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Staff Report

Study
Session
ITEM NO.

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To: Lemoore City Council
From: Jason Shaw, Project Coordinator
Date: December 21, 2009
Subject: Prop 84 Park Project – Partnership with Lemoore Union High School District

Discussion:

Staff has been working with Lemoore Union High School District regarding the Statewide Park Program; \$368 million was made available through the Sustainable Communities and Climate Change Reduction chapter in Proposition 84. This grant specifically focuses on either the creation of new park space within a community, or the refurbishment of current parkland, which would add amenities for the benefit of the community.

There is only one restriction regarding the grant application: the project site must, within a 1 mile radius, contain residents whose medium household income is less than \$47,331 OR must contain less than 3 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Fortunately for the City of Lemoore, we don't have many areas that meet either of these criteria; however, the area around the High School meets the acreage requirement. Additionally, it should be noted that School Districts are not eligible to apply for this grant directly.

Applicants will be most competitive if their project creates new park space, and build amenities suggested by residents that live within a ½ mile of the project area. This last part is vital, as a requirement of the grant stipulates that the potential grantee hold up to 5 public meetings in order to gain public input and support. Lemoore High School has already held several meetings to gain public support and input.

On December 17th, the Lemoore High School Superintendent, Dwight Miller, met with the senior citizens at the Senior Center. On December 22nd, a meeting was held at the High School for local residents, and on January 7th, a similar meeting will be held for the Spanish speaking local area residents. The final meeting will be held on January 19th. Through the initial meetings with the City, a need for playing time and field space was identified for both the Pop Warner organization, and the City's local adult soccer leagues. It was suggested that these needs could be met with the installation of all-weather fields and adequate lighting, which would effectively increase playing capacity at the location. The first two meetings with residents yielded ideas for additional amenities, including a small playground, pavilion, fitness stations, and even the suggestion of building a small skate park due to some parents safety concerns at the City's current skate park.

This new park space would be open to the public during non-school hours, and any maintenance-associated labor and costs would be the responsibility of the school district. Superintendent Dwight Miller will be in attendance and will brief the Council on the proposed project, in so much as we have determined to date.

In order to move forward on the project, the Office of Grants and Local Services has requested that applicants provide a resolution approving the grant application.

Budget Impact:

None at this time.

Recommendation:

Council discussion. A resolution will be on the Consent Calendar at the Regular Session for consideration.