

## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** APRIL 22, 2009

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

**BY:** RAMIRO ADEVA, CITY ENGINEER

**SUBJECT:** APPROVE APPLICATION FOR THE 2009 COMPETITIVE NATURAL LAND FOR TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM TO CONSTRUCT EQUESTRIAN TRAILS ALONG CHESEBRO ROAD

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Staff continues to receive requests from the Old Agoura Equestrian Use and Trails Committee to construct equestrian trails within the City to provide a safe and useful network of equestrian trails for the community. In May 2007, work was completed for the Driver Avenue Equestrian Trail Improvement Project; NIB 06-02. Driver Avenue was identified as the highest priority due to the amount of daily traffic along the street. The work included the installation of new cedar fencing and decomposed granite trails from Colodny Drive to Easterly Road. As part of the original design services approved by the City Council at the January 25, 2006 meeting, Willdan Engineering included preliminary plans for the sections of public trails along Chesebro Road. The Chesebro Road trail was identified as the second highest priority by the Old Agoura Equestrian Use and Trails Committee, due to the amount of traffic along the narrow street, in addition to, the committee's desire to have a connector trail to the Old Agoura Park horse arena. Any potential trails would also be useful for those walking or jogging, due to non-existent sidewalks in the Old Agoura area.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky announced on behalf of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, that applications are currently being accepted for the 2009 Competitive Natural Land for Trails Grant Program. This competitive grant program is only offered to agencies within the Third Supervisorial District, and will assist in funding land acquisition and trail development projects in the Santa Monica Mountains. If awarded, the project would be required to be completed within three (3) years from the execution date of the grant agreement. Staff is in the process of completing the application so that it can be submitted prior to the May 28, 2009 deadline. Pending Council approval, the grant request would be for a total of \$125,000. With priority being given to those projects with matching funds, staff is recommending an equal match in order to be competitive. Therefore, if the City is successful with this competitive grant, \$250,000 would be dedicated to expanding our equestrian trail network approximately 1-2 miles.

As part of the application process, a resolution approved by the City Council, authorizing the application for grant funds, will be required at the time of submittal. In order to submit the City's application package by the due date, staff would present the draft resolution for Council's consideration at the May 13, 2009 meeting.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council:

1. Authorize the application for the 2009 Competitive Natural Land for Trails Grant Program to construct equestrian trails along Chesebro Road, and
2. Provide direction to staff whether or not to complete plans and specifications for this project regardless of obtaining grant funding for the project, to include in next year's Capital Improvement Plan.