

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: September 22, 2022

TO: The Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395

FROM: Keith Mozee, Executive Director and General Manager for
Bureau of Street Services



**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT THREE CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CLEAN CALIFORNIA LOCAL
GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS**

The Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) submitted five applications with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Clean California Local Grant Program (CCLGP) and received three awards:

Project Name	Grant Amount
Creating Urban Habitat and Biodiversity through Median Greening	\$4,978,000
Hollenbeck Park Adjacent and I-5 Freeway Adjacent Beautification Project	\$4,993,180
Martin Luther King Jr Blvd: Equity & Connectivity through Greening	\$5,000,000
Total Grant Funding	\$14,971,180

StreetsLA is requesting authority to accept these grant funds and execute all Restricted Grant Agreements and any amendments thereto with Caltrans for this purpose.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

1. AUTHORIZE the Executive Director and General Manager of StreetsLA, or designee, to accept the awards totaling \$14,971,180 from Caltrans CCLGP to fund the Creating Urban Habitat and Biodiversity through Median Greening, Hollenbeck Park Adjacent and I-5 Freeway Adjacent Beautification, and Martin Luther King Jr Blvd: Equity & Connectivity through Greening projects.
2. AUTHORIZE StreetsLA to negotiate and execute three Restricted Grant Agreements and any amendments thereto with Caltrans, as may be necessary to claim grant funds.
3. AUTHORIZE StreetsLA to execute any necessary funding and contractual documents, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality, towards the completion of each grant's scope.
4. AUTHORIZE the Board of Public Works - Office of Accounting and City Controller to establish three new accounts within the Capital Improvement Expenditure

Program (CIEP) entitled:

- “Clean CA – Creating Urban Habitat and Biodiversity through Median Greening Project” in the amount of \$4,978,000
 - “Clean CA – Hollenbeck Park Adjacent and I-5 Freeway Adjacent Beautification Project” in the amount of \$4,993,180
 - “Clean CA – Martin Luther King Jr Blvd: Equity & Connectivity through Greening” in the amount of \$5,000,000.
5. AUTHORIZE StreetsLA to deposit grant funds into the corresponding CIEP accounts and request reimbursements through various Construction Project Reports for expenditures directly related to work on these projects.
 6. ADOPT the accompanying resolution authorizing StreetsLA to accept the aforementioned grant funds and execute all Restricted Grant Agreements and any amendments thereto with Caltrans.
 7. AUTHORIZE StreetsLA to make any technical adjustments as necessary to effectuate the intent of the Mayor and Council on this matter.

DISCUSSION

Governor Gavin Newsom launched Clean California, a \$1.1 billion statewide initiative to transform public spaces, with \$296 million dedicated to the Clean California Local Grant Program (CCLGP). The Call for Projects for the CCLGP commenced December 1, 2021 and provides one-time funding to beautify and enhance local streets, roads, parks, pathways, and transit centers to restore pride in public spaces. The maximum grant award is \$5 million per project and projects must be completed by June 30, 2024. Through the combination of adding beautification measures and art in public spaces along with the removal of litter and debris, this effort will enhance communities and improve spaces for walking and recreation. CCLGP was created to achieve the following goals:

- Reduce the amount of waste and debris within public rights-of-way, pathways, parks, transit centers, and other public spaces.
- Enhance, rehabilitate, restore, or install measures to beautify and improve public spaces and mitigate the urban heat island effect.
- Enhance public health, cultural connections, and community placemaking by improving public spaces for walking and recreation.
- Advance equity for underserved communities.

This grant program provides funding opportunities for many of the City’s goals and visions. To maximize the City’s chances of securing grant funds under the program, the City Council instructed various departments and bureaus to submit grant applications to Caltrans based on a prioritized list of 19 projects per C.F. 21-1169. Caltrans received 329 applications that sought \$758,485,147 in grants funds, of which StreetsLA received three awards in the total amount of \$14,971,180 for the projects below.

The Creating Urban Habitat and Biodiversity through Median Greening Project will improve existing medians located in six of the City of Los Angeles's historically underserved communities—Chinatown/Downtown LA, Van Nuys, Vermont Vista, Historic South Central, Leimert Park, and Wilmington. The Project will enhance the City's medians by replacing water consuming turf, inefficient irrigation systems, and litter strewn areas with native and/or drought tolerant planting and water-efficient irrigation. As the urban heat island effect and drought are disproportionately affecting LA's most underserved communities, converting these medians into quality green spaces will provide urban cooling, greening, water conservation, and biodiversity benefits directly to residents living in the project areas. This effort will serve as a blueprint for the City's wider effort to convert its 460+ median locations into a median network that explores the possibilities for converting the City's interstitial spaces with urban cooling, water conservation, and habitat benefits.

The Hollenbeck Park Adjacent and I-5 Freeway Adjacent Beautification Project is located in and adjacent to the Hollenbeck Park and the I-5 Freeway in the Boyle Heights community of the City of Los Angeles. The scope includes the public-right-of-way, City of Los Angeles' Recreation & Parks owned property, as well as Caltrans right-of-way. This project was initiated after identifying a need for safer access where the park edges meet the public right-of-way space. Project improvements include installing new sidewalks, planting over 200 trees, and adding new street and pedestrian lights, new fencing, and a new park entryway. This project seeks to make dramatic improvements to the physical infrastructure and environment by making Hollenbeck Park and its immediate vicinity more accessible to the public, improving public safety, and beautifying the area with landscaping, trees, and public art.

The Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard: Equity & Connectivity Through Greening Project is located along Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard between Hill Street and Central Avenue immediately east of the I-110 freeway. The scope includes converting seven locations along the corridor from paved median to raised landscaped medians with native and/or drought tolerant landscape and tree planting, rehabilitating two existing pedestrian refuge triangles into accessible green spaces with water efficient irrigation, and improving sidewalk and bus stop conditions along the corridor in Historic South Central, one of the City of Los Angeles' historically underserved communities, to provide residents and corridor users with a more comfortable, walkable and greener neighborhood.

In March 2022, StreetsLA received a conditional award letter from Caltrans for the three awarded projects, which consists of \$14,971,180 in grant funds and no local match requirement.

As a condition of grant acceptance, Caltrans requires execution of a Restricted Grant Agreement for each project, as well as an Agency Resolution that delegates the specific person authorized to execute such grant agreements with Caltrans.

Additionally, the grant funds will be disbursed to the City on a reimbursement basis. StreetsLA will frontfund the projects utilizing existing Proposition C Anti-Gridlock Transit

Funds that are appropriated within its annual budget as part of the Transportation Grant Annual Work Program. StreetsLA will deposit grant receipts into new accounts to be established within the CIEP, and later request reimbursements through Construction Projects Reports to reimburse frontfunding expenditures related to these projects.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There is no impact to the General Fund if the grant is accepted. Grant funds will be disbursed to the City on a reimbursement basis and StreetsLA will frontfund costs utilizing its existing annual Prop C appropriation.

KM/SL/MC:gf

