




STAFF REPORT

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2012
TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: ROD FOSTER, CITY MANAGER 
PREPARED BY: TIM MCHARGUE, FIRE CHIEF
SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF A \$20,000 GRANT FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE TO STABILIZE THREE HILLSIDE LOCATIONS DAMAGED IN THE FLOODING OF DECEMBER 2010, AND TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 BUDGET

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the acceptance of a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS") of the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA"), for stabilizing three hillside locations damaged by the excessive rain and flooding of December, 2010 and adopt Resolution No. R-59-12 to amend the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget.

GOAL STATEMENT

The proposed action will support the City's goal to provide outstanding public safety services to the citizens of Colton.

BACKGROUND

On December 22, 2010, 2.75 inches of rain fell within a three-hour timeframe over the City of Colton and the San Bernardino Mountains. This was part of a storm event that dumped more than twelve inches of rain during the six-day period between December 17th and December 22nd of 2010. The storm event caused excessive damage to hillside slopes, which resulted in soil movement and debris flows. NRCS has determined that approximately four acres of property on three hillside locations remain susceptible to increased runoff and future debris flows, and are therefore eligible for grant funding as part of an Emergency Watershed Protection Project ("EWP").

On December 23, 2010, the Governor of the State of California declared the areas in and around the San Bernardino Mountains as flood disaster areas, making them eligible for federal emergency funding. On February 28, 2011, Colton's former Fire Chief Tom Hendrix made a request to be considered for EWP assistance through the USDA NRCS, under provisions of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1950, Public Law 95-334, seeking funds to restore damages created by the storms and mudslides.

Of the hillside areas reviewed, the NRCS Damage Survey Report listed three locations in the city as eligible for EWP grant funding; one behind the community center at Rancho Mediterrania Mobile Home Park, and two locations behind existing homes on Prado Lane. They were found eligible for "Non Exigency" funding, defined as having created a threat to life and property high enough to constitute an emergency, but not requiring immediate action, as opposed to "Exigency" funding, where an imminent threat to life and property exists and action required is immediate.

ISSUES/ANALYSIS

The grant amount is \$20,000 to hydro-mulch a total of approximately 4 acres of hillside in the three approved locations. The City will be responsible for gaining legal rights to access the privately-owned areas and to hire a contractor to hydro-mulch and hydro-seed the locations. NRCS will reimburse up to \$17,000 of the expended costs after finalization of the work, which includes in-kind services to contract and manage the project. The City's cash contribution match is approximately \$3,000.

Though the Damage Survey Report is dated March 21, 2011, federal funds were not available for Non Exigency projects until approximately March of 2012. Grant guidelines require the entire project to be completed by October 21, 2012.

FISCAL IMPACTS

The net impact to the General Fund is the \$3,000 match. This action would increase revenue and appropriations in the General Fund as follows: Expenditure Account 100-6150-6151-2350 in the amount of \$20,000 for project expenses and Revenue Account 100-5993-225 in the amount of \$17,000, which is equal to the portion that will be reimbursed. Correspondingly, this action would increase revenue and appropriations in the Miscellaneous Grants Fund for the portion being reimbursed to the City as follows: Expenditure Account 225-1000-1000-5993-0004-100 in the amount of \$17,000; Revenue Account 225-5880-000 in the amount of \$17,000.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A--Resolution R-59-12

ATTACHMENT A
RESOLUTION NO. R-59-12

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SECTION 4. Acceptance of the grant commits the City to a project that is subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. Staff has reviewed the project, which is the hillside stabilization, and finds that it is exempt from environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, section 51269, Emergency Projects). The City Clerk of the City of Colton, on behalf of the City, is authorized and directed to file a Notice of Exemption with the appropriate official of the County of San Bernardino, California, within five (5) days following the date of adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 5. The Mayor shall sign this Resolution and the City Clerk shall attest thereto, and this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 21st day of August, 2012.

SARAH S. ZAMORA, Mayor

ATTEST:

EILEEN C. GOMEZ, CMC, City Clerk