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BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 2, 2017

12:30 p.m.

**EBRPD - Administrative Headquarters
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
Oakland, California 94605**

The following agenda items are listed for Committee consideration. In accordance with the Board Operating Guidelines, no official action of the Board will be taken at this meeting; rather, the Committee's purpose shall be to review the listed items and to consider developing recommendations to the Board of Directors.

A copy of the background materials concerning these agenda items, including any material that may have been submitted less than 72 hours before the meeting, is available for inspection on the District's website (www.ebparks.org), the Headquarters reception desk, and at the meeting.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

If you wish to testify on an item on the agenda, please complete a speaker's form and submit it to the recording secretary. Your name will be called when the item is announced for discussion.

Accommodations and Access

District facilities and meetings comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If special accommodations are needed for you to participate, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 510-544-2020 as soon as possible, but preferably at least three working days prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

<u>TIME</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
12:30 pm	1. Operations Strategic Plan Update	I	Alvarez/O'Connor
1:00 pm	2. Biomass Utilization Pilot Project	I	Alvarez/Hamlat
1:25 pm	3. Measure WW Urban Creeks Grant Program	I	Rasmussen/Graul
	4. Open Forum for Public Comments <i>Individuals wishing to address the Committee on a topic not on the agenda may do so by completing a speaker's form and submitting it to the recording secretary.</i>		
	5. Board Committee Comments		

Future Meetings:

January – No Meeting	July 6
February 2	August 3
March 2	September 7
April 6	October 5
May 4	November 2
June 1	December 7

R - Recommendation for Future Board Consideration

I - Information

D - Discussion

Executive Committee Members

Beverly Lane (Chair), Dennis Waespi, Ayn Wieskamp

Whitney Dotson, Alternate

Robert E. Doyle, Staff Coordinator



BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting of March 2, 2017

TO: Board Executive Committee

FROM: Robert Doyle, General Manager

**STAFF REPORT
PREPARED BY:** Jim O'Connor, Assistant General Manager, Operations

SUBJECT: Operations Strategic Plan Update

Jim O'Connor, AGM for Operations, along with the Operations Management staff, will provide a brief overview of strategic planning efforts developed over the last three years for the five division work units: Park Operations, Interpretive and Recreation Services, Maintenance and Skilled Trades, Business Services, and Operations Administration.

BACKGROUND

Over the last five years the District has undergone a significant expansion of land under management, while at the same time experiencing the most significant turnover of staff in the history of the District. These changes present significant challenges, but also provide an opportunity to re-examine our organizational structure and service delivery models to determine if there are new and/or more efficient ways of operating and maintaining the parks presently and into the future.

RECOMMENDATION

None. This is an informational item.

**BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting of March 2, 2017

TO: Board Executive Committee

FROM: Robert Doyle, General Manager

**STAFF REPORT
PREPARED BY:** Sandra Hamlat, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Biomass Utilization Pilot Project

Sandra Hamlat, Senior Planner, will make a presentation on this agenda item.

BACKGROUND

East Bay Regional Park District staff is applying for grants to fund a biomass utilization pilot project that is described below. Specifically, staff is applying for California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Calfire) Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program funding that consists of a two-step process: 1) applicants submit concept proposals by December 16, 2016; and 2) applicants are notified in late winter (late February) if they are invited to submit a full application.

The grant program is funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) for California Climate Investments administered by Calfire. GGRF receives Cap and Trade auction proceeds and requires that projects demonstrate greenhouse gas emission benefits and net carbon sequestration. In addition, projects must focus on use of trees and associated vegetation to provide multiple benefit solutions. A total of \$15 million has been appropriated for this grant program. At a minimum, 75 percent of the appropriation will be expended on projects meeting the Air Resources Board criteria for being located within disadvantaged communities.

Park District staff submitted a concept proposal by the December 16, 2016 deadline requesting up to \$750,000 for a pilot project within the grant program's Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization category. The pilot project proposes to test a new option for more efficiently using biomass generated by fuels management projects in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Park District staff is considering Point Pinole Regional Shoreline and the nearby Green Waste Recycling Yard locations in Richmond (see Figure 1). The Park District location for the pilot project was selected based on proximity to a planned fuels project, compatibility with existing park uses, operational feasibility, and safety and grant requirements.

**Figure 1 – Point Pinole viewed from
Green Waste Recycle Yard**



Currently, there is more biomass feedstock than the Park District can reuse on-site as a result of tree mortality from drought and beetle infestations. Hauling this material to the only facility in Tracy that can accept it, or alternatively local landfills, results in greater greenhouse gas emissions than reusing the feedstock to create clean energy on-site.

