

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (CM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE ACCEPTING THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB) CLEAN MOBILITY IN SCHOOLS (CMIS) & SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY PROGRAM (STEP) GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,238,235 FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATSONVILLE ADELANTE PROGRAM WITH ECOLOGY ACTION; AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH ECOLOGY ACTION OF SANTA CRUZ AND NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY AMENDMENTS, IN A FORM APPROVED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY; AND APPROPRIATE SUCH FUNDS TO THE SPECIAL GRANTS FUND [0260]

WHEREAS, in 2024, the City of Watsonville successfully partnered with Ecology Action of Santa Cruz and others on a \$7.2 million California Air Resources Board (CARB) Clean Mobility In Schools (CMIS) & Sustainable Transportation Equity Program (STEP) grant; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends entering into an agreement with Ecology Action to secure a \$3,238,235 share of the CARB grant that will fund the following:

- \$275,000 toward the purchase of a city-owned electric street sweeper designed to clean the narrower bike facilities of debris.
- \$220,000 to help pay for a portion of the Downtown Watsonville Safe Route to School project which will provide pedestrian and bicycle improvements around several schools within the city.
- \$1,300,000 to construct sidewalk on the east side of Freedom Blvd between Green Valley Rd and Airport Blvd.
- \$1,432,735 for improvements to the City's slough trail system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Watsonville's share will be \$3,238,235 which will be funded from a CARB grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Approving a contract with Ecology Action does not meet CEQA's definition of a "project," because the action does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Approval of the professional services agreement is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it can be seen with certainty based on substantial evidence in the records that the approval constitutes a government fiscal activity that does not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. (CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4).) Further, the approval is an administrative activity that would not have the potential to either (1) cause a direct physical change in the environment or (2) cause a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment due to the scheduled purchase of an electric street sweeper, and thru the maintenance and repair of existing city trails and public sidewalks. Therefore, any CEQA analysis would be speculative at this time.

2. That the Council hereby accepts the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Clean Mobility in schools (CMIS) & Sustainable Transportation Equity Program (STEP) grant program funds, in the amount of \$3,238,235 for the implementation of Adelante Watsonville program with Ecology Action of Santa Cruz.

3. That the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement between Ecology Action of Santa Cruz and the City of Watsonville copy of which is attached hereto.

4. That the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate and execute on behalf of the City of Watsonville, any agreements, and amendments thereto and any necessary documents, in a form approved by the City Attorney.

5. That the \$3,238,235 in grant funds is hereby appropriated to the Special Grants Fund [0260] to a new project created by the Finance Department.
