



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, September 13, 2022

TO: City Council

FROM: POLICE CHIEF ZAMORA

THROUGH: CITY MANAGER MENDEZ

**SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS FY 2023 IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$118,895**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to accept the California Office of Traffic Safety Grants for Fiscal Year 2023 in the amount of \$75,000 for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) and \$43,895 for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program, totaling \$118,895, to use towards the implementation of traffic safety strategies, and to execute all required documents and appropriate funds to the grant budget.

DISCUSSION:

The California Office of Traffic Safety's (OTS) mission is to effectively administer traffic safety grant funds to reduce traffic deaths, injuries and economic losses. The grant funds are intended to create and help sustain innovative programs at the state and local level, and leverage commitments of state, local and private resources. OTS also mounts public awareness campaigns and acts as a primary traffic safety resource in order to enlist the help of the general public and the media encouraging traffic safety.

Since OTS does not have sufficient funds for all submitted proposals, a comprehensive review is part of the proposal selection process. OTS reviews proposals against several criteria including: potential traffic safety impact, collision statistics, seriousness of identified problem(s) and performance on previous grants. The Office of Traffic Safety has identified the following ten priority areas of concentration for grant funding: alcohol-impaired driving, distracted driving, drug-impaired driving, occupant protection, pedestrian and bicycle safety, traffic reports, emergency medical services, roadway safety, police traffic services and motorcycle safety.

The City of Watsonville Police Department applied and was awarded to receive California Office of Traffic Safety Grants for Fiscal Year 2023. The Watsonville Police Department is currently working with OTS to finalize the agreement process. The awards were for the following two (2) grants:

- (1) Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) in the amount of \$75,000: to implement best practice strategies to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in crashes involving alcohol and other primary collision factors. The funded strategies include DUI checkpoints, DUI Saturation, Traffic Enforcement, Distracted Driving Enforcement, Traffic Education and Pedestrians and/or Bicycle Enforcement. In addition, the grant will be funding the purchase of traffic control supplies and devices to be used by officers when conducting traffic enforcement operations. These strategies are designed to earn media attention thus enhancing the overall deterrent effect.
- (2) Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program in the amount of \$43,895: to implement best practice strategies to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists. The funded strategies include a partnership with Ecology Action, an award-winning non-profit organization that will provide school-based bike and walk programs. The Bike Smart Program will provide students with bicycle street skills, presentations and bicycle helmets. The Walk Smart program will provide youth pedestrian safety trainings through presentations. In addition, Ecology Action and the Watsonville Police Department will organize adult focused outreach.

Staff recommends City Council acceptance of the California of Office Traffic Safety Grants for Fiscal Year 2023 in the amount of \$75,000 for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) and \$43,895 for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program to use towards the implementation of traffic safety strategies.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This grant supports the Strategic Plan: 06-Public Safety.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The 2023 OTS Grants in the amount of \$75,000 and \$43,895, totaling \$118,895 have no financial impact to the general fund. They shall be appropriated into the special grant fund 0260.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

No reasonable alternatives are known at this time.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

None.