

APPROVED

MAR 04 2021

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 21-036

DATE March 04, 2021

C.D. 14

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ASCOT HILLS PARK – INTERPRETIVE NATURE CENTER CONSTRUCTION (PRJ21075) PROJECT — ALLOCATION OF QUIMBY FEES – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 11(6) [PLACEMENT OF MINOR STRUCTURES ACCESSORY TO EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15311 OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz M. Rudnick
H. Fujita fur C. Santo Domingo DF
V. Israel N. Williams

M. Shue
General Manager

Approved X Disapproved Withdrawn

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Approve the scope of work of the Ascot Hills Park - Interpretive Nature Center Construction (PRJ21075) Project (Project), as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) Chief Accounting Employee or designee to establish new Quimby Fee Account No. 89460K-HM with Ascot Hills Park as the Account Name;
3. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to transfer One-Hundred Twenty-Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00) in Quimby Fees from the Quimby Fees Account No. 89460K-00 to the Ascot Hills Park Account No. 89460K-HM;
4. Approve the allocation of One-Hundred Twenty-Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00) in Quimby Fees from the Ascot Hills Park Account No. 89460K-HM to the proposed Project;

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5. Determine that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(6) [Placement of minor structures accessory to existing institutional facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and to Article 19, Section 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;
6. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing an NOE; and,
7. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

Ascot Hills Park is a 92.44-acre park located at 4371 Multnomah Street in Northeast Los Angeles. It is an unstaffed park that contains a parking lot, restroom facility, outdoor classrooms, amphitheater and nature trails. The park has been developed on land owned by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). RAP currently operates and maintains the property through a thirty (30) year Lease Agreement (Agreement) with LADWP. Approximately 2,736 City residents live within a one-half mile walking distance of Ascot Hills Park. Due to its facilities and features, and the programs and services provided on site, Ascot Hills Park meets the standard for a Regional Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan.

Northeast Trees (NET), a non-profit community based organization, was founded in 1989 to restore natural systems in resource challenged communities, through a collaborative resource development, implementation, and stewardship process. NET specializes in working with local, underserved communities to identify degraded areas and derelict parcels of land and works to transform them into more sustainable natural areas. The proposed Project, as described below, is a collaboration between RAP and NET. NET has developed the plans for this proposed Project and RAP is paying for the construction.

PROJECT SCOPE

The proposed scope of work for the Project includes the following:

- Installation of new decomposed granite paving.
- Installation of concrete edging.
- Installation of accessible path of travel with concrete curb ramp.
- Installation of four information kiosks.
- Installation of habitat information signage.

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The intended purpose of the nature center is to serve as a starting point or trailhead for park users to become oriented with the park before they venture out onto the park’s network of hiking trails.

PROJECT FUNDING

Upon approval of this Report, One-Hundred Twenty-Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00) in Quimby Fees can be transferred from the Quimby Fees Account No. 89460K-00 to the Ascot Hills Park Account No. 89460K-HM and allocated to the proposed Project.

These Quimby Fees were collected within ten (10) miles of Ascot Hills Park, which is the standard distance for the allocation of Quimby Fees for regional recreational facilities pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.33 E.3.

FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

Source	Fund/Dept/Acct	Amount	Percentage
Quimby Fees	302/89/89460K-HM	\$120,000.00	100%
Total		\$120,000.00	100%

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

RAP staff has determined that sufficient funding has been identified and construction for the Project is anticipated to begin in Spring 2021.

TREES AND SHADE

The proposed Project will have no impact on existing trees or shade at the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of placement of minor structures accessory to existing institutional facilities. As such, RAP staff recommends that the Board determine that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(6) of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Section 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines. RAP staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon the Board’s approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of this allocation of Quimby Fees will have no fiscal impact on RAP’s General Fund.

The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by Quimby Fees or funding sources other than the RAP’s General fund. The assessment of the future maintenance costs associated with the proposed Project have yet to be determined and will be included in future budget requests..

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STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

Goal No. 1: Provide Safe and Accessible Parks

Outcome No. 2: All parks are safe and welcoming

Result: The construction of an interpretive nature center will enhance the park users' experience.

This Report was prepared by Ajmal Noorzayee, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.