



CITY of CALABASAS

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2024

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: CURTIS CASTLE, P.E., PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER
TATIANA HOLDEN, P.E., DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
TRA'A BEZDECNY, ASSISTANT ENGINEER

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2024-1883 APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR AGREEMENT NUMBER 4600015405 BETWEEN CITY OF CALABASAS AND LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1.3 MILLION TO FUND THE LAS VIRGENES CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT PHASE III AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2024-1884 TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT.

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 14, 2024

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

Adoption of Resolution **2024-1883** (Attachment A) approving the Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment B) for Agreement Number 4600015405 (Attachment C) between City of Calabasas and Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) to fund the Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Project Phase III and adoption of Resolution **2024-1884** (Attachment D) to appropriate funds for the project.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Program (GRAC IRWMP), the City of Calabasas is able to apply for grant funding

under various grant programs such as Proposition 1 and Proposition 84, which are funding sources utilized for previous projects; Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase II and Green Street Phase I (Las Virgenes Road).

In 2023, Staff applied to the Proposition 1 Round 2 funding program and requested \$1.8M for design, permitting, and construction. The grant was successful and Staff received \$1.3M, 72.2% of the original request. The City was awarded a smaller amount due to the funding maximum of the competitive grant and in an effort for LACFCD to be able to fund more projects. The grant money will entirely fund pre-construction activities and partially fund construction of Phase III of the Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Project. The funding break down is provided below.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

In 2008, Phase I of the Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Project was completed, removing 3,600 square yards of concrete to re-naturalize a portion of the Las Virgenes Creek north of Agoura Road to the 101 Freeway. Phase I also installed a short trail (350 feet), gazebo, and educational signage. In total, Phase I cost approximately \$1.4M and was funded through a grant from LACFCD (Prop 50) and from an obligation from Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. In 2016, Phase II of the restoration was completed on the creek between Agoura Road and Lost Hills Road. Phase II built the Las Virgenes Trail, removed hundreds of invasive plants, planted over 1,300 trees, installed erosion control and bank stabilization, and constructed the lower gazebo with educational signage. Phase II cost approximately \$1.8M and was funded by grants from LACFCD (Prop 84), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Prop 1), and community donations. Phase III plans to add additional trails, remove invasive and dead plants, plant 1,000 new trees, add a crosswalk on Lost Hills Road connecting the lower gazebo to De Anza Park using a High Intensity Activated CrossWalk (HAWK), and soft-bottom the remaining concrete channels.

After Phase II's completion, Phase III conceptual plans were developed in-house by city staff and were successfully used in efforts to obtain grant funding for the project. Staff began hosting Walking Creek Tours in January to connect with the public, show the work already completed, discuss what the City plans to complete with the final phase, and request feedback to guide final design work. This public outreach is required for grant opportunities Staff is pursuing. One of these grants, through the Wildlife Conservation Board, is currently in Pre-Application phase; Staff has completed a Pre-Application with the assistance of our local Watershed Coordinator, Melina Watts, and must be approved by the Board to submit a full application. Staff is also utilizing the tours to connect with other entities working on regional projects; Rindge Dam Removal (CalTrout) and Invasive Aquatic Species Control (CalTrans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife). With the funding provided by the LACFCD, staff can now complete and post a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a design services to complete the final pre-construction items. During the design phase, staff will complete grant

work for additional funding sources that will be needed to completely fund the construction phase.

The design consultant will be tasked with completing feasibility studies, final design, and permitting. Feasibility studies are necessary for soft-bottoming of the remaining concrete culverts (removing all concrete at the bottom of the channel while leaving the sides of the structures to hold up the road at Meadow Creek Lane and Lost Hills Road), which will remove the final man-made fish barriers present in the City’s portion of the Creek. Final design will be based on conceptual design, public feedback, and final feasibility of multiple options available for multiple aspects of the project. Finally, any construction activities taking place in the creek are subject to permitting through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board; the consultant will provide all required supporting documentation to the city to obtain the permits.

Once all pre-construction work is completed and the final funding obtained, staff will issue an RFP for the construction of the project.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The Proposition 1 Grant is a reimbursable grant; staff will submit progress reports and invoices quarterly to LACFCD for reimbursement.

The current project estimate is \$3.8M. Proposition 1 is the first grant staff has secured for Phase III, but staff is in the process of applying to other funding opportunities for the project. The amount received from Proposition 1 will fully fund the final design, obtain necessary permits, and partially construction; this leaves time to secure other funding sources needed to fully fund construction. Staff is currently in the Pre-Application Phase for a Wildlife Conservation Board grant. Account number 36-319-6503-83 has been set up to track direct costs on this project and Resolution No. 2024-1884 will appropriate funds for the project in the City’s Budget.

Budget	Total
Project Estimate	\$3,800,000
Proposition 1 Round 2	\$1,300,000
Remaining Needed	\$2,500,000

REQUESTED ACTION:

Staff requests City Council Adopt Resolution 2024-1883 approving the Memorandum of Understanding for Agreement Number 4600015405 between City of Calabasas and Los Angeles County Flood Control District to fund the Las Virgenes

Creek Restoration Project Phase III and adoption of Resolution 2024-1884 to appropriate funds for the project.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Resolution No. 2024-1883

Attachment B: Memorandum of Understanding

Attachment C: Grant Agreement No. 4600015405

Attachment D: Resolution No. 2024-1884