GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING AND SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, November 8, 2018
5:30 p.m.

Committee Members:
Bryan Urias, Chair
Tony R. Fellow Vice-Chair

UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

602 E. Huntington Drive, Suite B
Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 443-2297
www.upperdistrict.org

Call-In: (877) 411-9748
Participant Code: 8736969

*The Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee meeting is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to the Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee may attend and participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the Committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to the Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee will not vote on matters before the Committee.

Communications
1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
Discussion/Action
3. Proposal to co-fund the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy's demonstration garden project at the Santa Fe Dam Nature Center. *(Staff memorandum attached.)*
Oral Reports
4. November 6, 2018 General Election Results
Other Matters
5.
Adjournment

Next Meeting: To be determined.

American Disabilities Act Compliance

Government Code Section 54954.2(a)

To request special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Upper District office at (626) 443-2297 at least 24 hours prior to meeting.

MEMORANDUM

UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

ITEM 3.

DATE: November 6, 2018

TO: Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee and Board of Directors

FROM: General Manager

SUBJECT: Request for Matching Funds for Santa Fe Dam Demonstration Garden

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Recommendation
Approve staff recommendation to sponsor the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy project at the Santa Fe Dam Nature Center in the amount of $2,000.

Background
The San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy (SGMRC), a nonprofit 501c3 organization, is developing a "Waterless Garden" at the Santa Fe Dam Nature Center. The demonstration garden will emphasize efficient outdoor water management practices and innovative water efficient technologies. The project will increase public awareness of natural, water efficient landscaping and provide inspiration for other sites to make water efficient changes to their landscapes.

The one-acre "Waterless Garden" is designed to need no further irrigation once the plants are established. The project site sits adjacent to a one-acre nature area with connector trails and natural gardens, which offers visitors a comparison of native and selected plants for non-irrigated growing conditions in designed or natural garden settings.

The Nature Center of the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area receives thousands of visitors annually, providing an opportunity for them to visit the demonstration garden and learn more. Increasing the public's understanding of landscaping as it undergoes local seasonal changes provides inspiration for creating similar water efficient transformations in their own landscape.

SGMRC is requesting funding in the amount of $2,000 from Upper District to help fund the completion of their demonstration garden. The funding would match a $2,000 Community Partnering Program grant received from Metropolitan Water District.

Attachment

602 E. Huntington Drive, Suite B | Monrovia, CA 91016 | (626) 443-2297 (phone) | (626) 443-0617 (fax) | www.upperdistrict.org

SGMRC

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS
REGIONAL CONSERVANCY

TO: Patty Cortez, Director of Community
& Government Affairs
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
602 E. Huntington Drive, Suite B
Monrovia, CA 91016

August 15, 2018

RE: Request for Matching Grant Funds for "Waterless" Garden at Santa Fe Dam

The San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy (SGMRC) is a nonprofit, 501c3 organization, EIN # 95-4702549, whose mission is to promote the preservation of land and/or buildings for historic, educational, ecological, recreational, scenic, or open space opportunities. SGMRC is in the midst of developing a demonstration "Waterless Garden" at the Santa Fe Dam Nature Center that will educate the public about the beauty and care of drought resistant gardens.

SGMRC is requesting that Upper District provide funding in the amount of $2,000 to help fund the completion of the "Waterless Garden" at Santa Fe Dam. The funding would match the $2,000 Community Partnering Program grant received from Metropolitan Water District.

Project Description. The project includes a one-acre demonstration garden that will not need irrigation once the plants are established. The project site will sit adjacent to a one-acre nature area with connector trails and natural gardens. The two different landscapes will offer the public a comparison of native and selected plants for non-irrigated growing conditions for both designed and natural gardens in the San Gabriel Valley.

