



CITY OF POMONA

COUNCIL REPORT

December 2, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted By: Rene Guerrero, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE FIRE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-184 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION TO THE FIRE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Adoption of this Resolution (Attachment No. 1) will authorize the submittal of an application to the Fire Prevention Grant Program of CAL FIRE requesting \$2,930,328 to address the risk of wildfire and reduce wildfire potential. If funded, activities relating to hazardous fuel reduction and the removal of dead or dying trees will be undertaken in Phillips Ranch and Ganesha hillsides.

FISCAL IMPACT: If successful, the City could receive up to \$2,930,328.

DISCUSSION: The State of California's FY 2019-20 budget allocated up to \$49.7 million to CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant Program to improve the resiliency of forested and forest-adjacent communities and upper watershed forests while achieving climate goals. The program provides funding for local projects and activities that address the risk of wildfire and reduce wildfire potential to forested and forest-adjacent communities. Funded activities include hazardous fuel reduction, fire planning, and fire prevention education with an emphasis on improving public health and safety while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The City's application will focus on hazardous fuel reduction and will include the following components:

- Vegetation clearance in critical locations to reduce wildfire intensity and rate of spread.

- Removal of ladder fuels to reduce the risk of crown fires (i.e. fires that spread from treetop to treetop).
- Selective tree removal (thinning) to improve forest health to withstand wildfires.
- Purchase of fuel modification equipment not to exceed \$100,000.
- Removal of dead and dying trees that pose a threat to public health and safety.

The City has received support from the California Conservation Corps, the local Conservation Corps, and LA County Fire. Targeted areas of this grant will include Phillips Ranch and the Ganesha hillsides. Adopting the attached Resolution will facilitate the completion of the first step in the application process, which is due December 4, 2019. Grant selection will take place in March 2020.

Prepared by:

Michael Sledd, Parks and Facilities Manager and Shandy Dittman, Senior Management Analyst

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment No. 1 – Resolution No. 2019-184