

5) **Grant Application, Acceptance, and Execution of the Grant Funds from the California State Library for the Critical Library Infrastructure Project**

Adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE GRANT APPLICATION, ACCEPTANCE, AND EXECUTION OF THE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.



## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Jason Simpson, City Manager

**Prepared by:** Shannon Buckley, Assistant City Manager

**Date:** November 14, 2023

**Subject:** Grant Application, Acceptance, and Execution of the Grant Funds from the California State Library for the Critical Library Infrastructure Project

### **Recommendation**

Adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE GRANT APPLICATION, ACCEPTANCE, AND EXECUTION OF THE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

### **Background**

On September 25, 1908, the first Library was opened by Altha Merrifield in a corner of her father, C.S. Merrifield's hardware store on Main Street. When her father's store burned down in late June of 1909, citizens saved the book collection by carrying it across the street to City Hall. The Library moved five times until 1989 when it was located at 600 West Graham Avenue and Renamed the Altha Merrifield Memorial Library.

On May 28, 2019, the City Council voted to purchase vacant land on Sumner Ave between Main Street and Spring Street, hoping to receive a grant to build a new Library.

In 2022, the County of Riverside and the City partnered on the Building Forward Grant Round 1 application for the Lake Elsinore Library Relocation Project. The Building Forward Grant Program is the single largest investment in California's libraries in over 20 years.

The State Library received 275 applications for funding in Round 1 and conducted a deliberate and rigorous review process, including review by an independent advisory panel of experts and opportunities for applicants to provide clarifying information. On September 12, 2022, the County was notified that our application was not accepted for Round 1 Phase 1 funding but remained under consideration for Phase Two. On October 11, 2022, the County was notified that the Building Forward Round 1 Phase Two application submitted for the project at Lake Elsinore Library was not selected for funding.

## Library Grant

In mid-March 2023, the State Library released the Building Forward Round 2 Library Infrastructure Grant Guidelines. On May 17, 2023, City Staff partnered with the County of Riverside to apply for Building Forward Round 2 for the Lake Elsinore Library Relocation Project and applied for funding for \$10 million.

On October 9, 2023, the California State Library awarded the City of Lake Elsinore the Building Forward Round 2 Grant for building a new 10,000-square-foot two-story Library. The City was awarded \$9,999,447. The State Library has also reviewed and approved our request for a 75% reduction in the required local match contribution for the project. Matching funds of \$2,499,862 are required, with the City contributing \$1,499,862 and the County contributing \$1,000,000.

In this round, more than \$172 million was awarded to 34 local libraries to address critical maintenance needs, improve energy efficiency and sustainability, and expand digital and physical access in 29 cities across 18 counties. Seven new library buildings will be constructed, 27 will make energy efficiency upgrades, seven will expand or redesign spaces for public programming, and 12 will repair critical roof, foundation, or exterior building issues.

### **Discussion**

Altha Merrifield Memorial Library, established in 1989, attracts an average of over 5,800 monthly visitors and organizes 87 educational and social programs annually. Despite being a vital institution in this disadvantaged community, the Library's crucial structural and maintenance issues discourage residents from fully utilizing its resources. The current facility spans 6,100 square feet and features a detached all-purpose meeting room closed to the public pending mold assessments. However, the existing building fails to meet ADA standards, lacks a building-wide sprinkler system, and requires immediate repairs such as roof and sewer replacement, addressing ongoing flooding, repairing interior concrete structural slabs, fixing unsupported ceiling tiles, updating the HVAC system, upgrading electrical components, and improving lighting energy efficiency. The unsafe conditions associated with these issues pose a risk of closure by the City's Building Official and Structural Engineer.

The City and Riverside County Library System (RCLS) have spent several years discussing plans for the current Library, and due to the critical infrastructure deficiencies and maintenance, it was determined that the best course of action would be to construct a new Library. The newly constructed 10,000 SQFT Library will include ADA-compliant accessibility throughout the entire interior and exterior of the building. Energy-efficient lighting and air-conditioning units will be installed. Seismic bracing will be included on all bookshelves to mitigate tipping risks. In addition to the main Library area, the Library will include one community meeting room, two study rooms, a children's area, a teen area, and a public work room with individual workstations. The new Library will provide the opportunity for signature architecture that reflects and celebrates the role of RCLS in the community and will have a unique design that highlights the City's history and residents. The new structure will be spacious, inviting, efficient, sustainable, flexible, adaptable, and, most importantly, free of critical maintenance needs.

## Library Grant

The next step is to Adopt a resolution of the City of Lake Elsinore authorizing the grant application, acceptance, and execution of the grant funds from the State of California.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The fiscal impact for the City of Lake Elsinore is the required 25% local matching funds. This amount will be split between the City and the County of Riverside. The City's portion of \$1,499,862 is budgeted in the 2023-24 to 2027-28 Capital Improvement Program budget.

### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 - Resolution

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE GRANT APPLICATION, ACCEPTANCE, AND EXECUTION OF THE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

**WHEREAS**, the California State Library has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, said procedures established by the California State Library require a resolution certifying the approval by the potential grantee's governing board either before submission of said application to the State or prior to execution of the grant agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Applicant/Grantee, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the project; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Lake Elsinore proposes to implement the Critical Library Infrastructure Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Lake Elsinore has the legal authority and is authorized to enter into a funding agreement with the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Lake Elsinore intends to apply for grant funding from the California State Library for the Lake Elsinore Critical Library Infrastructure Project;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Lake Elsinore, with acknowledgement of Riverside County Library System (Lake Elsinore Library), intends to apply for grant funding from the California State Library for the Critical Library Infrastructure Project;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Lake Elsinore, hereby:

**SECTION 1.** Declares the above recitals to be true and correct and are incorporated into this resolution as findings of the City Council.

**SECTION 2.** That pursuant and subject to all of the terms and provisions of the California Budget Act, the City of Lake Elsinore City Manager, or designee is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and file an application for funding with the California State Library and take such other actions necessary or appropriate to obtain funding.

**SECTION 3.** The City of Lake Elsinore City Manager, or designee is hereby authorized and directed to execute the funding agreement with the California State Library and any amendments there to.

**SECTION 4.** The City of Lake Elsinore City Manager, or designee is hereby authorized and directed to submit any required documents, funding requests, and reports required to obtain grant funding.

**SECTION 5.** Certifies that the project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, the California Labor Code, disabled access laws, and, that prior to commencement of the project, all applicable permits will have been obtained.

**SECTION 6.** Finds that approving a resolution to apply and for grant funding does not constitute a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 as this action is an organizational and administrative act. if the proposed action did constitute a “project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, this action is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities) as if awarded the City will utilize the funds to repair and maintain an existing library.

**Passed and Adopted** at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Lake Elsinore, California, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023.

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Natasha Johnson  
Mayor

Attest:

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Candice Alvarez, MMC  
City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA     )  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE    ) ss.  
CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE    )

I, Candice Alvarez, MMC, City Clerk of the City of Lake Elsinore, California, do hereby certify that Resolution No. 2023- was adopted by the City Council of the City of Lake Elsinore, California, at the Regular meeting of November 14, 2023 and that the same was adopted by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

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Candice Alvarez, MMC  
City Clerk