

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster

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06/28/2011
MVB

Date: June 28, 2011

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Brian S. Ludicke, Planning Director

Subject: **Urban Greening Planning Grant - Authorizing Resolution**

Recommendation:

Adopt **Resolution No. 11-34**, authorizing the City Manager to apply for an Urban Greening Planning Grant from the State of California, Strategic Growth Council for the Downtown/Transit Village area, and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute all documents relative to the grant.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the grant. The environmental impacts associated with the creation of the Urban Greening Plan are covered under the General Plan 2030 Program Environmental Impact Report. Individual projects identified under the plan would require environmental review prior to implantation of the project. However, due to the developed nature of Downtown it is likely that the projects would be exempt from CEQA and only require a \$75.00 County filing fee.

Background:

The Strategic Growth Council announced the second round of funding for sustainable communities grants the beginning of 2011, and released the specific guidelines for the Urban Greening Planning grants in April, 2011. These grants are funded by the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84). One of the goals of the Strategic Growth Council Urban Greening Planning Grant program is to “improve California’s urban areas by advocating for and supporting development of greener, public spaces.” Specifically, this grant provides funds to help the State meet its environmental goals and the creation of healthy communities.

Staff proposes to develop a plan with community input that would increase the amount of green space (e.g., additional street trees, pocket parks, community gardens, etc.) in the Downtown/Transit Village area bounded by Avenue J, 10th Street West, Avenue I, and Sierra Highway. This greening plan would capitalize on the success generated through the revitalization of Lancaster Boulevard, and provide a cohesive appearance throughout the Downtown area. It would also encourage more individuals to be active by providing a pleasant environment for walkers, bicyclists, etc. Staff proposes a grant request of \$250,000 to fund the planning effort for a Downtown/Transit Village Urban Greening Plan.

The grant application requires that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the staff member who can sign the grant application. The attached resolution would establish that person as the City Manager.

BSL/jr

Attachment:
Resolution No. 11-34