This clean energy would contribute system reliability to the solar panels that the Park District recently installed at Shadow Cliffs. Creating clean energy from the biomass would also be more cost-effective than disposing of it, and the Park District could sell the excess energy back to PG&E. Furthermore, as a special district, the Park District would be eligible to participate in a Community Choice Energy (CCE) program as a provider of renewable energy to the region. Both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties are developing CCE programs so that residents can choose cost-effective, renewable energy that creates local green jobs.

The purpose of the pilot project is to test this technology. The proposed project would install a compact modular biomass unit in proximity to a planned fuels management project (see Figure 2). Wood chips from the fuels management project would be used to produce electricity, which could either power nearby facilities or be sold back to PG&E. Since the unit is modular, it can be moved to other locations when the project is completed. This conversion to clean energy would be an improvement to the current routine path used to dispose of excess biomass, namely, transportation to landfills or chipping and dispersal on site.

Figure 2 - Biomass Unit



A by-product of biomass utilization is biochar, which is a premium compost material that could be used in a soil carbon pilot project that the Climate Action Team (a District-wide, interdivisional/interdepartmental initiative) is considering in partnership with academic and external organizations. In doing so, the Park District would be closing the carbon cycle on the lands that it manages, and moving the Park District closer to carbon neutrality.

The biomass utilization pilot project would require partners from the biomass technology sector and a research partner to evaluate the greenhouse gas reduction effects. *All Power Labs*, located in the City of Berkeley, designs, engineers, and manufactures biomass gasification energy platforms and desires to partner with the Park District on this pilot project. Energy researchers at UC Berkeley have also expressed interest in providing the third party evaluation of the pilot project.

Revenue/Cost

This item is an informational one about a grant application of approximately \$750,000 for an urban and community forestry pilot project. Grantees are required to provide matching funds equal to 25 percent of the total project cost. Park District staff plan to use their project time funded by already approved department staff budgets utilizing General Fund monies to satisfy this matching funds requirement.

RECOMMENDATION

None. This is an informational item.

**BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting of March 2, 2017

TO: Board Executive Committee

FROM: Robert Doyle, General Manager

**STAFF REPORT
PREPARED BY:** Jeff Rasmussen, Assistant Finance Officer

SUBJECT: Measure WW Urban Creeks Grant Program

Jeff Rasmussen, Assistant Finance Officer, and Matt Gaul, Chief of Stewardship, will make a presentation on this agenda item.

BACKGROUND

On October 14, 2016, the Board Executive Committee (Committee) recommended to the full Board the appropriation of \$1.6 million in Measure WW funds and the release of the draft guidelines for the first round of the Measure WW Urban Creek Grants program for public review. On November 1, 2016, the Board approved the release of the guidelines for public review (Resolution 2016-11-283). The guidelines were posted on the District's website and staff held public workshops at the Trudeau Training Center on January 11, 2017, and at the Big Break Visitor Center on January 24, 2017. On January 23, 2017, the Park Advisory Committee (PAC) reviewed and commented on the guidelines, and recommended approval of the program to the full Board.

Use of Funds District-Wide

At the October 14, 2016 Committee meeting, staff recommended that Measure WW funds be available, based on the scoring criteria in the guidelines, District-wide for both acquisition and restoration projects. (Funds will not be available in the Murray Township, which is not part of the Measure WW area.) In other words, there would not be limits based on Metro or the allocation between acquisition and development in this grant program. Staff will be proposing this same recommendation to the full Board.

Public Comment on the Guidelines

The PAC had a number of questions about the process, but recommend the funds be available District-wide. In addition to PAC comments, staff also received comments at the public workshops. A summary of the comments and changes to the guidelines are as follows:

- I. The points for the Population (Criteria #1) were lowered from 10 point per 1,000 people to 5 points per 1,000. (It was thought that 10 points could overwhelm the scoring.)

2. Former Director Siden asked that the points for public access (Criteria #10) be kept at 15 points and that maximum points be given for a project providing trail access to transit centers.
3. Language was added to the scoring criteria to clarify the criteria.
4. Based on comments from the PAC, the start date for eligibility use of matching funds was moved back to 2015; the application deadline was moved out to February 2018; and the use of grant funds was extended through 2025. In addition, a description of the project goals for the program was added.
5. Language was added to the guidelines and the forms relating to matching funds and CEQA requirements.
6. All the other comments and questions from the public were related to administration of the program.
7. The final grant contract will be reviewed by Legal.
8. Staff will hold a workshop and provide technical assistance to applicants throughout the process.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that the Committee:

1. Provide comments related to the proposed final Procedural Guide and District-wide allocation of the \$1.6 million Urban Creeks Grant Program; and
2. Recommend to the full Board the release of the final guidelines for implementation.

Following receipt of grant applications and scoring, staff would bring the final projects recommended for funding back the full Board for approval in the fall of 2018.

ATTACHMENTS

(Available for review on the District's website, www.ebparks.org)

Attachment A - Procedural Guide for the Urban Creeks Grant Program (Round #1)