



Item No. 4 Town of Atherton

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – CONSENT AGENDA

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER**

FROM: ROBERT OVADIA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

DATE: MARCH 15, 2023

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA FOR THE HOLBROOK-PALMER
PARK ACCESS AND CIRCULATION PROJECT;
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY TO FINALIZE
THE AGREEMENT AND THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE
THE AGREEMENT**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council authorize the City Attorney to finalize a grant funding agreement with the County of Santa Clara for Stanford Mitigation funds for the Holbrook-Palmer Park Access and Circulation Project; and authorize the City Manager to execute.

BACKGROUND

In 2000, the County of Santa Clara certified a program EIR and issued the General Use Permit (GUP) to Stanford University for campus-wide development. The EIR recognized that the development permitted under the GUP would significantly impact recreational opportunities for existing or new campus residents and facility users. This impact is the result of Stanford housing development on several sites used for recreation and an overall increase to Stanford's resident and worker population, which would reduce the availability of recreational facilities while increasing the demand for such facilities.

To mitigate the loss of recreational opportunities, two mitigation measures were adopted. Mitigation OS-3A requires Stanford to improve parks in the faculty area to provide suitable recreational opportunities for the campus population and to continue to provide neighborhood recreation opportunities in new residential areas. And Mitigation OS-3B requires Stanford to dedicate the trail easements. Agreements for the trails easements were to be executed within one year of GUP approval in 2000. The County of San Mateo and Stanford did not reach agreement within the amount of time identified in the Trails Agreement and lead to the creation of a recreation mitigation fund in 2012 that Santa Clara County administers.

In 2012, Santa Clara County requested applications for projects that could be allocated funds from this mitigation fund. The Santa Clara County board of supervisors approved funding for four projects in 2012. Since then, not all of the projects moved forward resulting in approximately \$5.24 million remaining in the mitigation fund. Santa Clara County has requested that the remaining funds be distributed within San Mateo County and asked San Mateo County to work with the cities in the southern part of the County to submit a joint application for the remaining funds. Santa Clara County has indicated that the support from the City Council for the application and project would be needed as part of the funding application.

In January 2020, Town staff began coordinating with San Mateo County staff and other jurisdictions in the southern part of the County regarding potential projects. As directed by Santa Clara County, the projects need to create new or expanded recreational uses that serve existing and future Stanford students and faculty. Staff, with the support of the County of San Mateo, submitted an application to the County of Santa Clara seeking \$300,000 in support of the Holbrook-Palmer Park Access and Circulation Project. In May 2020, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved the allocation of funds towards the project.

ANALYSIS

The County of Santa Clara requires that the Town enter into a grant funding agreement for the project. The agreement requires that the Town prepare all environmental documents; publicly acknowledge the Grant by giving credit to the County in project related materials including newsletters, brochures, internet messages, etc.; Publicly acknowledge the Grant by providing a plaque, approved by the County, permanently affixed to the project, or on a prominent location on the project site, visible to the public; provide progress reports and a presentation to the County Board of Supervisors at the end of the project. The Town will be responsible for on-going maintenance and shall provide continual use of the project by the public. All grant costs are to be used exclusively on third party services and shall demonstrate expenditure of the funds prior to seeking reimbursement. The project is subject to prevailing wages. Agreement language is currently being finalized by the County of Santa Clara. Final agreement to be submitted for approval

County staff has advised that the permanent recognition plaque will likely need to be a sign rather than pavers.

FISCAL IMPACT

The grant funding agreement provides \$300,000 towards the construction of the Holbrook-Palmer Park Access and Circulation project.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

This Report and its contents are in alignment with the following Council Policy Goals:

- Goal Area A – Maintain Fiscal Responsibility

- Goal Area B – Preserve Small Town Character and Quality of Life
- Goal Area F – Be Forward-Thinking, Well-Managed, and Well-Planned

POLICY FOCUS

Policy focus should be on securing funding to implement the Holbrook-Palmer Park Access and Circulation Project.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town's electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town's electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders –to include, but be not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, service providers (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL

This item has not been before a Town Committee or Commission

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Grant Funding Agreement