



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

DATE ISSUED: November 8, 2006 REPORT NO. 06-163  
ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
Docket of November 14, 2006  
SUBJECT: 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon Restoration Project

REQUESTED ACTION

1. Should the Mayor or his representative co-sponsor a State of California Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration grant proposal/application for watershed stabilization, flood damage reduction and habitat restoration in 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon?
2. Should the Mayor or his representative authorize the necessary actions to secure funding from the State of California Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program, including signing grant contracts?
3. Should the Mayor or his representative execute an agreement with Golden Hill Community Development Corporation (GGHCDC) in partnership with 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon Task Force to implement the Grant requirements? The City will act as co-applicant with the Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation (GGHCDC).

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Authorize the Mayor or his representative to sign agreements and secure funding.

SUMMARY

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon is located in the Greater Golden Hill Community, see map attached. The project area covers in the southern most 150 feet (approximately 60 feet wide) of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon before the stream reaches an existing culvert which conveys water beneath C Street. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon Creek is a stream that is tributary to Chollas Creek and is designated as open space.

Over the past two years, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon Task Force members have worked closely with the Park and Recreation Department to remove non-native invasive species from the canyon, and plant appropriate native vegetation there. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon Task Force in concert with the Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation applied for and received a state grant to restore the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon.

The GGHCDC objective is to restore the creek to its original natural contours to reduce, minimize or potentially stop canyon flooding, thereby protecting sewer and storm drain infrastructure from erosion, and other storm-related impacts. GGHCDC's proposal also intends to re-vegetate the creek with deep rooted native plants species to stop bank failure and keep the high retaining wall that supports the adjacent elementary school campus from being undercut and damaged by erosion. It is hoped this will enhance the environmental values, increase infiltration, decrease sediment, filter and absorb pollutants, recover native habitat and species diversity and slow the flow, improve water quality and provide a safe and inviting entrance into the canyon for exploration, education and recreation. GGHCDC will perform and complete a 5 year monitoring plan.

A sewer main and many sewer laterals run the length of the canyon. Close coordination will be required with the Metropolitan Waste Water Department. This project will involve the removal of approximately 2,500 C.Y. of fill, and incorporate a Metropolitan Waste Water Department access path, with low walk able vegetation which will double as a trail system for the approximate 150 feet. In addition, close coordination will be required with the General Services Department because the creek is part of the storm water conveyance system. The terms and conditions required by these utility departments will need to be met in order for the project to move forward.

The San Diego Unified School District (District) recently built a new school on approximately 4.5 acres directly to the east of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Canyon Street. The District built a 22 foot retaining wall within their property at the southernmost end of the canyon. The GGHCDC's professional engineering staff will need to coordinate with the District engineers prior to designing, grading and planting in this location to ensure retaining wall/footing and slope stabilization.

The District had originally planned to develop a 2 acre joint use field with the City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department adjacent to and potentially within the project area. By restoring the creek, the District would have had to alter their plans and/or develop a field elsewhere. Since public support to build joint use fields has not been nearly as substantial as for the canyon restoration, this project is being presented for approval. The District has since held public meetings on the matter and intends to find other means to provide physical education for their students and has informed City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department that it does not intend to challenge this project. They have been informed of this docketing.

For review and analysis are five exhibits. They are as follows:

1. Exhibit A: The Grant application submitted to the State of California Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program
2. Exhibit B: The grant agreement between the GGHCDC/City of San Diego as co-sponsor with the State of California Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program
  - i. The City of San Diego is co-sponsor since we are the land owner

3. Exhibit C: The 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon Work Plan submitted to the State of California Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program with an Itemized Project Budget
4. Exhibit D: The 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon Project Maintenance and Monitoring Plan submitted to the State of California Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program
5. Exhibit E: The agreement between the GGHCDC and the City of San Diego detailing the City's responsibility and GGHCDC's responsibilities as well as transferring the obligation of the terms of conditions of the grant from the City to the GGHCDC

By approving this agreement with GGHCDC and giving the permission to proceed with the canyon restoration, there is a risk of not completing this project. That risk could be caused by various reasons such as insufficient funding, contractor issues, resource agencies issues, and other unforeseen issues. In an effort not to create further burden on the GGHCDC, staff did not require a performance bond. However, if the GGHCDC defaults, the City may/will need to ensure its completion to the satisfaction of the State.

The community has collaborated and joined forces to apply for and fund this project. The state has recognized this effort and would like to support it. It is hoped the project will succeed and provide a wonderful asset to the city.

#### ALTERNATIVE(S):

1. Approve the agreements with GGHCDC to perform the canyon restoration and the five year monitoring program.
2. Disapprove the project.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

##### Project Fiscal Impact:

Funds in the amount of \$236,768 are available to provide for project planning and implementation. According to the GGHCDC, the \$236,768 funds are from the following sources: \$158,219 from Department of Water Resources Grant funds, \$35,000 from San Diego Foundation, \$20,000 from 5 Star and \$23,000 from other various donation sources. In signing the contract, GGDCDC accepts the responsibilities of completing the terms of the project. However, if the GGHCDC were to default on the project for any reason, the City would be, as a co-sponsor, responsible for completing the terms of the project requirements stipulated in the State Grant. The City did not require a performance bond for this project from the GGHCDC.

##### Long Term Maintenance:

The grant does commit the City to five year long term maintenance and monitoring. However, in the contract between the City and GGHCDC, the City transfers this

responsibility to GGHCDC. In signing the contract, GGCDC accepts the responsibilities of five year maintenance and monitoring. However, if the GGHCDC default for any reason, the City as a co-sponsor would be responsible for completing the terms of the maintenance and monitoring project requirements stipulated in the State Grant. The City did not require a performance bond for this project from the GGHCDC.

City Staff:

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon Task Force will hire professional consultants to accomplish project work with assistance from the Friends of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon volunteer group. It is the intention of the GGHCDC to reimburse the City for its costs with grant monies to assist as outlined on the work plan, Exhibit C. The scope of City services is primarily for assisting the applicant through: a) the environmental process of the Development Services Department, b) grading improvement review as City Engineer, c) permit process with the applicant, d) survey staking, and e) construction quality assurance. The agreement stipulates that any additional funds needed to complete the project or cover city expenses would be raised by the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon Task Force through its fiscal partner the GGHCDC. In signing the contract, GGCDC accepts this responsibility. The City did not require a performance bond for this project from the GGHCDC.

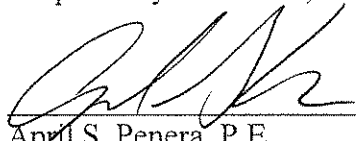
PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL ACTION

None

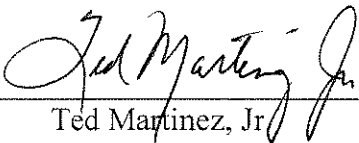
KEY STAKE HOLDERS

The San Diego Unified School District, the Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation, the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department, the City of San Diego Development Services Department, Friends of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon, Pacific Coast Land Consulting, Dudek & Associates, Claude Boehm, Recon, Howard Chang, Tershia d'Elgin.

Respectfully submitted,



April S. Pennera, P.E.  
Park & Recreation Department



Ted Martinez, Jr.  
Deputy Chief, Neighborhood  
Services and Customer Services

Attachment(s):

Exhibit A: The Grant application submitted to the State of California Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program

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