



PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA ITEM

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING: December 5, 2017
SUBJECT: Modification Request for City of Westminster Ranch Creek Underpass & Trails Project
FROM: Nathan Mosley, Parks and Open Space Director and Shannon McDowell and Renee Petersen
AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Parks and Open Space
HEARD AT STUDY SESSION ON: N/A
AUTHORIZATION TO MOVE FORWARD: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO N/A
RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the Board of County Commissioners approves the Resolution Approving Modification of the City of Westminster Ranch Creek Underpass & Trails Project Open Space Sales Tax Grants.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013 and 2015, the City of Westminster received grant awards to construct a trail segment south of the Metzger Farm Open Space and along Ranch Creek, in addition to constructing an underpass at 120th Avenue, and improvements to the underpass at Federal Parkway. On December 2, 2013 and May 2, 2015, City of Westminster received an Open Space Sales Tax grant award for 49.3% of the total project costs, up to \$985,000.

With the first grant award in 2013, the City of Westminster received funding to construct an underpass under 120th Avenue, improved the existing underpass below Federal Parkway, and constructed a trail along Ranch Creek. These improvements are complete. In 2015, City of Westminster amended the grant agreement to include a second phase of the project. The second phase included the addition of a trail on the south side of the Metzger Farm. The design process, along with recommendations from ERO Resources and Colorado Parks and Wildlife determined that the project would need to include multiple bridges and the impacts to the wildlife habitat and heron rookery would be significant and ongoing with the trail users. Since the grant award, a sidewalk has been constructed on the south side of 120th Avenue, which provides an alternate option for access. City of Westminster would like to remove the trail segment from the south side of Metzger Farm from the project and include improvements to preserve the heron rookery and pond habitat. The new elements would include replacement of barbed wire fencing with agricultural fencing along 120th Avenue, installation of fencing to protect the heron rookery, removal of concrete and debris from the Big Dry Creek and lower pond area of the farm, habitat improvement, and a landscaping plan for around the ponds. The new project components and removal of the trail will result in a lower total project cost, reducing the grant award from \$985,000 to \$761,000.

The City of Westminster is also requesting an amended grant agreement, which will include the provision allowing for periodic reimbursements throughout the project.

The Open Space Advisory Board heard this modification request on August 23, 2017 and voted unanimously to recommend approval to the Board of County Commissioners. If approved, the grant agreement would be amended and the City of Westminster would receive an Open Space Sales Tax grant award for 43% of the total project costs, up to \$761,000.

AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS OR OTHER OFFICES INVOLVED:

Parks & Open Space, City of Westminster

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Resolution approving modification requests
Modification request from City of Westminster
Amended grant agreement

FISCAL IMPACT:

Please check if there is no fiscal impact ☐. If there is fiscal impact, please fully complete the section below.

Fund: 28**Cost Center: 6202**

	Object Account	Subledger	Amount
Current Budgeted Revenue:			
Additional Revenue not included in Current Budget:			
Total Revenues:			

	Object Account	Subledger	Amount
Current Budgeted Operating Expenditure:	8810		761,000.00
Add'l Operating Expenditure not included in Current Budget:			
Current Budgeted Capital Expenditure:			
Add'l Capital Expenditure not included in Current Budget:			
Total Expenditures:			761,000.00

New FTEs requested: ☐ YES ☒ NO

Future Amendment Needed: ☐ YES ☒ NO

Additional Note: