

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM

DEPARTMENT: El Paso Zoo
AGENDA DATE: May 29, 2007
CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Steve Marshall, 521-1850
DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

CITY CLERK DEPT.
07 MAY 22 PM 3:18

SUBJECT:

That City Council approve and Authorize the Mayor to sign a resolution of support for a renewable energy demonstration project to be built at the El Paso Zoo and funded by the El Paso Electric Company.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

This renewable energy demonstration project is partially powered by an on-site wind turbine and photovoltaic panels. It will also include educational exhibits, be themed as an African Outpost in order to enhance energy and conservation educational opportunities, and create an African emersion experience in the new African Plaza portion of the bond funded Western Expansion Project. This being the only renewable energy education opportunity in El Paso clearly benefits the citizens of our community, especially children, and places our City on the leading edge of energy conservation.

See attached resolution

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

City Council approved of Joint Resolution with Public Service Board, Council Agenda May 1, 2007, Item 30.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

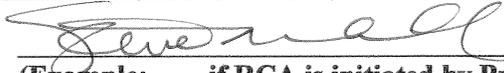
\$750,000 funded from the El Paso Electric Company's Renewable Energy Program.

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

LEGAL: (if required) _____ **FINANCE:** (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD: 
(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____ **DATE:** _____

CITY CLERK DEPT.

07 MAY 22 AM 8:00

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the El Paso Zoo is a premier destination for residents of the Greater Paso Del Norte region and draws over 300,000 visitors annually;

WHEREAS, in 2000, the citizens of El Paso approved \$33 million in Quality of Life monies for El Paso Zoo projects;

WHEREAS, in November 2006, the El Paso City Council unanimously approved a construction contract for the El Paso Zoo's Western Expansion Project;

WHEREAS, as a result of the Western Expansion Project, the El Paso Zoo will double in size—from 18 acres to 36 acres—and will add a new entry plaza, new education structures, and a grassland savannah where lions, giraffes and zebras will roam;

WHEREAS, the El Paso Zoological Society has partnered with local businesses to help fund the various aspects of the Western Expansion Project;

WHEREAS, El Paso Electric Company has been a valued and continuing partner with the El Paso Zoo over the past decade;

WHEREAS, El Paso Electric Company has agreed to partner with the El Paso Zoo to fund construction of the Windows to the Wild Outpost exhibit;

WHEREAS, the Windows to the Wild Outpost exhibit will be a renewable energy demonstration project partially powered by wind and solar renewable energy and will include educational exhibits on the practical uses of renewable energy;

WHEREAS, renewable power is a clean energy resource for which the El Paso area is well suited;

WHEREAS, the renewable energy demonstration project at the El Paso Zoo's Windows to the Wild Outpost exhibit will continue to provide an ongoing opportunity to educate the citizens of El Paso—especially children—about the attributes and benefits of renewable power for many years to come;

WHEREAS, the citizens of El Paso have, through their subscriptions to El Paso Electric Company's Renewable Energy Tariff, exhibited a strong interest in purchasing and developing renewable energy resources in the El Paso area;

WHEREAS, Renewable Energy Program funds in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) to be used for El Paso Electric Company's Windows to the Wild Outpost renewable energy demonstration project were generated from the sale of renewable energy from El Paso Electric Company's wind turbines at the Hueco Mountains Wind Ranch and from El Paso Electric Company's Renewable Energy Tariff; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso believes that construction of the Windows to the Wild Outpost renewable energy demonstration project is an appropriate and timely use of El Paso Electric Company's Renewable Energy Program funds.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

THAT the City of El Paso hereby supports El Paso Electric Company's participation in funding the Windows to the Wild renewable energy demonstration project at the El Paso Zoo with Renewable Energy Program funds.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2007.

CITY OF EL PASO

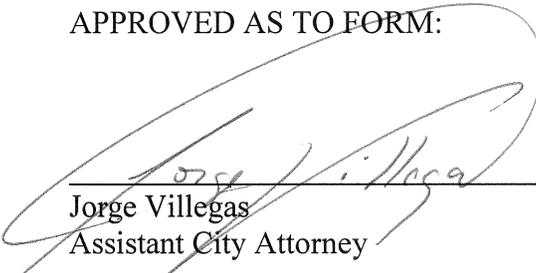
John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

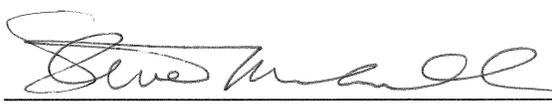
Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Jorge Villegas
Assistant City Attorney



Steve Marshall
Director, El Paso Zoo

CITY CLERK DEPT.
07 MAY 22 AM 8:01