



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 12, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation and Waterfront
Subject: Grant Application: Firehouse Subs Foundation for Polaris all-terrain vehicle (ATV) for Berkeley Echo Lake Camp

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a Firehouse Subs grant application in the amount up to \$50,000; to accept the grant; to execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments; and authorizing the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The grant request is for up to \$50,000 to procure a Polaris ATV all-terrain vehicle ("ATV") for emergency response activities at Berkeley Echo Lake Camp. This grant does not require a local match and all costs of the equipment purchase will be covered by the grant. The grantor will determine if the grant will be paid either directly to the vendor or be deposited into the City's One-Time Grants Fund (Fund 336).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation¹ was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as a philanthropic arm of Firehouse Subs, a restaurant chain that operates throughout the U.S. Their mission is to impact the lifesaving capabilities, and the lives of local heroes and their communities by providing lifesaving equipment and prevention education tools to first responders, non-profits and public safety organizations. Eligible applicant are comprised of the following: fire Departments, law enforcement, EMS, municipal & state organizations, public safety organizations, as well as non-profits and schools. The foundation conducts a quarterly application process to provide disaster funds in the following areas: Lifesaving Equipment, Prevention Education, Scholarships & Continued Education, Disaster Relief, and Support for Members of the Military. Each quarter they can receive up to 600 applications for grants up to \$50,000 each. In 2023, several agencies in California as well as across the country received these grants. The City's Fire and Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront (PRW) departments have identified a need for an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) at the Berkeley Echo Lake Family Camp to enhance the City's disaster response capabilities

¹ <https://grants.firehousesubs.com/>

in the form of expanded hazardous vegetation and tree removals and emergency response to rescue injured campers in inaccessible areas. The City will submit a grant proposal of up to \$50,000 to purchase an ATV for Berkeley Echo Lake Camp.

BACKGROUND

In the Fall of 2021, Berkeley Echo Lake Camp was threatened by the Caldor Fire. Ultimately, the Camp was saved from destruction by a collaboration between the Fire and the Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront departments. Since the fire, the two departments have collaborated on preparations for future incidents impacting Berkeley Camps, as well as prevention efforts to protect the Camps in event of another wild fire. Berkeley Tuolumne Camp has its own ATV that has greatly enhanced the City's ability to remove hazardous vegetation in the form of heavy tree limbs and heavy brush, as well as to respond to injury emergencies. City staff from Fire and PRW have determined that a similar ATV at Berkeley Echo Lake Camp is needed for similar disaster preparedness and response purposes.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Through the addition of this critical piece of emergency response equipment, this project will help the City advance the following Strategic Plan Goal: 3. Create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city. Sub Section 3.23, Fire Prevention. By planning for and working to prevent wildfire, the City will be working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to large scale forest fires and will be better positioned to safeguard City assets in the event of a fire occurring.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This grant will provide funding to procure an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) that can be used by Berkeley Fire Department and PRW staff to better maintain and defend Berkeley Echo Lake Camp against wildfires. The vehicle can also be used to rescue injured campers from areas of the Camp that are not accessible to existing City vehicles.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSONS

Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront, 981-6700
Stephanie Chu, Recreation & Youth Services Manager, 981-6700
Justin Pitcher, Recreation Camps Manager, 981-6700

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##-###

AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR UP TO \$50,000 TO THE FIREHOUSE SUBS FOUNDATION FOR AN ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE AT BERKELEY ECHO LAKE CAMP

WHEREAS, the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as a philanthropic arm of Firehouse Subs, a restaurant chain that operates throughout the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, their mission is to impact the lifesaving capabilities, and the lives of local heroes and their communities by providing lifesaving equipment and prevention education tools to first responders, non-profits and public safety organizations; and

WHEREAS, eligible applicant are comprised of the following: fire Departments, law enforcement, EMS, municipal & state organizations, public safety organizations, as well as non-profits and schools; and

WHEREAS, the foundation conducts a quarterly application process to provide disaster funds in the following areas: Lifesaving Equipment, Prevention Education, Scholarships & Continued Education, Disaster Relief, and Support for Members of the Military. Each quarter they can receive up to 600 applications for grants up to \$50,000 each; and

WHEREAS, the City's Fire and Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront departments have identified a need for an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) at the Berkeley Echo Lake Family Camp to enhance the City's disaster response capabilities in the form of expanded hazardous vegetation and tree removals and emergency response to rescue injured campers in inaccessible areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **City of Berkeley**:

1. Approved the filing of an application for "**Firehouse Subs Grant**" in an amount up to \$50,000; and
2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and
3. Authorizes the City Manager or a designee (F. Scott Ferris), to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley authorizes the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the City of Berkeley's Office of the City Clerk.

