

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2008

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PASADENA, CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, CITY OF LOS ANGELES, THE RAYMOND BASIN MANAGEMENT BOARD, AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE ARROYO SECO WATERSHED FEASIBILITY STUDY BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into an Agreement by and between the City of Pasadena, the City of Los Angeles, the City of La Canada Flintridge, the City of South Pasadena, the Raymond Basin Management Board and the Log Angeles County Flood Control District for a Watershed Feasibility Study including the participation in a cost-sharing agreement (see Exhibit A); and
2. Support the City's 24.6 percent share of the total study cost estimate of \$2,682,000 with future appropriations from the following department: \$148,533 from the Department of Public Works, \$117,262 from the Department of Water and Power, and \$46,905 from the Rose Bowl. See Exhibit B.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ROSE BOWL OPERATING COMPANY (RBOC)

At its regular meeting of February 7, 2008, the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC), with the recommendation of the Golf Course Committee of the RBOC, recommended its unanimous support for the staff recommendation to enter into and agreement between the City of Pasadena and the three other municipalities, the Raymond Basin Management Board and the LA County Flood Control District for the subject study and agreement.

BACKGROUND

The County of Los Angeles Flood Control District along with the cities bordering the Arroyo Seco have been working cooperatively for several years now under the Council of Arroyo Seco Agencies (CASA), to look at ways that large projects in the Arroyo Seco Watershed could be funded. Those projects that would have the most mutual benefit to the County, as well as the agencies charged with managing some portion of the Arroyo

Seco tributary, are given the highest consideration. The United States Army Corps of Engineers Watershed Feasibility Study program was found to be a means of providing a great source of funding for this purpose.

The Army Corps of Engineers completed a Reconnaissance Study of the Arroyo Seco Watershed in September 2002, and determined that there is a Federal interest in conducting a feasibility study to develop solutions to water resources and environmental issues in the watershed. The Reconnaissance Study also identified the Los Angeles County Flood Control District as the lead local sponsor for the effort.

The Arroyo Seco Watershed Feasibility Study area is approximately 47 square miles (see Exhibit C) beginning at the San Gabriel Mountains and ending at the confluence of the Arroyo Seco and the Los Angeles River north of downtown Los Angeles. The watershed includes the cities of Pasadena, South Pasadena, Los Angeles, and La Canada Flintridge, as well as the unincorporated county community of Altadena.

This study will develop informational and analytical tools in order to define water and other related resource problems and opportunities within the Arroyo Seco Watershed. The information and tools will be developed through the following technical means: hydrologic, hydraulic and groundwater modeling, conducting environmental studies, and other technical research that will be used to identify suitable project proposals for improving flood protection, increasing water conservation and recharge opportunities, improving water quality, and restoring natural resources.

The design and construction of projects developed and identified in the completed study would be eligible for future federal funding of up to 75 percent of the project costs. The total estimated cost of the study is \$2,680,000. As the lead local sponsor, the Flood Control District is required to provide half of the total amount or \$1,340,000 in cash or in-kind services. Discussions between the County and representatives from the aforementioned participating agencies has been ongoing and an agreement has been mutually prepared between all to share the sponsor cost with the County Flood Control District in consideration of the mutual benefits derived by the Cities, the Raymond Basin and the County Flood Control District. The cost-sharing formula is presented in Exhibit A. A preliminary list of projects to be evaluated in the Feasibility Study is shown in Exhibit D.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Approval of this Cost-Sharing Agreement is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with section 1061 (b)(3) of the State CEQA guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT

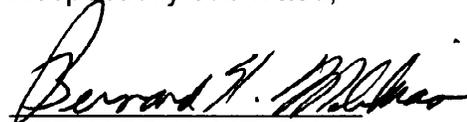
The cost for the Arroyo Seco Watershed Feasibility Study by the Army Corps of Engineers is estimated at \$2,680,000. The City of Pasadena is being asked to contribute \$312,700 in cash and in-kind contributions over a two year period.

The attached Exhibit B summarizes the fair distribution of cost to City departments

charged with management responsibilities of the Arroyo Seco based on the benefits each of the three geographical areas of the Arroyo Seco holds for each of the departments.

There are budget requests in the department budgets for FY 2009 to cover the City's cash commitment in the Cost-Sharing Agreement for the study over two fiscal years, beginning in FY 2009. Participation by the City in this cost-sharing agreement will highly increase the likelihood of construction costs for one or several high priority projects being funded up to 75% by the federal government.

Respectfully submitted,



BERNARD K. MELEKIAN
City Manager

Prepared By:



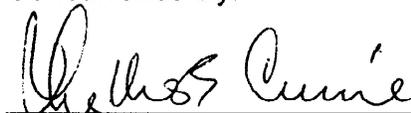
Rosa Laveaga, Arroyo Seco Project Supervisor
Parks and Natural Resources Division

Approved By:



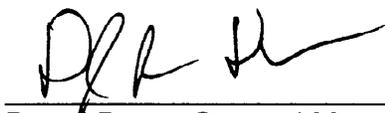
Martin Pastucha, Director
Department of Public Works

Concurrence By:



Phyllis Currie, General Manager
Department of Water and Power

Concurrence By:



Darryl Dunn, General Manager
Rose Bowl Stadium

Exhibits:

- A. Local Stakeholder Cost Share - Arroyo Seco Watershed Feasibility Study
- B. City Departments Cost Share
- C. Arroyo Seco Watershed Area Map
- D. Preliminary List of Possible Projects in the City of Pasadena