

APPROVED

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

JUL 19 2012

NO. 12-223

DATE July 19, 2012

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 7

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: PROPOSITION 84 STATEWIDE PARK PROGRAM – DONATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS AND THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PARKS IN LOS ANGELES; APPROVAL OF CONCEPTUAL PLAN FOR EL DORADO AVENUE PARK/PACOIMA WASH GREENWAY PARK PROJECT

R. Adams _____
H. Fujita _____
V. Israel _____

K. Regan _____
*M. Shull _____
N. Williams _____



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve a proposed Donation Agreement (Agreement), substantially in the form on file in the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) Office, between the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for the acquisition, development, and construction of new parks in Los Angeles, subject to the approval of the Mayor, the City Council, and the City Attorney as to form;
2. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed Agreement to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and concurrently to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form;
3. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the Agreement upon receipt of the necessary approvals;
4. Approve the conceptual plan for the El Dorado Avenue Park/Pacoima Wash Greenway project, as described in the Summary of this Report and as depicted in the Attachment A to this Report.

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SUMMARY:

On November 7, 2006, California voters passed the “Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006”, which authorizes \$5.4 billion in general obligation bonds for a number of State of California (State) grant programs. One of the grant programs created is the Proposition 84 Statewide Park Program. A total of \$368,000,000 was dedicated to make grant awards to projects that demonstrate the creation of new park and recreation facilities in proximity to the most critically underserved communities throughout California on a competitive basis in two rounds (\$184,000,000 available each round). Another grant program that was created was the Sustainable Communities and Climate Change Reductions Urban Greening Grant Program. A total of \$90,000,000 was dedicated to make grant awards for urban greening projects and plans that promote the development of sustainable communities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In September 2009, the State released a Request for Proposals for the first round of competitive grants for the Proposition 84 Statewide Park Program. The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) submitted grant applications for nine projects; however, due to the competitiveness of the hundreds of statewide applications submitted for consideration, none of the RAP’s projects were funded.

In January 2011, the State released a Request for Proposals for the second round of competitive grants for the Proposition 84 Statewide Park Program. On June 6, 2011 the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) authorized the General Manager to submit three Proposition 84 Statewide Park Program grant applications and supported the submittal of eight Proposition 84 Statewide Park Program grant applications by various organizations working in partnership with RAP (Board Report No. 11-167). One of the eight grant applications that were submitted by organizations other than RAP was prepared and submitted by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), a joint powers authority between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Conejo Recreation and Park District and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.

On March 26, 2012, MRCA received notification from the State that the grant application it submitted for the El Dorado Avenue Park/Pacoima Wash Greenway was awarded \$1,075,000 in grant funding under the second funding round of the Proposition 84 Statewide Park Program. Additionally, on May 10, 2012, MRCA received notification from the State that that El Dorado Avenue Park/Pacoima Wash Greenway was awarded an additional \$463,056 in grant funding from the Sustainable Communities and Climate Change Reductions Urban Greening Grant Program.

As the grant application for this project was prepared and submitted by MRCA with the intent to turn over the completed project to RAP to operate and maintain, RAP would need to enter into a Donation Agreement (Agreement) with MRCA in order to implement the acquisition, development,

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and construction of the project. As described in the proposed Agreement, MRCA has prepared, in coordination with RAP, a grant application and conceptual plan for the identified prospective park project. MRCA is to coordinate the design and construction of the park project with RAP and, when construction is completed by MRCA, RAP staff will submit the completed project to the Board for final approval and acceptance. If accepted, RAP would be responsible for long-term maintenance and operation of each park developed and constructed under the terms of this Agreement.

The proposed Agreement requires MRCA to present the conceptual plan for each park project successfully awarded grant funding to RAP for review and approval. Once RAP approves a project's conceptual plan, MRCA will prepare a detailed set of final plans and specifications for that project, which will be submitted to the Board for approval in a subsequent report. The conceptual plan for the El Dorado Avenue Park/Pacoima Wash Greenway project is described below and attached hereto as Attachment A. The project conceptual plan was developed with input from public workshops and meetings facilitated by MRCA in partnership with RAP and local community organizations.

El Dorado Avenue Park/Pacoima Wash Greenway Project

El Dorado Avenue Park is located at 11349 El Dorado Avenue in the Pacoima area of City. This 1.18 acre park, which is owned by RAP, is currently undeveloped and unimproved.

This project proposes that El Dorado Park be developed with outdoor park and recreational improvements. The conceptual plan for the El Dorado Avenue Park/ Pacoima Wash Greenway project includes the construction of a new picnic area, play area, fitness and walking trail, entry plazas, and landscaping.

The State awarded MRCA a total of \$1,538,056 in grant funding for this project. It is anticipated that this funding is sufficient to meet the project scope.

Staff has determined that the subject project will consist of the development of a new park. The proposed park will include a new picnic area, play area, fitness and nature walking trail, entry plazas, and native landscaping. Therefore, the project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 3(6), Class 4(1,3), Class 11(3) of the City CEQA Guidelines, and Article 19, Section 15325, Class 25(f) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The approval and execution of the Memorandum of Understanding and Donation Agreement and the approval of the conceptual plans for these projects will not have any impact on the General Fund.

The approval of a conceptual plan for this project will not have any impact on the General Fund. The development of this project is anticipated to be funded by the awarded grant funds or funding sources other than RAP's General fund.

This report was prepared by Darryl Ford, Management Analyst II, Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Division.

Pacoima Wash Greenway - El Dorado Park

