



CITY of CALABASAS

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2024

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: TRA'A BEZDECNY, ASSISTANT ENGINEER

SUBJECT: UPDATES ON CITY ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2024

BACKGROUND:

The Environmental Services Division strives to make Calabasas a better place to live and work by developing environmental and pollution prevention programs, and by protecting, enhancing and restoring creeks and open space. This Division oversees the administration of an encompassing Public Education/Outreach Program designed to meet the mandated requirements of the Clean Water Act and California Integrated Waste Management Act. Environmental Services oversees a variety of activities including the reduction and/or elimination of pollutants from storm water and urban runoff, reduction of waste going to urban landfills, recycling, household hazardous waste, and storm drain inspection and maintenance.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS:

Citywide Green Streets Project – Phase I:

The project is well underway. The contractor started at Phase III and is over 60 percent done with Phase III. Most of the sidewalks, curbs gutters, and paving for Phase III has been installed. The bio-swale construction has begun. We expect Phase III to be over 90% completed in the coming months. We re-designed a

location in Phase II from being concrete with bollards to be a planter area which will be planted with drought resistant natural plants.

This project was approved for construction by Council in June, started construction in September, and is set to be completed in Spring 2024 and includes a new parking lot, trail, and bioswales for rain capture.

Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Project – Phase III

The Project aims to improve water quality and restore the habitat surrounding Las Virgenes Creek that has been damaged by heavy storms. The work includes retrofitting 25 outlets draining into the creek, removal of fish barriers that were recently discovered within the creek, the removal of dead and/or broken mature trees, the planting of new native oak trees, soft-bottoming existing concrete channels at Meadow Creek and Lost Hills, and building new multipurpose trail along the creek.

The project site extends 1.5 mile of the creek within a highly urbanized segment of Las Virgenes Creek from Agoura Road to Lost Hills Road. This project intends to stabilize banks and protect the outlets surrounding Las Virgenes Creek. The banks around the creek should be stabilized and not prone to flooding. The project plans to improve water quality and reduce sediment and nutrient loading of the creek. The conceptual design calls for placing rip rap in front of 25 outlets and natural erosion control blankets to cover slopes that are in danger of failing. Connection to Don Wallace Trail north of Agoura Road through a wood deck under the bridge and a pedestrian midblock crosswalk on Lost Hills Road will provide a safe route for the public to travel between LV Trail east and west. An additional multipurpose trail will be created along the creek south of Meadow Creek Lane to close the gap on Las Virgenes Trail.

This project still requires funding to complete. Staff received a Memorandum of Understanding for \$1.3 Million dollars through Proposition 1 Round 2 from the Los Angeles County Flood Control District on January 22nd. This MOU will be going to Council on February 14th for approval and signatures. Once the MOU is fully executed, Staff will be able to issue a Request for Proposals for the design and permitting of the project.

The remaining and largest portion of funding Staff is seeking requires community outreach and community support. Staff began this outreach effort with a Walking Tour of Las Virgenes Creek on January 27th. On this informative hike, Staff provided attendees with a background on past projects and introduced the Phase III project while walking the full length of the Las Virgenes Creek Trail. A video for the event can be found here: <https://youtu.be/vgE79CrmXHg>.

Landscape Division

The Landscape Division and Community Services Department have partnered with the non-profit Malibu Foundation. Volunteers will be planting a pollinator area at DeAnza Park on the North side of the park on February 24th. There should be about 30 volunteers. The scheduled time is not confirmed and they are working with DeAnza Staff on that.

The Landscape Division and Community Services Department have partnered with a local girl scout troop. They will be adding some new plants and replacing some of the drought tolerant plants that did not make it over the last year at Grape Arbor Park. The Landscape Department will be pick and purchase the drought tolerant plants and spot them in different locations. Then the (10) girl scouts will go around and plant them. Currently this is scheduled for the week of March 11th – 18th.

Currently the Landscape Division, Community Services, & LVMWD are currently in the beginning phase of another project with the Malibu Foundation that will take place around Bark Park. Again, this is in the beginning stages but appears will move quickly.

Climate Action Plan

Staff will be posting a Request for Proposals for the creation of the Calabasas Climate Action Plan by the end of February.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Funding for projects and activities comes from multiple sources including General Fund, Measure M, Measure W, Prop 1, and more. Staff is continually researching new funding opportunities for upcoming projects.

REQUESTED ACTION:

This is an informational item only and requires no action.

ATTACHMENTS

None.