

**STAFF REPORT – PLANNING
CITY OF TEMECULA
PLANNING COMMISSION**

TO: Planning Commission Chairperson and Members of the Planning Commission

FROM: Luke Watson, Deputy City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: December 7, 2022

PREPARED BY: Katie Garcia, Planning Technician

PROJECT SUMMARY: General Plan Consistency Review for an Amendment to the Fiscal Years 2023-27 Capital Improvement Program (LR22-1073)

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Planning Commission review the proposed Amendment to the current Fiscal Years 2023-27 Capital Improvement Program and make a determination that the proposed Amendment is in conformance with the adopted City of Temecula’s General Plan.

CEQA: Exempt: Not a “Project” as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) and 15378(b)(4)

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Government Code Section 65103 of State Planning and Zoning Law requires that the Planning Commission review and provide comments to the City Council regarding the conformity of the proposed amendment to the current Fiscal Year 2023-27 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) with the adopted General Plan.

On June 14, 2022, the City Council approved the CIP Budget for FY 2023-27. The CIP included a number of projects to be completed during the five-year Capital Improvement Program. In addition to the approved CIP, staff is recommending the addition of one (1) project, consisting of one (1) new Infrastructure Project – Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). This project will be funded through a “Reimbursement Grant” from CalFire (Grant No. 5GG20167).

Prior to Council appropriating funding to the project, the Planning Commission must first make findings that the project is consistent with the General Plan.

ANALYSIS Infrastructure Projects

The Fiscal Years 2023-27 CIP Amendment contains one (1) project in this category.

1. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan, entitled Temecula Creek Wildfire Risk Reduction Community Plan, will utilize the highest-risk and most complex property within the City of Temecula as a model for how to develop comprehensive planning for other properties subject to fire risk throughout the City.

The project is located in the southwest portion of the City at the confluence of Temecula and Murrieta Creeks, and includes 177 acres on both sides of I-15, as detailed in Attachment 3. Staff will work with a consultant, and group of other organizations and jurisdictions to reduce the risk of fire. Additionally, the project will address concerns relating to habitat, wildlife, human trespass and homelessness as staff will take a wholistic approach ensuring that varied interests cooperate for a common good.

Staff has reviewed the General Plan and has determined that this project is consistent with the goals and policies of the Open Space/Conservation Element and the Public Safety Element.

Open Space/Conservation Element:

- Goal 3** Conservation of important biological habitats and protection of plant and animal species of concern, wildlife movement corridors, and general biodiversity.
- Policy 3.2** Work with State, regional and non-profit agencies and organizations to preserve and enhance significant biological resources.
- Policy 3.7** Maintain and enhance the resources of Temecula Creek, Pechanga Creek, Murrieta Creek, Santa Gertrudis Creek, Santa Margarita River, and other waterways to ensure the long-term viability of the habitat, wildlife, and wildlife movement corridors.

Public Safety Element:

- Goal 1** Protection from natural hazards associated with geological instability, seismic events, wild land fires, flooding, and dam failures.
- Policy 1.8** Reduce the risk of wild land fire through imposition of site-specific development standards during project review and coordination with the City Fire Department and other organizations.

LEGAL NOTICING REQUIREMENTS

No public hearing notice is required for the Planning Commission's review and conformity finding of the proposed Amendment to FY 2023-27 Capital Improvement Program.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The Amendment to FY 2023-27 Capital Improvement Program is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, in accordance with Title 14 California Code of Regulations. The Amendment to FY 2023-27 Capital Improvement Program is not a "project"

within the meaning of Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, and is therefore exempt from the requirements of CEQA. Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines states that a project does not include the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. Furthermore, the Amendment for FY 2023-27 CIP project is exempt under Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, the commonsense exemption, which provides that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in questions may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The Planning Commission's review and determination that the Amendment to the FY 2023-27 Capital Improvement Program is consistent with the City of Temecula's General Plan, does not result in the construction nor cause the construction of any specific CIP project, and will have no effect on the environment, and therefore, no environmental impact assessment is necessary.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. Planning Commission Resolution
 2. CIP Budget Amendment Sheet
 3. CWPP Area Map