

THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO.: 10.4

**SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY**

DIVISION: Finance and Information Technology

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Authorizing the Director of Transportation, or his designee, to execute the Restricted Grant Agreement with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the award of \$1,824,328 for the SoMa Transit Gardens Connection project; and providing assurances that the SFMTA will comply with Caltrans policies.


SUMMARY:

- The Clean California Local Grant Program (CCLGP) (Streets and Highway Code Section 91.41) is a competitive statewide program created to beautify and clean up local streets and roads, tribal lands, parks, pathways, transit centers, and other public spaces.
- Only local public agencies are eligible to apply for CCLGP grants, but non-profits can be subrecipients. The SFMTA submitted an application for CCLGP funding on behalf of the Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy, a non-profit, who will implement the project as a subrecipient of the grant funds.
- The SFMTA will administer the grant, and the City's Real Estate Division will oversee the day-to-day administration of the project.
- The funding administrator, Caltrans, requires a board resolution authorizing the SFMTA to execute the Restricted Grant Agreement.

ENCLOSURES:

1. SFMTAB Resolution

APPROVALS:

DIRECTOR  _____

SECRETARY  _____

DATE`

April 27, 2022

April 27, 2022

ASSIGNED SFMTAB CALENDAR DATE: May 3, 2022

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PURPOSE

Authorizing the Director of Transportation or his designee to execute the Restricted Grant Agreement with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the award of \$1,824,328 for the SoMa Transit Gardens Connection project; and providing assurances that the SFMTA will comply with Caltrans policies.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND TRANSIT FIRST POLICY PRINCIPLES

The Clean California Restricted Grant Agreement supports the following goals and objectives within the SFMTA Strategic Plan including:

Goal 7: Build stronger relationships with stakeholders.

Goal 10: Position the agency for financial success.

This item will support the following Transit First Policy Principles:

1. Decisions regarding the use of limited public street and sidewalk space shall encourage the use of public rights of way by pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit, and shall strive to reduce traffic and improve public health and safety.
2. Pedestrian areas shall be enhanced wherever possible to improve the safety and comfort of pedestrians and to encourage travel by foot.

DESCRIPTION

The Clean California Local Grant Program (CCLGP) is a competitive statewide program created to beautify and clean up local streets and roads, tribal lands, parks, pathways, transit centers, and other public spaces. Assembly Bill 149 (Sec.16) created the CCLGP of 2021, codified under Streets and Highway Code §91.41. The Program is one part of the nearly \$1.1 billion Clean California initiative that takes direct aim at the continuous trash generation that has overwhelmed Caltrans and its partners.

The Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy (Conservancy) is embarking on a beautification project for the areas surrounding the Moscone Convention Center, specifically along 3rd and 4th streets between Folsom and Howard streets. The SoMa Transit Gardens Connection project will beautify and clean public spaces near the soon-to-be-opened Yerba Buena/Moscone Central Subway station through these main project components: new landscaping with native plants; community art installations; cleaning and litter abatement. The project area is public space and is entirely visible and accessible to the public. Specifically, the project will replace the dirt and barewood chips in the large sloped planting beds with drought-resistant native plants. Artists will create a mural on the currently blank concrete walls and staircase facing the transit station. The project partners will coordinate cleaning and litter abatement programs to keep the sidewalks clean. The enhancement and beautification of these public spaces will improve access and connect commuters and visitors from the transit station, adjacent Yerba Buena Gardens, and the larger community.

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The total cost for the project is \$3,649,395. The Conservancy approached the SFMTA with a request to submit a grant application for \$1,824,328 on its behalf because only local public agencies are eligible to apply for CCLGP grants. However, non-profits may be subrecipients. Of the total grant funds, the Conservancy will receive \$1,749,328 (or 50 percent of the cost of the project) to implement the project. The Conservancy will provide the remaining 50 percent of project costs through other funding sources. The SFMTA will retain approximately \$75,000 for grant administration, which includes the cost of project management services provided by the City's Real Estate Division (RED) due to RED's on-going relationship with the Conservancy and familiarity with the project.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Multiple local groups listed below held community engagement meetings from October 2020 to February 2021 to learn how the neighborhood's priorities for Yerba Buena Gardens have shifted in recent years. The participation and comments from hundreds of neighborhood residents, cultural workers, office workers, and community leaders guided the proposed SoMa Transit Gardens Connection project.

