

APPROVED

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 15-019

DATE January 21, 2015

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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

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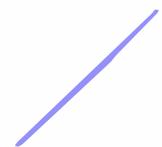
BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES RIVER AND CABALLERO CREEK CONFLUENCE PARK – STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE) GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND – AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION; CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION; ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT

R. Adams \_\_\_\_\_  
R. Barajas \_\_\_\_\_  
H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_

\*V. Israel \_\_\_\_\_  
K. Regan \_\_\_\_\_  
N. Williams \_\_\_\_\_

General Manager

Approved  \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) submission of a California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grant application for the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek Confluence Park Project, which consists of development of a neighborhood park ("Project");
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 and Caballero Creek Confluence Park project;
3. Recommend to the City Council the adoption of the accompanying Resolution, which authorizes the submission of a grant application for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grant in the approximate amount of \$453,500.00 for the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek Confluence Park project;
4. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to establish the necessary account and/or to appropriate funding received within "Recreation and Parks Grant" Fund 205 to accept the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grant in the approximate amount of \$453,500.00 for the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek Confluence Park project;

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2

NO. 15-019

5. Authorize RAP's General Manager to accept and receive the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grant, if awarded, subject to the approval of the Mayor and City Council; and,
6. Direct staff to transmit a copy of the Resolution to the City Clerk for committee and City Council approval, in accordance with the CAL FIRE grant guidelines.

SUMMARY:

In October 2014, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDFFP) announced the 2014/2015 CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Fund "Green Innovations" grant. The grant is intended to fund the development and implementation of a "Green Innovation" program or project that will reduce GHG emissions and help improve greening in urban areas, arrest the decline of urban forest resources, address climate change adaptation, facilitate the planting of trees in cities, improve the quality of the environment in urban areas through establishment of, and/or improved management of urban vegetation to optimize benefits to urban areas. These goals are realized through the creation, development, and implementation of projects that somehow maintain, expand, or better manage healthy urban forests with the primary aim of significantly sequestered and reduced GHG emissions over the next forty (40) years.

RAP is proposing the construction of a 1.6 acre park, tentatively called "Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek Confluence Park," located at 6353 Lindley Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 91335. This property is vacant, undeveloped, uncontaminated, and currently owned by the City of Los Angeles Department of General Services. The proposed project will include 670 feet of riverfront and feature native and drought-tolerant landscaping, outdoor classroom, interpretation zones, trails, seating, fitness stations, bicycle racks, decorative gateway, and Best Management Practices for storm-water improvement. The park will serve the approximately 9,000 residents, local workers and school community members who are within walking or bicycling distance to the park. Without a parking lot, the proposed project will discourage vehicle miles traveled, so as to promote the experience of nature in the city, and thereby reduce air pollution, energy consumption and GHG emissions. While the Project will directly benefit the bordering neighborhoods of Reseda and Tarzana in the City of Los Angeles, the Project can also serve as an outdoor classroom for nearby schools.

The Project area was prioritized for park development by several community-driven planning documents: the Reseda-West Van Nuys Community Plan (1999), the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (2007), the City's Park Needs Assessment (2009), each led by the City of Los Angeles. The community plan recommends the needs to increase parkland along the Los Angeles River and to increase the number of small neighborhood parks. The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan specifically recommends the Project site for habitat and water

## REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 3

NO. 15-019

quality improvements. The results of the City's Park Needs Assessment demonstrate a need for the type of park and amenities the Project will deliver by creating a multi-benefit park employing green infrastructure technologies to clean local air and water supplies, while providing a place of beauty and education for park visitors.

With the intent to develop this property for public recreation use, a partnership between the City of Los Angeles (City), the County of Los Angeles (County), and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has been established. The County has easements within the proposed project site and owns the waterway infrastructure surrounding most of the site and has been brought in to ensure smooth coordination of land use and storm-water design issues. The MRCA has developed many parks on behalf of local cities, counties and school districts and in particular has developed more than a dozen parks with the City and County. In conformance with City standards, it is anticipated that MRCA's role will be to oversee the planning, design and construction of the Project on behalf of the City. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,850,000.00, which will include \$1,396,500.00 in Proposition 84 funds (awarded to MRCA) and \$453,500.00 in CAL FIRE funding, if awarded.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The grant requires a matching share of twenty-five (25) percent, which will be met and exceeded by the Proposition 84 funds. Future maintenance costs have yet to be determined.

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 APPLICATION FOR CAL FIRE  
LOS ANGELES RIVER AND CABALLERO CREEK CONFLUENCE PARK PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Congress under Public Law 88-578 has authorized the establishment of a federal CAL FIRE Grant-In-Aid program, providing Matching funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for acquiring lands and developing Facilities for public outdoor recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for administration of the program in the State, setting up necessary rules and procedures governing APPLICATIONS by local agencies under the program; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant certifies by resolution the approval of the APPLICATION and the availability of eligible MATCHING funds prior to submission of the APPLICATION to the State; and

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

1. Approves the filing of an APPLICATION for CAL FIRE assistance for the proposed: Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek Confluence Park Project.
2. Agrees to abide by SECTION 6(f)(3) of Public Law 88-578 which states “No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the National Secretary of the Interior, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses. The Secretary shall approve such conversion only if he finds it to be in accord with the then existing comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan and only upon such conditions as he deems necessary to assure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location.”
3. Certifies that said agency has Matching funds from eligible source(s) and can finance 100 percent of the Project, which up to half may be reimbursed; and
4. Appoints the General Manager, Executive Officer, or Assistant General Manager, of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, as agent of the APPLICANT to conduct all negotiations and execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, amendments, payment requests, and compliance with all applicable current state and federal laws which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned PROJECT.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_ NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_