The "Waterless Garden" will feature plants that show dramatic seasonal changes with the winter rains and summer drought. The changes are called Winter-Green, Summer-Shape, and Winter-Green, Summer-Color. Plants which drop their leaves with the summer drought, to leave a dramatic silhouette of bare branches, are called summer-shape, and plants which turn color during summer drought are called summer-color. Both plant types of plants return to the green state during winter rains, and are called winter-green. Thus, winter-green, summer-shape, and winter-green, summer-color describe the seasonal changes of the plants being featured. The plants reflect the summer drought and winter wet of the Mediterranean climate through their seasonal changes.

Work to be completed. The landscape beds and plants were installed by December 31, 2017, as 'Phase I'. 'Phase II', to be completed by December 2018, involves installation of rock gardens and more landscape beds. SGMRC requests funding for labor for the installation of boulders for 'Phase II'. Upon installation of the boulders, plants will be planted and 'Phase II' will be completed.

Benefits of the project. Current watering recommendations for low-water use residential gardens still often result in hundreds of gallons of irrigated watering per week. This project will be a valuable example of water conservation through utilizing natural watering requirements for plants and landscaping adapted to the local climate and topography.

This demonstration garden, will inspire people to consider that naturally-occurring, local seasonal changes in plants are interesting, and that gardens do not necessarily need to be green in summer to be beautiful. The aim for the adjacent nature area is to give people an opportunity to compare/contrast a cultivated garden vs. a 'wild' garden.

SGMRC

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS
REGIONAL CONSERVANCY

RE: Request for Matching Grant Funds for "Waterless" Garden at Santa Fe Dam

Each month thousands of people visit the Nature Center of the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, making it a perfect opportunity for countless people to wander through the demonstration garden and learn more. Increasing the public's understanding of landscaping that undergoes local seasonal changes, will provide ideas and inspiration for creating similar water efficient transformations in their own landscape.

Plant establishment. No irrigation will be installed for the project. During establishment, plants will be watered at intervals from a garden hose. Newly-planted plants will be given bi-or tri-weekly watering, and more established plants will be watered once per week, with the exception of Chaparral Currant (*Ribes malvaceum*). Due to some death from root rot, the watering of Chaparral Currant was stopped after June 1, resulting in no further losses. At each watering, 2" deep basins, sized with respect to plant spread, are filled with water. Except for a few varieties, most plants will be planted the fall of 2017 or fall of 2018, and will be considered established 18 months after planting. After establishment, plants will no longer be irrigated. The 18-month criterion is based on irrigation trials determined by UC Davis.

BUDGET

Installation by technical skilled assistance. 200 hrs (*high level of physical difficulty/skill: safety and professional*)	$2,000
Garden Design	$900
Installation: volunteers and community service assistance	$67,500
Internships (*$10 - $15 per hour, depending on difficulty*)	$10,000
Volunteer Supervision	$5,000
Landscape Plants	$3,000
Materials & Supplies	$1,500
Signage	$2,000
Heavy Equipment Rental	$2,000
TOTAL	**$93,900**

PROJECT TIMELINE

Waterless Garden Design -	Completed
Phase I Planting -	Completed
Path Installation (completed) -	Completed
Grading Installation (90% complete) -	Sept. 2019
Phase IV Planting -	Nov.-Dec. 2018
Project Completion -	**Dec. 2018**

SGMRC

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS
REGIONAL CONSERVANCY

'Waterless' Demonstration Garden for Southern California

Phase I. View looking north, April, with Chaparral Currant in foreground.

Phase I. Looking west, April, Giant Wild Rye and Haye's Iva

SGMRC, P.O. Box 963, Glendora, CA 91740 www.sgmrc.org ph/ 626-335-1771

SGMRC
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS
REGIONAL CONSERVANCY

Proposed 'Waterless' Demonstration Garden for Southern California

Phase I. July, dormant Chaparral Currant and 'Trident' Sage

Phase I. July, Chaparral Currant in dormancy

SGMRC, P.O. Box 963, Glendora, CA 91740 www.sgmrc.org ph/ 626-335-1771