused on Valley West and Valley East Boulevards building upon significant community momentum for placemaking and non-motorized connectivity improvements in this disadvantaged neighborhood.

The proposed project scope is informed by the Valley West community's ideas to improve safety for walking and biking and access to transit, create more opportunities for culturally relevant public art and further beautify the neighborhood. Specific elements currently planned for the proposal include crosswalk improvements, new and expanded bus shelters, enhancements to existing bike lanes, bilingual (Spanish and English) wayfinding signage to promote walkability to local parks, two parklets on Valley East Boulevard with workout equipment and public art, and a non-infrastructure element in collaboration with CUNA to continue monthly volunteer clean-up days.

The grant proposal is due April 28, and award notifications are anticipated in August or September. Should the proposal be funded, the outreach and design phase is anticipated to start in winter 2023/24 with implementation in late 2024 or 2025.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

This grant proposal's focus on improved transportation systems, beautification and public art are consistent with Council's Goals for Facilities and Infrastructure and Resident and Community Health. Additionally, Valley West Improvements have been identified as a 2022/23 Priority.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

Environmental review will be completed for the planned improvements should the proposal be funded. The City anticipates a categorical exemption through 14 CCR § 15301 for repair and minor alteration of existing public facilities.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed improvements for the Valley West neighborhood would be funded through Clean CA Local Grant Program. Following submittal of the grant application and approval of a grant agreement, the City would be awarded funding on a reimbursement basis. City staff would implement a budget adjustment (as funding notification will be after 2023/24 budget adoption) to bring in funds to both revenue and expense GLs to activity budget 48 (Active Transportation) to cover anticipated expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution No. 223-51 for Clean California Grant (PDF)