



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 11, 2017

TO: Neighborhood Advisory Council

FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department
Engineering Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Community Development Block Grant Applications for Fiscal Year 2018 and Use of General Funds for Design and Construction

RECOMMENDATION: That the Neighborhood Advisory Council support the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force staff recommendation to:

- A. Use \$30,000 of Fiscal Year 2018 General Funds to design the Oak Park Neighborhood Access Ramps Project;
- B. Use \$40,000 of Fiscal Year 2018 General Funds for the design and construction of the Ortega Park Playground Replacement Project; and
- C. Apply for three Community Development Block Grants for the Oak Park Neighborhood Access Ramps Project, Union Pacific Railroad Corridor Fencing Repair, and the Ortega Park Playground Replacement Project.

DISCUSSION:

Background

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a Federally-funded annual program that supports a wide range of services and infrastructure improvements in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. It is a competitive grant program that typically is unable to fund all the proposed projects or services in a given year. Both the City of Santa Barbara (City) and non-governmental organizations are eligible to apply for funding. The City's portfolio of potential projects suitable for CDBG funding is outlined in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) under the Neighborhood Improvement Taskforce (NITF) section. The CIP is developed with a six-year timeframe and approved by City Council. The current CIP spans from Fiscal Years 2018-2023.

Agenda Item: _____

Status of Fiscal Year 2017 NITF CIP Projects

General Funds are typically used to design NITF CIP projects, with the goal of having a concept design completed and competitive for limited CDBG construction grant funds. On August 10, 2016, the NAC supported City staff's recommendations for projects that should be designed in Fiscal Years 2017-2018 using Fiscal Year 2017 funds. These projects include the New Playground at the Municipal Tennis Center and the Laguna Neighborhood Access Ramps Project. The design phase for the access ramps is nearing completion. The playground project is designed and permitted and will be bid out for construction by the end of 2017.

At the August 10, 2016 meeting the NAC also supported the City's grant applications for CDBG funds to build the Laguna Access Ramps Project and the New Playground at the Municipal Tennis Center. The Laguna Access Ramps Project was fully funded (\$185,735) and is anticipated to be constructed by April 2018. The New Playground at the Municipal Tennis Center was partially funded by CDBG (\$126,366 of \$304,000) and is also anticipated to be constructed by April 2018. Per CDBG requirements, the awarded grant funds must be expended and the project completed by April 2018.

Fiscal Year 2018 General Fund Allocation for CDBG Eligible Projects

The recently adopted Fiscal Year 2018 budget includes \$80,000 of General Funds identified for design of additional CDGB-eligible projects. Staff proposes to use \$30,000 of these funds to design the Oak Park Neighborhood Access Ramps Project and \$10,000 of these funds toward construction management of this project. Staff also recommends that \$40,000 of these funds be used for design and construction of the Ortega Park playground replacement.

Fiscal Year 2018 CDBG Applications

The next round of CDBG applications are due in mid-December 2017. Staff recommends \$30,000 of General Funds to fund design of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant access ramps at eleven locations in the Oak Park neighborhood (see Attachment 1 for specific locations). Access ramps make crossing the street safer for the most vulnerable users (i.e., disabled, elderly, and pedestrians with strollers). City staff recommend applying for approximately \$180,000 in CDBG construction funds this December. If the project is funded, construction will be completed by April 2019.

In addition to seeking funding for the Oak Park Neighborhood Access Ramps Project, staff also recommend submitting an application to fund the repair of fencing along the Union

Pacific Railroad Corridor between Las Positas Road and Castillo Street. Repairing existing fencing along the railroad corridor will help prevent illegal activities, while improving safety for residents and children. Staff proposes to submit an application for approximately \$20,000 of CDBG funds this December for these repairs. If the project is funded, construction will be completed by April 2019.

Finally, staff recommends submitting a \$150,000 CDBG application to fund the replacement of the Ortega Park playground. The project is estimated to cost between \$150,000-\$180,000. If the funding for construction through CDBG is successful, the new playground would be open for neighborhood children by April 2018. The existing playground is in need of replacement due to wear and tear.

ATTACHMENT: 1. Oak Park Neighborhood Access Ramps Project Map

SUBMITTED BY: George Thomson, Capital Projects Supervisor
Ashleigh Shue, Supervising Civil Engineer

APPROVED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director