



# **CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO**

## **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

2415 University Avenue • East Palo Alto, CA 94303-1164

**DATE:** February 16, 2010

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the East Palo Alto City Council  
Chair and Members of the Redevelopment Agency

**VIA:** Alvin D. James, City Manager

**FROM:** Lily Lee, Cooley Landing Project Manager

**SUBJECT:** Cooley Landing Grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council:

- 1) Authorize staff to apply for a \$40,000 grant for Cooley Landing from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and
- 2) Direct that, prior to entering into contract, that the City Manager seek Council authorization to accept and allocate grant proceeds awarded to ensure that grant terms are consistent with City Council Strategic Goals and Objectives

### **BACKGROUND:**

East Palo Alto leaders and residents have had a long term interest in opening Cooley Landing to the public. Through a series of community meetings since 2003, community residents have consistently expressed a desire to restore habitat and provide environmental education opportunities at Cooley Landing. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has issued a request for proposals for its Five Star and Nature Restoration Trust program. This program awards up to \$40,000 for projects that involve on-the-ground restoration, environmental education, partnerships, and measurable results.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The Cooley Landing project is a good fit because it satisfies these grant criteria:

**Restoration:** The clapper rail is an endangered bird species, and East Palo Alto hosts the largest concentration of them in the world in the baylands area to the south of Cooley Landing. But Cooley Landing is a former dump covered with mostly non-native invasive weeds. Concrete debris piles create hazards to visitors and breeding ground for rats, which are clapper rail predators. The Cooley Landing project will help improve conditions for clapper rails and other native species of animals and plants.

Environmental education: Cooley Landing would provide valuable environmental education opportunities for youth through exposing them to the natural baylands ecosystems and providing facilities for programs.

Partnerships: The City is working cooperatively with government and community-based organizations to implement this project.

Measurable results: Completing this project will result in over 8.5 acres of restored land.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Matching requirements can be met by grant funds and technical assistance the City has already received and park-in-lieu fees that the City Council has already authorized for use at Cooley Landing. Other than staff activities in connection with applying for and managing the grant, this should have no fiscal impact.

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO AUTHORIZING THE  
APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FOR COOLEY LANDING FROM THE NATIONAL  
FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION**

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WHEREAS, the City has for many years planned to develop a public park and nature and history education center at Cooley Landing; and

WHEREAS, community residents have consistently expressed a desire to restore habitat and provide environmental education opportunities at Cooley Landing; and

WHEREAS, the Five Star and Nature Restoration Trust program is requesting proposals for up to \$40,000 for projects that involve on-the-ground restoration, environmental education, partnerships, and measurable results; and

WHEREAS, the Cooley Landing project would need such funds to implement community plans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager apply for a \$40,000 grant for Cooley Landing from the Five Star and Nature Restoration Trust program of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2010, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Woods, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Attorney