

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: April 3, 2023

CAO File No. 0220-06076-0000

Council File No. None

Council District: All

To: The City Council

From: *Yolanda Chavez*
for Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer

Subject: **AUTHORITY TO APPLY FOR THE CLEAN CALIFORNIA LOCAL GRANT PROGRAM (CCLGP) CYCLE 2**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council, subject to approval of the Mayor:

1. Authorize the General Managers of the Department of Transportation (DOT), Board of Public Works (BPW), the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS), or designees, to prepare grant applications for the proposals outlined in the Attachment 1; and,
2. Instruct the General Managers of the DOT, BPW, BOS, or designees, to report back if the City is awarded the grants, to request authority to accept the grant awards, and confirm any additional required match and/or front funding.

SUMMARY

The CCLGP Cycle 2 Grants Program, a competitive program, administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), provides grants to local communities to beautify and improve local streets and roads, tribal lands, parks, pathways, and transit centers to clean and enhance public spaces. The goals of the CCLGP Grants Program are to:

- Reduce the amount of waste and debris within public rights-of-way, pathways, parks, transit centers, and other public spaces;
- Advance equity for underserved communities. No less than 50 percent of the CCLGP funds are to fund projects that benefit underserved communities. An eligible project should clearly demonstrate a benefit to an underserved community or be directly located in an underserved community;
- Enhance public health and cultural connection by improving public spaces for walking and recreation; and
- Beautify and improve public spaces and mitigate the urban heat island effect.

The CCLGP Cycle 2 Grants Program will provide approximately \$100 million in grant funding to local communities in Fiscal year 2023-24. Eligible applicants must be a local or regional public

agency, transit agency, or federally recognized tribal government. Nonprofit organizations may partner with eligible applicants to apply. Caltrans issued the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and called for eligible applicants to apply for the grants. There is no limit on the number of applications that an applicant can submit. Multiple applications can be awarded to the same agency.

Local Match Requirements:

The required local match will range from 0 percent to 50 percent of the total grant amount request. The percentage is determined based on the “severity of disadvantage” (SOD) of the community surrounding the project. The community surrounding the project is defined as all census tracts within a ½ mile radius of the perimeter of the project site (or sites, if there are multiple locations). The required local match will decrease as the SOD of the surrounding community increases. Awardees will be held responsible for any local commitments at or above their minimum local match requirement as part of their grant agreement with Caltrans. The local match can be all cash, all third-party in-kind contributions, or a combination of the two. Revenue sources for local cash match can include local sales tax, special bond measures, private donations, or private foundation contributions. Third party in-kind contributions are typically goods and services donated from outside the primary applicant’s agency such as plants, trees, material, and equipment, etc. Attachment 2 lists the severity of disadvantage and the corresponding local match requirement.

Definition of Underserved Communities:

The definition for underserved communities may include disadvantaged and low-income communities, as defined in Sections 39711 and 39713 of the California Health and Safety Code, or another metric with verifiable information that identifies underserved communities. To qualify, the community served by the project must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Option 1: Area Median Income: Is less than 80 percent of the statewide median based on the most current Census Tract level data from the 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (<\$60,188);
- Option 2: CalEnviroScreen: An area identified as among the most disadvantaged 25 percent in the state according to the CalEPA and based on the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool 3.0 (CalEnviroScreen 3.01) scores. Score must be greater than or equal to 39.34;
- Option 3: National School Lunch Program: Based on pre-pandemic data, at least 75 percent of public-school students in the project area are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals (FRPM) under the National School Lunch Program. Data is available at the California Department of Education website;
- Option 4: Healthy Places Index: The Healthy Places Index includes a composite score for each census tract in the State. The higher the score, the healthier the community conditions, based on 25 community characteristics. The scores are then converted to a percentile to compare a census tract to other tracts in the State. A census tract must be in the 25th percentile or less to qualify as a disadvantaged community; and
- Option 5: Native American Tribal Lands.

This Office received three project proposals from DOT, BPW and BOS for Council consideration:

- Clean LA Jobs Program;
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Shatto Place Beautification and Sustainability Project; and
- Reseda Blvd Alley Green Streets.

Scoring criteria of the grants are the narrative, the project's relative population benefit to underserved communities and the scope, cost, and schedule. The score and evaluation of each criterion are listed below:

Component Number	Scored Component	Evaluations	Possible Score (Points)
1	Narrative	How does the project meet the grant's goals, requirements, and guidelines?	30
2	Project's Relative Population Benefit to Underserved Communities	The score is calculated from the "Area Surrounding the Project Site and Relative Population Benefit to Underserved Communities Form".	30
3	Scope, Cost and Schedule	How does the scope of the project meet the grant's goals, requirements, and guidelines? Is itemized cost breakdowns included? Is the project shovel-ready?	40
	Total		100

This Office met with the Departments to discuss and evaluate if the grant proposals met the scoring criteria of the grant. All three projects submitted by the Departments meet the grant's goal, requirements, and guidelines. This Office has determined that the project scoring criteria listed in Attachment 3 are substantively and comprehensively responsive to the grant's requirements and the proposed projects are likely to score high. The Departments have a portion of the funding committed for each project, which provides the funding match requirement under the grant.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the report recommendations will not result in a General Fund impact.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendation in this report complies with the City's Financial Policies.

