

GRANT AGREEMENT FOR SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE (Optional)

Email (Optional)

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Moore-Love, Karla

From: Jim Cathcart <Jim@wmswcd.org>
Sent: Friday, June 15, 2018 3:23 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Cc: Council Clerk – Testimony; Tillson, Rebecca; Bogert, Sylvia; Hilary Hunt; Mary Logalbo; Terri Preeg Riggsby
Subject: Written Testimony for June 20th City Council Meeting - Ordinance Authorizing Grant Agreement with Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.
Attachments: WMSWCD_LOS_City_of_Portland_BES_SW_Watershed_Resource_Center.pdf

Karla:

Please accept the attached written testimony from the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District into the record in support of the *Ordinance to Authorize Grant Agreement Awarding up to \$73,000 in FY 18/19 to Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. to Provide Outreach, Technical Assistance and Community Involvement for Watershed Projects in Portland's Westside Sub-Watersheds* which we understand is on the agenda for consideration by the Council at their upcoming June 20, 2018 meeting.

Jim

Jim Cathcart
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WEST MULTNOMAH
Soil & Water Conservation District

June 15, 2018

Portland City Council
C/o Council Clerk
1221 SW Fourth Ave., Room 130
Portland Oregon 97204

Dear City Council Members:

As a public service district dedicated to the conservation of soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment, the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District fully supports approval of the city ordinance entitled, *Ordinance to Authorize Grant Agreement Awarding up to \$73,000 in FY 18/19 to Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. to Provide Outreach, Technical Assistance and Community Involvement for Watershed Projects in Portland's Westside Sub-Watersheds.*

Our understanding is that passage of this ordinance authorizes the City's Bureau of Environmental Services to enter into a grant agreement with Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI) for the purpose of providing \$73,000 to cover staff time, materials, supplies and other support for SWNI's Southwest Watershed Resource Center. This is an excellent investment of City funds because of the important watershed health services the Southwest Watershed Resource Center provides to the community. Examples of these watershed health services include technical support, a tool library, community outreach and education events, grant writing, partnership development and general environmental education about the importance of healthy watersheds. The outcomes that these services generate are reduced stormwater inputs into the stormwater management system, clean water and diverse habitats.

An example of outstanding partnership development by the Southwest Watershed Resource Center is the Center's implementation of the Stormwater Stars Program – Catch Rain, Clean Water, Build Community. The District is grateful that we have an established, fully funded, watershed resource center to leverage our limited financial and technical resources with. We see the Center as being the backbone that we can attach additional funding to so as to expand the reach and impact of the District. Passage of this ordinance will enable the District to make an additional investment of \$33,000 over the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018. This investment will expand the Centers capacity by funding a seasonal, stormwater technical specialist fully dedicated to the Stormwater Stars Program. Our investment also provides funding for contracting with a landscape design professional, work crews and providing materials and supplies necessary to demonstrate stormwater prevention practices. This amounts to over a 50 percent increase over previous years in recognition of the Center's record level of accomplishment with the Stormwater Stars Program. It is more cost effective for the District to increase our support for the watershed resource center than to try provide these services directly.

Please contact Mary Logalbo, Urban Conservationist, at mary@wmswcd.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

James F. Cathcart, PhD
District Manager

cc: West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors; B. Tillson (BES), S. Bogert (SWNI)