

- **Board of Directors**
Recreation Committee

September 13, 2005 Board Meeting

REVISED 8-2

Subject

Adopt resolution to accept grant funding from the State Department of Parks and Recreation for the Diamond Valley Lake Trails Program

Description

This action adopts a resolution to accept state grant funding in support of the Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) Trails Program. A resolution is required to be included in this and future applications which request funding. The funding will aid in the development of public access trails to the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve (Reserve) that surrounds DVL and Lake Skinner. The trails will provide opportunities for nature observation and interpretation trails; and recreation such as hiking, biking and equestrian activities. Specific tasks within the development and management of trails include trail design, construction, maintenance, patrol, security, environmental monitoring, signage, and fee collection. With the recent completion and opening of the DVL Lakeview Trail, the major focus of the Program is the development of the 36-mile trail from DVL to Lake Skinner.

In April 2000, Metropolitan's Board authorized the Chief Executive Officer to pursue federal grant funding for Diamond Valley Recreation, including \$4.5 million for trails. In November 2000, federal legislation was enacted which authorized funding for trails. In February 2002, the Board authorized staff to plan, design and implement the initial phase of DVL trail segments (the North Hills Trail). Staff has identified other potential funding sources, such as the California State Parks Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and possible assistance from the county of Riverside. The state RTP funds will be used to match other federal and Metropolitan funds to provide public trail access to the Reserve.

The RTP provides funds annually for recreational trails and trail-related projects. Approximately \$2.2 million per year is available for non-motorized trail projects. In order to provide funds for the DVL trails, the RTP requires that Metropolitan's Board formally adopt a resolution to accept grant funding, designate a representative to sign the letter agreement, and designate a Project Manager to be Metropolitan's representative to administer the projects. If the Board does not adopt the resolution, Metropolitan will not be eligible to receive grant funding from the RTP. Given its general nature, the resolution could be used for other future grant requests as well.

A grant from the RTP will assist in the development of the DVL-to-Lake Skinner trail project in the following manner: (1) construction of new trail sections; (2) development of trailside and trailhead facilities such as signage, parking areas, and sanitation facilities; (3) and linkages to existing recreational trails. Potential additional improvements for trails include grading, vegetation removal, fencing, gates, shade structures, and benches and tables. Recommended trail alignments are planned to be presented to the Board in early 2006.

Since much of the trail system will be developed within the Reserve, staff will coordinate trail planning, design and implementation as well as operations and maintenance with the Reserve Management Committee. The Reserve Management Committee consists of five representatives from the following entities: Riverside County Regional Parks and Open Space, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The California Department of Fish and Game, Riverside Habitat Conservation Agency, and Metropolitan. The RTP requires matching funds. However, the share attributable to the RTP may not exceed 80 percent of the cost of the project. Alternately, funds from federal sources, other than the Department of Transportation, may be contributed to the project up to 95 percent. Metropolitan must provide the remaining project amount from a non-federal source. The matching funds for the RTP as well as other grant sources are available within the existing DVL Recreation Program appropriation.

Staff anticipates that much of the construction of the DVL-to-Lake Skinner trail will take place during fiscal year 2006/07. The deadline for submitting an application for RTP funding for grants awarded in January 2006 is October 1, 2005.

This action authorizes adoption of a resolution (**Attachment 1**) for grant funding for the Diamond Valley Lake Trails Program. No funds are appropriated under this action.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 5108: Capital Project Appropriation

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project, which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Section 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines). The acceptance of grant funds does not commit Metropolitan to any definite course of action. It does not dictate how funds will be spent, or in any way narrow the field of options and alternatives available to Metropolitan to include in the Master Trails Plan for Diamond Valley Lake. In essence, there is no binding commitment to spend in a particular manner before requiring environmental review. In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines). Prior to formal approval of the Master Trails Plan by the Board, CEQA documentation will be prepared by the Lead Agency and processed in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

The CEQA determination is: Determine that the proposed action is not subject to the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Sections 15378(b)(4) and 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options/Fiscal Impacts

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and

- a. Require all expenditures for this and other trails to be funded by Metropolitan's Recreation budget; and
- b. Adopt a resolution to accept grant funding for the Diamond Valley Lake Trails Program.

Fiscal Impact: None

Option #2

Do not authorize the resolution.

Fiscal Impact: Potential loss of grant funding for trails development.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Lilly L. Shraibati
for Eddie Rigdon
DVR Program Manager

8/25/2005
Date



Dennis Underwood
CEO/General Manager

8/26/2005
Date

Attachment 1 – Resolution

BLA #3862

RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA APPROVING THE APPLICATION
FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM.**

Whereas, the Transportation Equity Act For the 21st Century provides funds to the State of California for grants to state, local and nonprofit organizations to acquire, develop and/or maintain motorized and non-motorized trail purposes; and

Whereas, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary procedures governing project application under the program; and

Whereas, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of application(s) before submission of application(s) to the State; and

Whereas, upon acceptance of the application, the applicant will enter into an agreement with the State of California to complete the project(s);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Recreational Trails Program; and
2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have available prior to commencement of any work on the project(s) included in this application, sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project(s); and
3. Appoints _____ as agent of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment request and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, at its meeting held on September 13, 2005.

Executive Secretary
The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California