



TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Jaime A. Valdez, Neighborhood Services Director

CONTACT: JoAnne Plummer, Parks and Recreation Manager
Kelsey Hamilton, Recreation Supervisor

SUBJECT: Donation for a Hydration Station at the Goleta Community Center

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a donation from the El Gato Channel Foundation, in an amount not to exceed \$7,500, to cover the costs of a Hydration Station, three years of maintenance and filters, a handrail and installation costs for the Goleta Community Center.

BACKGROUND:

In 2020, during COVID-19, the Goleta Valley Community Center Organization (GVCC) successfully secured a grant for the installation of a Hydration Station at the Goleta Community Center. Unfortunately, facility closures due to the pandemic combined with the impending seismic construction on the facility did not allow for the grant award to be implemented.

The El Gato Channel Foundation (Foundation) is a small local family foundation that supports the environment. The mission of the Foundation is to protect and preserve the Santa Barbara Channel, watersheds, streams, and beaches that contribute to the health of this special and endangered area, and all living things that inhabit it. In 2020, the Foundation launched the “Equal Hydration Station” grant program to install hydration stations across Santa Barbara County. The goal of the program is to provide more equitable access to clean drinking water, and to reduce the use of single-use plastic water bottles. The Goleta Community Center was chosen as one of their priority locations due to the diversity and amount of community members the center serves.

As the seismic construction nears completion, staff reconnected with the Foundation to determine if they were still interested in providing the unit to the Goleta Community Center to benefit the public.

DISCUSSION:

When the pandemic and the impending construction resulted in the termination of the grant agreement, it was thought that the opportunity was lost. Earlier this year, staff reached out to the Foundation to provide an update on the facility's construction and anticipated open dates to determine possible consideration for a hydration station in the future. The Foundation was very supportive and responsive, as they had identified the facility as one that could significantly benefit the public, while meeting the goals of their organization

In addition to paying for the hydration station unit, the donation from the Foundation will cover the costs of the unit's installation, an ADA guard rail, replacement filters for the station, as well as costs associated for annual routine service maintenance for up to three years. The City of Goleta will coordinate the work with the contractors and will bill the Foundation directly for reimbursement of the associated work. Total costs are not to exceed \$7,500 and work is to be completed prior to the facility re-opening to the public to enable the unit to serve the diverse community members that utilize and visit the facility.

The unit being donated is consistent with the hydration station located at the Jonny D. Wallis Neighborhood Park and hopefully will become standard as drinking fountains are replaced with water bottle refill stations. The hydration station will replace an existing drinking fountain in the front hallway of the main building.

The Foundation and the Neighborhood Services Department are excited about this partnership that will enable the organization to meet climate-related goals and meet the needs of our community members. Staff and the Foundation are looking forward to continuing relationship-building and hope to identify additional hydration station needs within the Goleta community that could serve our most vulnerable and underserved populations.

The acceptance of this donation to install a hydration station at the Goleta Community Center aligns with the following sections of the 2023-2025 Goleta Plan and the Goleta Community Center Strategic Plan.

2023-2025 Goleta Strategic Plan:

City-Wide Strategy: 2. Support Community Vitality and Enhanced Recreational Opportunities

Strategic Goal: 2. Support programs that enhance quality of life in the Goleta community such as recreation, public safety, human services, and cultural arts.

Goleta Community Center Strategic Plan:

Objective 1.3: Upgrade the Center's functionality and create community-focused, intentional spaces over the next five years.

Strategy 1.3.1: Improve site infrastructure and amenities to better support Community Center programming and community needs as funding permits.

Tactic 1.3.1.5: Install a hydration station that allows for water bottle refills to reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

There are no fiscal impacts to the City, with the exception of staff time to coordinate and manage the installation and coordinate the installation and annual maintenance.

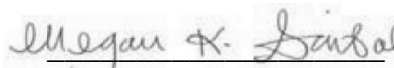
ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council may choose not to accept the donation and the Goleta Community Center will re-open with the existing drinking fountain instead of a hydration station.

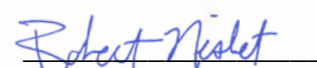
Reviewed By:


Kristine Schmidt
Assistant City Manager

Legal Review By:


Megan Garibaldi
City Attorney

Approved By:


Robert Nisbet
City Manager

ATTACHMENT:

1. Donation Acceptance Form

ATTACHMENT 1

Donation Acceptance Form

CITY OF GOLETA
DONATION ACCEPTANCE FORM

Name of Donor: El Gato Channel Foundation "EGCF"

Address: 735 State St City: Santa Barbara State: CA Zip: 93101

Description of donation: 1x Elkay ezH20 Bottle Filling Station, 1x ADA Guard Rail, 1x Pack of Water Filters, Install and 3 years of Maintenance

Donor estimate of current value: NTE \$7,500

Potential immediate or initial acquisition or installation cost, any on-going maintenance or replacement cost: EGCF will cover install and any on-going maintenance costs to the station for 3 years.

Intended use: To provide member of the community with access to safe and reliable water to refill personal refillable bottles.

Conditions of acceptance or donor designation: EGCF is happy to work with the City on any marketing, press releases, or other announcements.

Remarks: _____

City Department receiving donation: Neighborhood Services

APPROVED / DISAPPROVED

Date

Department Head Signature

Date

City Manager Signature

Date Submitted to Council

Date Approved by Council

Date

Mayor Signature

NOTE: The City of Goleta cannot guarantee future funding for repair, maintenance, use or replacement of donated items.

cc: City Council, Finance Department, City Clerk