Agenda Item No._____

File Code No. 150.02

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 28, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing Financial Assistance Agreements With The State Water Resources Control Board In The Amount Of $3,941,585 For Non-point Source Pollution Treatment Projects

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Authorizing Entering into Financial Assistance Agreements with the State Water Resources Control Board and Designating a Representative to Sign the Financial Assistance Agreements, and any Amendments Thereto.

DISCUSSION:

On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama. This act appropriates additional economic stimulus funds for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization. The California Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) will receive approximately $280 million from this bill. The CWSRF modified their existing loan program to distribute a portion of these monies as grants to fund nonpoint source pollution control projects throughout the state.

Although competition is extremely high for these stimulus funds, the Creeks Division has submitted 3 grant applications for projects that conform to the funding agency's grant requirements. These projects were selected by staff because they create jobs, build green infrastructure, and will be ready for construction when the CWSRF begins awarding stimulus funding. The CWSRF guidelines require a resolution authorizing the applicant's representative to execute a financial assistance agreement. Council approved such a resolution at its April 7, 2009 meeting. However, since that time, SWRCB attorneys have modified the required resolution format. The proposed resolution conforms to the new guidelines.

Creeks Division projects proposed for the CWSRF grant program include:

- Catch Basin Inlet Storm Drain Screens Project – installation of retractable screens on all City storm drain inlets to prevent trash and debris from entering the creeks and beaches, while still allowing storm water flows to pass.

- Parking Lot Stormwater Retrofit Project at Downtown Parking Lot #4 – construction of an infiltration well for the treatment of storm water and urban runoff. This is a Low Impact Development (LID) demonstration project.

- Upper Las Positas Creek Restoration & Storm Water Management Project – construction of vegetated swales, basins, and pocket wetlands that capture and treat urban storm water runoff from adjacent neighborhoods and the municipal golf course.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The Creeks Division requested a total of $3,941,585 in grant funding through this program. Of that amount, $1,789,388 in grant funds will be used for the Storm Drain Screens Project, combined with $184,612 of Measure B matching funds. For the Parking Lot Stormwater Retrofit Project, $500,000 is proposed in grant funds with $100,000 of Measure B matching funds. Finally, staff will request $1,652,197 from the CWSRF for the Upper Las Positas Creek Project, with $314,398 of Measure B matching funds. Measure B matching funds for all proposed projects are included in the Creeks Division Capital Fund.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

These projects are designed to reduce several types of water quality pollutants, including trash, sediment, nutrients, and heavy metals. The Las Positas Creek project also includes several acres of creek habitat restoration

PREPARED BY: Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Water Quality Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office