



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: August 14, 2025
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Emily Heinz, Planning Coordinator
Subject: Bush Foundation Grant Application



District Wide

Background/Discussion

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider authorizing staff to apply for a Community Innovation grant through the Bush Foundation.

There would be a new grant source for the District if successful. There are no grant application deadlines and no minimum match required. The turnaround time between application and award is typically about 8-10 months. The Bush Foundation's current framework is to award larger, multi-year grants with an average grant award of \$2.4 million.

District Staff have met with Bush Foundation staff multiple times to discuss the grant program and appropriateness to the District's work. At present, staff feel that this grant program is an excellent fit for current District work.

If awarded, this grant has the potential to fund much of the District's natural shorelines and shoreline sustainability work such as:

- Public relations campaign research and follow-on implementation work to shift mindsets toward more sustainable shoreline land use
- Outreach materials and expenses
- Implementation of sustainable practices such as natural shoreline restorations and conservation easements
- Consultant and District staff time to implement sustainability initiatives

As a grant request that will exceed \$40,000, the Governance Manual policy requires that the Board must authorize the administrator to move forward with such an application. At present, the grant request is anticipated to be approximately \$1.5-\$2 million.

Recommended Motion

Manager _____ moves to authorize the District Administrator to apply to the Bush Foundation for a Community Innovation grant and execute the grant agreement, if awarded.

Seconded by Manager _____.



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Hyperlink

More information available at <https://www.bushfoundation.org/opportunities/community-innovation/>