Attachments

MWS:JSL:06230074

ATTACHMENT 1 - PROPOSED GRANT PROJECTS

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

NOFO Release Date: February 14, 2023

Due date: April 28, 2023

Maximum Award per grant: \$5,000,000. There is no minimum award.

Matching Fund Requirement: 0 to 50% depending on "the severity of disadvantage" (SOD) of the community surrounding the project.

Performance Period: All projects must be completed, and all funds must be expended by June 30, 2026.

Lead Department	Project Name	Project Description	Total Project (Budget)	Total Grant Request	Planned Completion Date
Board of Public Work (BPW)	Clean LA Jobs Program	This project will hire 75 City of LA residents to provide public right-of-way cleanup, consisting of litter cleanup, weed abatement, and removal of illegally discarded items along 17 identified corridors within the City of Los Angeles. This program will provide job opportunities and job training for persons who are facing challenges in obtaining permanent jobs with decent wages and benefits, including but not limited to young adults, individuals who are homeless or have experienced homelessness.	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	July 2025
Los Angeles Department of Transportation (DOT)	Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Shatto Place Beautification & Sustainability Project	<p>This project, situated in a densely populated disadvantaged school and resident community will install new placemaking space, a robust suite of shade trees, native plant landscaping, innovative maintenance strategy, waste bins, furnishings and lighting to beautify and address the area's high heat index and poor air quality to achieve the Clean CA program goals. The project's Clean CA Cycle 2 beautification and climate-mitigation scope will be a critical complement to an on-the-street redesign project (funded separately via a CALTRANS Active Transportation Project (ATP) Cycle 5 Quick Build grant) which has a common project schedule.</p> <p>Combining the Clean CA and Active Transportation Project's (ATP) project scopes will improve safety, climate, public health, physical activity and community convening on this very long block of Shatto Place which is the home of Young Oak Academy (YOKA), one of the City's top 50 schools, and multiple high unit apartment complexes. Amending the texture of the street to a fully calmed and healthy (cooler, greened and supporting physical activity) street is critical as a high percentage of YOKA's 800 student population walk, cycle or use transit to travel to/from school, and the majority of these active transportation users (7th - 9th graders) are independent travelers. This area also serves as a critical bicycle / scooter connector between two high cycle demand corridors (NENs), 4th Street and 7th Street. The project team will continue to engage the project area's adjacent schools and business community to inform them regarding the greening design and placemaking elements for Shatto Place</p>	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	June 2025
Bureau of Sanitation (BOS)	Reseda Blvd Alley Green Streets	The Project will improve stormwater quality, reduce urban runoff, and beautify a commercial and residential alley using interlocking pavers for vehicular alleys, street intercepts with aggregate filters, passive parkway irrigation, storage, trees and landscaping to capture, treat and use dry weather and wet weather runoff.	\$ 4,031,000	\$ 3,224,000	October 2024

ATTACHMENT 2 - LOCAL MATCH REQUIREMENT

The table below is extracted from the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) of the Clean California Grant, Cycle 2

Table 2. Severity of Disadvantage and Corresponding Local Match Requirement			
SOD Criteria	Ranges for SOD of Community Surrounding the Project	Required Local Match %	
Option 1: Area Median Income (AMI) compared to Statewide Median Income (SMI)*			
Data: Census Tract Level Data from the 2019 American Community Survey 5-year (ACS5) Estimates			
If the AMI SOD of the surrounding community is...	> \$60,188	Then local match is...	50
	\$56,426 to \$60,188		37.5
	\$52,665 to \$56,425		25
	\$48,903 to \$52,664		12.5
	< \$48,903		0
Option 2: CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Score (not percentile)			
Data: CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Results (June 2018 Update)			
If the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 SOD of the surrounding community is...	< 39	Then local match is...	50
	39 to 42		37.5
	43 to 46		25
	47 to 50		12.5
	> 50		0
Option 3: Percentage of Students that Receive Free or Reduced Lunches**			
Data: California Department of Education website			
If the Free Lunch SOD of the surrounding community is...	< 75	Then local match is ...	50
	75 to 79		37.5
	80 to 84		25
	85 to 90		12.5
	> 90		0
Option 4: Healthy Places Index (HPI) Score (use overall HPI score only)			
Data: California Healthy Places Index website			
If the HPI SOD of the surrounding community is...	> 25	Then local match is...	50
	21 to 25		37.5
	16 to 20		25
	10 to 15		12.5
	< 10		0
Option 5: Tribal Communities			
Data: List of Federally Recognized Tribal Governments in California			
If the project applicant or sub-applicant is a Federally Recognized Tribal Government or the project area is located within (or partially within) Federally Recognized Tribal Lands (typically within the boundaries of a Reservation or Rancheria), lands owned by or held in trust for an Indian tribe, allotted lands, and/or sensitive tribal areas (which might include areas in which a Native American Tribe has a significant interest such as traditional cultural properties and sacred sites).		Then the local match is...	0
*Communities with a population less than 15,000 may use data at the Census Block Group level. Unincorporated communities may use data at the Census Place level.			
**During the development of these guidelines, the National School Lunch Program started offering free lunches to all students. Thus, if an applicant still wants to use this option, it is recommended that pre-pandemic data be used.			

