Atascadero City Council
Staff Report – Community Services Department

Request for Funding Assistance from the Upper Salinas-Resources Conservation District (RCD) for the Atascadero Creek/Salinas River Trials Enhancement Project

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Council:

1. Authorize the Administrative Services Director to appropriate $9,350 from the General Fund Reserves to assist RCD with the Atascadero Creek/Salinas River Trails Enhancement Project; and,
2. Direct staff to waive the $2,612 permit fees for the Atascadero Creek/Salinas River Trails Enhancement Project.

DISCUSSION:

Background: On March 29, 2007, City Manager Wade McKinney received correspondence from D.J. Funk, Executive Director of the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (RCD) requesting funding assistance for the Atascadero/Salinas River Trails Enhancement Project. The RCD has incurred unforeseen overhead costs impacting their agency and causing a financial hardship. The Enhancement Project has been approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council. This project is significant to the community, and the City of Atascadero has an interest in seeing the project’s successful completion.

The RCD serves as the grant administrator for the project and has sole responsibility for covering project expenditures. However, the RCD has been unable to adequately cover some of the administration costs, initial environmental studies, and other overhead costs totaling approximately, $9,350. The RCD has forwarded summaries of the costs in the attachments provided as part of this report. The City of Atascadero has already provided “in-kind” funding to the project, in terms of considerable staff time. The permit fees, totaling $2,612, have also not been paid.
The RCD has encountered similar problems with the project in Paso Robles. The Paso Robles City Council recently approved similar funding assistance to the RCD for the amount of $14,000.

The RCD has been a valuable partner in bringing substantial resources into Atascadero to enhance the Atascadero Creek and River corridors. The City clearly would like to see the project completed as approved. There is public benefit from the project, and staff is recommending approval of the requests for funding assistance.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total cost of this request from the RCD is $9,350 to be appropriated from the General Fund Reserves and the waiving of an additional $2,612 in project permit fees.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

A - Letter from D.J. Funk to the City Manager requesting funding assistance from the City.

B - RCD breakdown of Atascadero Enhancement Project expenses.