



BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter J. Kampa, General Manager

DATE: November 8, 2022

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6C: Review of Proposal by the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Management Authority to Submit an Application to the Department of Water Resources, Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program for the Regional Turf Replacement Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends the following action:

I move to authorize the General Manger to submit an application Through the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Management Authority to the Department of Water Resources, Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program for the Reginal Turf Replacement Program.

BACKGROUND:

The district is a member of the Tuolumne Stanislaus Regional Water Management Authority, who has voted to submit an application to the department of Water Resources for a Regional Turf Replacement Program. Attached is it copy of the draft application that further describes the project, which is a collaborative effort of the District, Twain Harte Community Services District, Count of Tuolumne, and the city of Sonora. The Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District would be the applicant to DWR, and would administer the grant if awarded.

If the application is successful and funded by the State, the District proposes to renovate the irrigation system at the Leon Rose Ballfield and Mary Laveroni Park to incorporate water saving technologies based on weather and moisture. In addition at both locations a more drought tolerant, climate appropriate type of turf will be reinstalled.

The purpose of this agenda item is to seek the concurrence of the board to submit our application to the Regional Water Management Authority, to be included in their application to the state.

The initial cost estimate for the project is as follows:

	Square Fee	Climate Appropriate Turf \$ per SF	Total Estimate
Leon Rose Ballfield	41,000	\$ 15.00	\$ 615,000.00
Mary Laveroni Park, Lower Park	31,000	\$ 15.00	\$ 465,000.00
Mary Laveroni Park, Turf to Drought Tolerant Landscape (Upper Park)	5,000	\$ 20.00	\$ 100,000.00
Total			\$ 1,180,000.00

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This grant program typically requires at 25% local match, which is waived for disadvantaged communities. The department of water resources classifieds our district as a disadvantaged community and we have received the match waiver on our projects in the past. At this point the only cost associated with the application is the effort of district staff. If we are successful in receiving the funding, we expect our cost associated with the project would be covered with the grant.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Turf Application

Project Description *

A summary description including goals and objectives.

The proposed project is a collaboration of partner agencies planning and implementing turf replacement in public parks and spaces in the Upper Tuolumne and Stanislaus River Watersheds.

The project's focus is public parks and sports fields in our IRWM Region that can be converted to drought tolerant and native landscaping or drought tolerant ground cover. The project will save an estimated 4.26 acre feet annually in water and preserve community spaces that are important to residents of all ages.

Each park or public space will have a plan developed for converting turf to either drought tolerant and native landscaping or to drought tolerant ground cover based on the utilization of those spaces. Initial coordination has identified an estimated 645,500 square feet of turf that can be converted. The planning process will include public engagement and at least one public workshop to be held by the public agency partner implementing the project. For example the Groveland Community Services District will work with a landscape architect to develop draft options for their community park and will hold a workshop where Groveland residents can engage in planning and provide input on landscape design. After the public workshops the finalized plans will include upgrading irrigation to match the types of plants and landscaping to be implemented. Sport fields will be evaluated and will have plans developed that at a minimum upgrade their irrigation systems and where possible change to drought tolerant high traffic species of ground cover. Each partner will be responsible for the implementation of the conversion at their park and the final component of the project will be the installation of educational signage at each public space. The partners in this collaboration are Tuolumne County, City of Sonora, Groveland Community Services District, Twain Harte Community Services District, and Tuolumne Utilities District.

All of the public spaces identified in this project are located in communities that are disadvantaged (DAC) and would struggle to make the proposed changes without the assistance of grant funding.

Disadvantage Community (DAC)

Does the proposed project directly impact a disadvantage community? Is it within a Place, Tract or Block Group? or does your organization have a income survey to show DAC status? Please check all that apply. (For more information and map tool visit http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/resources_dac.cfm)

- DAC Place
- DAC Tract
- DAC Block Group
- Income Survey has been conducted.

Proposition 1 Eligible Project Type: Storm Water Resource Management

Please check the description your Storm Water project meets. *If your project is a Storm Water project for inclusion in the T-Stan Storm Water Project List please also complete Section 2 of this Form.

- Projects to reduce, manage, treat, or capture rainwater or stormwater
- Projects that provide multiple benefits such as water quality, water supply, flood control, or open space
- Decision support tools that evaluate the benefits and costs of multi-benefit stormwater projects
- Projects to implement a stormwater resource plan developed in accordance with Part 2.3 (commencing with Section 10560) of Division 6 including Water Code § 10562

Purpose and Need *

A description of the purpose and need of the Proposal Project and how it addresses the adopted IRWM Plan's goals and objectives, Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities. Additionally, if the proposed project is for Operations and Maintenance describe why grant funds would be necessary to finance the project.

The purpose of the project is to provide drought relief, water use efficiency, and improve water supply reliability to the Tuolumne Stanislaus IRWM Region. The project will save an estimated 4.26 AFY of Water and convert approximately 645,500 sf.ft. of turf to drought tolerant and native landscaping and ground cover. While water use has declined in the region with recent drought events the parks within our Region are the perfect locations to continue to make more efficient use of our limited water supply. Implementation of turf replacement at a regional scale will increase resilience to drought and improve regional water supply. The project will also increase education of climate appropriate plants and landscapes by becoming examples in public spaces with signage providing information on how to implement practices at home.

Integrated Elements of Project *

A description of synergies or linkages between projects that result in added value or require coordinated implementation or operation. Integration can be with current projects that are being implemented, proposed projects, existing projects, etc.

The proposed project is a collaboration of five public agency partners and meets multiple IRWM objectives.

Cost and Schedule: Project Costs *

Please provide all anticipated project cost.

\$4,645,000.00

Cost and Schedule: Matching Funds *

Potential Sources of Project Funding? (Including internal funding.) Potential Sources of Local Match? (Local match required unless project qualifies for a Disadvantaged Communities Waiver.)

Project will be implemented in DAC communities, no match identified.

Cost and Schedule: Schedule *

Please include a start and completion date for each project stage. Project stages include: Earliest Start Date, Conceptual, Planning, Environmental, Permitting, Design, Construction/Implementation

Start Date of Spring 2023 for Planning, Design, Environmental
Implementation starting in Spring 2024 and completed by Fall 2025

Cost and Schedule: Timing and Phasing

If the proposed project(s) is part of a multi-phased project complex, provide a description that demonstrates that the proposal can operate on a standalone basis, i.e., can be fully functional without implementation of the subsequent projects.

Project is not phased all of the project partners.

Cost and Schedule: Completed Work *

A description of the work that has been completed or is expected to be completed prior to the grant award date. For example, if CEQA/NEPA and other environmental compliance efforts have been completed discuss the environmental determination made by the lead agency and the documents that were filed.

Initial coordination has been started.