ATTACHMENT 3 - PROJECTS SCORING, EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PRIORITIZATION ORDER

Project Prioritization Order is based on priority to community.

Scoring & Evaluation Criteria	Name of Projects		
	Clean LA Jobs Program (Priority Order: 1)	Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Shatto Place Beautification & Sustainability Project (Priority Order: 2)	Reseda Blvd Alley Green Streets (Priority Order: 3)
Narrative - How does the project meet the grant's goals, requirements and guidelines?	<p>The Clean Jobs for LA program substantively meets the goals of the CCLGP by: (1) Reducing the amount of waste and debris within public rights-of-way, pathways, parks, transit centers, and other public spaces. (2) Enhancing, rehabilitating, restoring, or installing measures to beautify and improve public spaces and mitigate the urban heat island effect1. (3) Enhancing public health, cultural connections, and community place making by improving public spaces for walking and recreation. (4) Advancing equity for underserved communities. 17 main streets/corridors with a cumulative total of 80+ miles over various Council Districts have been identified. To meet the eligibility requirements for this grant program, these streets/corridors are on public property, in the City's jurisdiction and are located in underserved communities.</p>	<p>The project will include the implementation of the following elements: new placemaking, shade trees, drought-tolerant and native plants landscaping, placemaking furnishings, human-scale and energy-conserving lighting, wayfinding signage, facilities for proper waste collection/prevention to help achieve the Clean CA goals and meet the grant requirements.</p>	<p>The Project's scope meets all four goals of the CCLGP:</p> <p>Goal 1 - Reduce the amount of waste and debris within public rights-of-way, pathways, parks, transit centers, and other public spaces.</p> <p>The Project will capture stormwater and remove waste, debris, litter, and other pollutants that would otherwise pollute the ocean and other local water bodies.</p> <p>Goal 2 - Enhance, rehabilitate, restore, or install measures to beautify and improve public spaces and mitigate the urban heat island effect.</p> <p>The Project will replace the existing well-worn pavements with 8,000 square feet (sf) of new permeable paves that provide both stormwater management benefits and improved aesthetics to the alley. The Project also includes 4,800 sf of new landscaping which includes various planters, and 10 trees - all of which will add greening elements and beautify the alley, as well as mitigate the urban heat island effect.</p> <p>Goal 3 - Enhance public health, cultural connections, and community placemaking by improving public spaces for walking and recreation.</p> <p>The Project's stormwater management will protect the environment by preventing pollutants from entering the ocean and water bodies, thus enhancing public health. The functional and aesthetics improvements made to the pavement and alley will rejuvenate the public space, enhancing the recreational experience of local residents - whether it is for walking, patronizing the surrounding businesses, or creating new community meeting spaces. Upon completion, the improved alley will be able to showcase new public art installations as desired by the neighborhood.</p> <p>Goal 4 - Advance equity for underserved communities.</p> <p>According to CalEnviroScreen 4.0, the Project is located within the 1/2 mile radius of three census tracts that are all identified as disadvantaged based on their pollution burden. The Project seeks to advance equity for these communities by removing pollutants from their stormwater runoff, protecting the environment, and providing new green spaces.</p>

