



REPORT to the MAYOR and MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL
From the CITY MANAGER

DATE: July 25, 2023

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
SERVICES FOR THE CIVICSPARK PROGRAM 2023-
2024 SERVICE YEAR TO CIVICWELL

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: Public Works

SUMMARY:

Issues:

Should the City Council adopt a resolution to approve an agreement for Climate Action Plan implementation services for the CivicSpark program 2023-2024 service year to CivicWell for \$62,000?

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt a resolution to approve an agreement for Climate Action Plan implementation services for the CivicSpark program 2023-2024 service year to CivicWell for \$62,000.

Fiscal Impact:

The cost for this service is \$62,000 and funds are available in the FY2023-2024 Environmental Services Operating Budget Account 208-64300-301-000000.

City's Strategic Goals:

- Continue to improve high quality municipal services
- Foster community health by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving environmental quality

Climate Action Plan Reduction Strategy:

This item supports all measures within the Climate Action Plan.

BACKGROUND:

Climate Action Plan

In March 2018, City Council approved the Climate Action Plan (CAP), which charts a course to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 15% by 2020, and 53% below 2010 levels by 2035. The CAP serves as a long-range road map with measures and key actions to implement in energy, transportation, solid waste, water, and green infrastructure.

Climate Action Plan CivicSpark Fellows

CivicSpark is a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program dedicated to building capacity for local public agencies to address community resilience issues such as climate change, water resource management, housing, and mobility. CivicSpark is a program of CivicWell (formally Local Government Commission or LGC) in partnership with the State of California through the Office of Planning and Research, and California Volunteers.

The CivicSpark program provides a dedicated Fellow for an eleven-month period (1,700 hours) to support research, planning, and implementation projects for community resilience. Fellows are AmeriCorps members selected through a competitive national application process. Fellows have at minimum a college degree in a relevant field, as well as workplace and community service experience. Projects must support local public agency resiliency needs around climate change adaptation or mitigation, affordable housing, energy efficiency, water management or policy, sustainable mobility, or rural broadband.

The City of La Mesa hosted two CivicSpark Fellows in each of the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 service terms, in which they have made significant contributions in CAP implementation. The City of La Mesa submitted an application to CivicSpark for two Fellows to assist the City with CAP implementation activities focused transportation and community engagement. City staff was interviewed by CivicSpark program representatives to ensure project scope met the goals of the CivicSpark program. Subsequently, the City received notice of approval for two Fellows for the 2023-2024 service term.

DISCUSSION:

To participate in the CivicSpark program, the City is required execute an Agreement with CivicWell, which coordinates the AmeriCorps and CivicSpark program (Attachment B). The Agreement stipulates that CivicWell will place a Fellow with the City of La Mesa to complete climate action, resilience, and community engagement projects related to the City's Climate Action Plan. CivicWell's oversight of the program and the Fellows it places in local governments includes a strongly defined program structure, supervision by regional coordinators and clearly documented performance expectations. The program is designed to successfully deliver results tailored to local needs.

The CivicSpark program is funded in part by AmeriCorps and in part by the local government partner. The cost to the City to host one Fellow is \$31,000, therefore the City is responsible for funding \$62,000 to host two Fellows to participate in the CivicSpark program. The City Council authorized this amount with funds budgeted in the approved FY2023-2024 budget.

The Fellows are employees of CivicWell, not the City of La Mesa. CivicWell provides training and professional development opportunities, health insurance, and general support for the Fellows. If approved, the Fellow's placement with the City would begin in September 12, 2023 and last for a period of 11 months, with the Fellows working regular City work hours. City staff participated in the selection of the candidates. The agreement requires the City to keep CivicWell apprised of the projects the Fellows are working on and any challenges that may arise, including potential updated project scopes and goals as necessary. The Fellows would be supervised by the Environmental Program Manager and work a hybrid schedule, consisting of remote work off-site and work conducted at City Hall.

The Fellows will work on Climate Action Plan implementation activities with one focused on transportation and the other focused on community engagement.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt a resolution to approve an agreement for Climate Action Plan implementation services for the CivicSpark program 2023-2024 service year to CivicWell for \$62,000.

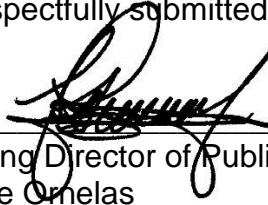
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Reviewed by:

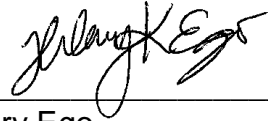


Greg Humora
City Manager

Respectfully submitted by:



Acting Director of Public Works
Jose Omelas



Hilary Ego
Environmental Program Manager

Attachments: Attachment A: Resolution
Attachment B: Agreement