

APPROVED
JAN 07 2015

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 15-003

DATE January 7, 2015

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES RIVER PLANT PROPAGATION, INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL, AND REVEGETATION PROJECT – DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES URBAN STREAMS RESTORATION PROGRAM – AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION; CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION; ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT

R. Adams _____	*V. Israel 
R. Barajas _____	K. Regan _____
H. Fujita _____	N. Williams _____


General Manager

Approved Disapproved Withdrawn

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Retroactively approve the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) submission of a Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program grant application as a co-sponsor with The Nature Conservancy for the Los Angeles River Plant Propagation, Invasive Species Removal, and Revegetation Project, which consists of the removal of invasive species from 15-20 acres at the Los Angeles River, the Griffith Park Commonwealth Nursery plant propagation activities improvements, a monitoring program that will include citizen science participation from local community members and students, and planting of native species on a section of the project area;
2. Designate RAP's General Manager, Executive Officer, or Assistant General Manager as the agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Los Angeles River Plant Propagation, Invasive Species Removal, and Revegetation Project;
3. Recommend to the City Council the adoption of the accompanying Resolution, which authorizes the submission of a Urban Streams Restoration Program grant application in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 from the Department of Water Resources for the Los

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Angeles River Plant Propagation, Invasive Species Removal, and Revegetation Project;
and

4. Direct staff to transmit a copy of the Resolution to the City Clerk for committee and City Council approval, in accordance with Urban Streams Restoration Program grant guidelines.

SUMMARY:

In December 2014, the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) was asked by LA River Works of the Office of the Mayor and The Nature Conservancy, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, to partner as a co-sponsor of a Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program grant for the Los Angeles River Plant Propagation, Invasive Species Removal, and Revegetation Project, which is Phase II of the entire Los Angeles River Project under the Greater Los Angeles Urban Conservation Program. Phase I of the Los Angeles River Project is comprised of the Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study and Education/Outreach/Community Engagement components that are funded by The Nature Conservancy and a Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy grant. Phase II (known here as the Los Angeles River Plant Propagation, Invasive Species Removal, and Revegetation Project) of the Los Angeles River Project is comprised of removing invasive species from 15-20 acres at the Los Angeles River, a small plant propagation project at the Griffith Park Commonwealth Nursery, a monitoring program that will include citizen science participation from local community members and students, and planting native species on a section of the project area (if funding permits).

The significance of this project is its contribution to the restoration of the Los Angeles River. As noted in the Los Angeles River Feasibility Study by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Los Angeles River is a significant ecological feature of the Los Angeles Basin. The river contains riparian habitat that could support federally listed, sensitive, and other important plants and animals associated with this that collectively are of great importance to The Nature Conservancy and the people of the State of California. Invasive species removal and re-vegetation of the river will help enhance the habitat available to support these species, and the conservation values of the river.

If awarded the Urban Streams Restoration Program grant, The Nature Conservancy's role will include: administering the grant, managing the project of plant propagation, weed removal, revegetation, and restoration monitoring and ensuring that the project aligns with the goals of the Urban Streams Restoration Program. As co-sponsor, RAP's role will include: monitoring project activities particularly in accordance with the Labor Compliance Code. This grant does not

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require a match; however, The Nature Conservancy will show matching funds through cash and in-kind contributions to demonstrate its commitment to the project.

In accordance with the Urban Streams Restoration Program grant guidelines, The Nature Conservancy will secure letters of support from the land owners, which include the City of Los Angeles, United States Army Corps of Engineers, the County of Los Angeles Flood Control District, and others.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

At this time, there is no anticipated fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund; any maintenance costs associated with the small plant propagation project will be covered with funds from this grant.

This report was prepared by Isophine Atkinson, Senior Management Analyst, Grants Administration.

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
APPROVING THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES URBAN STREAMS RESTORATION
PROGRAM FOR THE LOS ANGELES RIVER PLANT PROPAGATION, INVASIVE
SPECIES REMOVAL, AND REVEGETATION PROJECT**

Resolution endorsing the application for an Urban Streams Restoration Program Grant and determining appropriate environmental impact document, conditionally accepting grant if offered, and designating project representative, contract manager, and fiscal agent.

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources, FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide resources Office, Urban Streams Restoration Program has announced the availability of funds for grants; and

WHEREAS, said grants are intended to help solve flooding and erosion problems in a way that provides environmental *enhancement*; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy (Sponsor) has proposed to sponsor a grant application with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (Co-sponsor); and

WHEREAS, we have concluded the project proposed for funding with grants would be environmentally beneficial and (pick one of the following):

- a) Categorically exempt from requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under one or more of the following exemptions per sections 15300-15333 of the CEQA Guidelines: (select appropriate exemptions class)_____;
- b) We have adopted a(n) (identify the name and the year of environmental document, e.g., Negative or Mitigated Negative Declaration, Environmental permits prior to implementation of the project;
- c) **We will comply with all requirements of CEQA and other environmental permits prior to implementation of the project.**

WHEREAS, we consider the prospects of receiving a grant to be reasonably likely;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES HEREBY:

1. Approves the joint application with The Nature Conservancy (Citizen's Group) for an Urban Streams Restoration Program Grant; and
2. If offered such a grant, we authorizes the General Manager, Executive Officer, or Assistant General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks to accept and sign any contract for administration of grant funds, and Superintendent, Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Branch of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks or their designee to act as Project Manager for the project. We hereby delegate authority to the Project Manager to manage the

ATTACHMENT

Agreement including the submission of invoices, and to delegate authority to others to provide management and support services required for performance of the work and administration of the Agreement.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Angeles at its meeting of _____.

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT, City Clerk

By: _____