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Scoring & Evaluation Criteria	Name of Projects		
	Clean LA Jobs Program (Priority Order: 1)	Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Shatto Place Beautification & Sustainability Project (Priority Order: 2)	Reseda Blvd Alley Green Streets (Priority Order: 3)
Project's Relative Population Benefit to Underserved Communities	<p>Problems of trash, litter, and discarded items strewn across the public right-of-way have plagued the City for the past few years, and have grown exponentially during the COVID pandemic. These issues are citywide, but especially prevalent in the more economically challenged areas of Los Angeles. One of the primary complaints received to the City is the uncleanness of trash along the public right-of-way and the health issues associated with the uncleanness. Removing litter from these corridors is crucial in protecting the City's natural resources. Picking up this litter before it washes into the storm drains and eventually into rivers and the ocean is key in protecting these natural resources and keeping them healthy and clean for all Angelinos as well as those that live in these habitats.</p> <p>The focus will be in low income, disadvantaged, and severely disadvantaged communities within Council Districts 1, 6-10, and 14-15.</p>	<p>Shatto Place is situated in one of the City's most densely populated areas and hottest and green-deprived areas, and home each week day to over 800 vulnerable middle age students at Young Oak Kim Academy (YOKA). On-street redesign project alone is not sufficient to fundamentally transform the safety, comfort, convenience, and climate resilience of this corridor that is nexus for school and stakeholders. The cooling, greening and cleaning of Shatto Place via this Clean CA project scope that includes new placemaking space, shading and new vegetation on the east and west sides of this street, placemaking furnishing and lighting for both sides of the street, and trash bins will directly impact the health, quality of life and cleanliness of an area that serves students, transit users, and residents of the large, dense residence units at the corner of Shatto Place and Wilshire Boulevard.</p>	<p>The project is located in a disadvantaged community. The alley's pavement conditions are poor and damaged from heavy use by cars and pedestrians for the commercial businesses nearby. The Project will beautify the alley with new greening elements, planters, and a new pavement. The nature-based stormwater management elements will also reduce trash and other pollutants from reaching the LA River and the ocean. This will help to protect the watershed and revitalize the LA River. Other benefits include urban heat effect reduction, flood mitigation, and compliance with stormwater discharge regulations.</p> <p>Based on analysis of the census tracts within a 1/2 mile radius of the project using CalEnviroScreen 4.0, the percentage of the population surrounding the project site that is underserved (scoring 40 or higher on CalEnviroScreen 4.0) is 100%. Meaning that the Project's Relative Population Benefit to Underserved Communities is 100%, thus giving the Project the maximum score of 30 points for this category.</p>
Scope, Cost and Schedule (How does the scope of the project meet the grant's goals, requirements and guidelines? Is itemized cost breakdowns included? Is the project shovel-ready?)	<p>The project scope meets the grant's four goals by hiring 75 City of LA residents to remove and clean up the public-right-of-way in disadvantaged communities in Council districts 1, 6-10, and 14-15 that trash, litter, and discarded items have plagued the City for the past few years. If grant funding is awarded, the Board of Public Works (BPW) will use the \$5M grant funding to hire LA City residents to clean 17 corridors/streets within various council districts. These 17 disadvantaged corridors have a cumulative distance of 80+ miles. The BPW is ready to jump start the project by partnering with Economic and Workforce Development Department to train and hire LA residents to clean up the corridors. The project is expected to be complete by June 30, 2026.</p>	<p>The project is situated in a densely populated, disadvantaged community of which 80 percent of the area's public-school students are enrolled in the Free or Reduced Price Meals (FRPM). In this significantly park/open space deprived area of the City, this vegetation and tree enhanced project with new additional space to complement dining spaces will provide valuable recreation and community gathering opportunity for students, apartment residents and adjacent businesses. The project will complete the design in November 2023 and construction is anticipated to start on January 2024 and complete on June 2024. The shovel ready project will bring to life the community-centered design inspirations, enhance and expand the current footprint, and fundamentally transform this public space to provide innovative and climate crisis mitigation elements. These mitigation elements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - greening via native plants, - reducing heat island effects via shade trees and shade structures, - increasing water capture via some permeable surface materials, - addressing public health via reconfigured trash facilities, and - designing a more accessible plaza space using landscaping and welcoming placemaking elements to scale opportunities for community convening and cultural connections. <p>An itemized cost breakdown is included in the application, and</p>	<p>The project has the following public health benefit to meet the goals of the grant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve water quality downstream, 2. Comply with the trash, metals, nutrients, and bacteria limits on Ballona Creek downstream as required by the State Water Resources Control Board, 3. Utilize stormwater to reduce the water demand of the Lake, and the captured stormwater will provide a locally sourced resilient water supply, and 4. Develop multiple benefits for the neighboring communities equitably. <p>BOS' Safe Clean Water Implementation Division has extensive experience in delivering and maintaining stormwater management projects similar to the Reseda Blvd Alley Green Street. The Project's scope is well defined in a Concept Report and aligns well with the grant's goals, requirements, and guidelines. The cost of the Project has been estimated by a licensed engineer and an itemized cost breakdown has been created. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$4,031,000. The Project is entering the design phase, and will complete construction by October 2024, well before the grant deadline of June 2026. The Project has secured a front funding source in the form of the Safe Clean Water Municipal Fund, which is critical for a reimbursement grant such as CCLGP.</p>