

Responses to Council Questions and Comments

4/15/2024

Item #4: Resolution Approving Allocation of Open Space Acquisition Funds to Earth Island Institute/Kelly Creek Protection Project for the Helen Putnam Park Expansion Project and Authorizing the City Manager to Sign Documents for Financing of The Project

- Question: Is there a match required for the \$250,000 grant? Was this part of the original agreement when Davidon was approved?
 - Response: There were no City funds allocated to the Helen Putnam Expansion as part of the approval of Scott Ranch project. The requested \$250,000 allocation of open space acquisition funds does not have a match requirement, but Earth Island Institute/Kelly Creek Protection Project has demonstrated successful fundraising matches the \$250,000 local funding many times over.
- Question: What are the requirements for transfer of these funds to private hands?
 - Response: Prior to distributing any funds that have been allocated the City would execute a grant agreement with Earth Island Institute/Kelly Creek Protection Project outlining all requirements of the grant.
- Question: What is the projected date of completion of these requirements?
 - Response: Staff will be prepared to discuss during the meet
- Question: What is the Open Space requirement of the GP Update? Is there any change from the 727 acres?
 - Response: Staff does not have a specific open space requirement anticipated at this time.
- Question: What confidence is there in achievement of the remaining fundraising requirement?
 - Response: As outlined in the staff report, Earth Island Institute has raised \$4.1 million towards the acquisition, restoration, and phase 1 park improvements. Based on recent communication with the Director of KCPP, an additional \$1,450,000 was recently awarded by Sonoma County Open Space and Agricultural Preservation District and a request for an additional \$1,800,000 allocation is being prepared for consideration by the Board of Supervisors at an upcoming meeting. With the City's allocation of \$250,000 that would bring funding to date up to \$7.6 million. KCPP is seeking funding for the additional \$1.5 million from other sources such as coastal conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Bond, and private donations. To date there has been a significant and successful fundraising effort with support from a variety of sources to make the Helen Putnam Expansion a reality.
- Question: Can this budget action be specifically in FY25, as it is unlikely an action occurring in FY24? Making an adjustment to FY24 would misrepresent the transaction and the budget.
 - Response: Staff anticipates that this allocation will most likely be part of the FY25 budget.