Project partners gathered community input at the following seven meetings:

1. Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy hosted a meeting with leaders of the child and youth centers at Yerba Buena Gardens in October 2020.
2. The Yerba Buena Community Benefit District invited the public to a virtual Streets and Public Space Committee meeting in October 2020.
3. The Yerba Buena Community Benefit District hosted a session with residents of nearby apartment complexes in October 2020.
4. The Yerba Buena Alliance hosted a session for neighborhood residents and advocates in October 2020.
5. The Children's Creativity Museum hosted a session for its employees and youth educators in December 2020.
6. The Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy hosted long-time neighborhood arts advocates and performing arts programmers Yerba Buena Gardens Festival in a session in December 2020.
7. The South of Market Child Care Center, South of Market Family Resource Center, and Children's Creativity Museum held a session with each organization's management, educators, community liaisons, and advisors in February 2021.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

If the SFMTA does not authorize execution of the Restricted Grant Agreement, the SoMa Transit Gardens Connection project will not be implemented.

FUNDING IMPACT

The SoMa Transit Gardens Connection project's total cost is \$3,649,395. The Clean California

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grant will cover 50 percent of these costs and the Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy will provide the remaining 50 percent through other funding sources. Of the \$1,824,328 grant, \$1,749,328 will cover the Conservancy's project costs, and the remaining \$75,000 will cover the SFMTA's costs for administering the grant, project management services by the Real Estate Division, and services of the City Attorney's Office.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

On March 18, 2022, the SFMTA, under authority delegated by the Planning Department, determined that the execution of the Restricted Grant Agreement for the Clean California Local Grant Program is not a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Sections 15060(c) and 15378(b).

A copy of the CEQA determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors and is incorporated herein by reference.

OTHER APPROVALS RECEIVED OR STILL REQUIRED

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed this calendar item.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the SFMTA Board authorize the Director of Transportation, or his designee, to execute the Restricted Grant Agreement with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the award of \$1,824,328 for the SoMa Transit Gardens Connection project; and providing assurances that the SFMTA will comply with Caltrans policies.

SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION No. _____

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) is an eligible project sponsor for the Clean California Local Grant Program (CCLGP), administered by the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans); and

WHEREAS, The statutes related to State-funded transit projects require a local or implementing agency to abide by various regulations; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 149 (Sec.16) created the CCLGP of 2021 and designated Caltrans as the implementing agency; and

WHEREAS, The Department has developed guidelines for the purpose of administering and distributing CCLGP funds to eligible project sponsors (local agencies); and

WHEREAS, The Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy (Conservancy) is embarking on the SoMa Transit Gardens Connection project (Project) for the areas surrounding the Moscone Convention Center, specifically along 3rd and 4th streets between Folsom and Howard streets; the Project will beautify and clean public spaces near the soon-to-be-opened Yerba Buena/Moscone Central Subway station through these main project components: new landscaping with native plants; community art installations; and cleaning and litter abatement; and

WHEREAS, The SFMTA has applied and received approval from Caltrans for a grant of \$1,824,328 for the Project, the total cost of which is estimated to be \$3,649,395; and

WHEREAS, The SFMTA will enter into a subrecipient grant agreement with the Conservancy, under which the Conservancy will receive \$1,749,328 from the grant for implementation of the Project, and provide the remaining 50 percent of project costs through other funding sources; and

WHEREAS, On March 18, 2022, the SFMTA, under authority delegated by the Planning Department, determined that the execution of the Restricted Grant Agreement for the Clean California Local Grant Program is not a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Sections 15060(c) and 15378(b); and

WHEREAS, A copy of the CEQA determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors and is incorporated herein by reference; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the SFMTA Board of Directors authorizes the Director of Transportation, or his designee, to execute the Restricted Grant Agreement with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the award of \$1,824,328 for the SoMa Transit Gardens Connection project; and providing assurances that the SFMTA will comply with Caltrans policies; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the SFMTA Board of Directors authorizes the SFMTA to comply with all conditions and requirements set forth in the applicable statutes, regulations and guidelines for all projects funded by the Clean California Local Grant Program.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its meeting of May 3, 2022.

Secretary to the Board of Directors
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency