

APPROVED

MAY 06 2021

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 21-072

DATE: May 06, 2021

C.D. 14

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: HOLLENBECK PARK – DONATION AND INSTALLATION OF TWENTY (20) 24-INCH BOX TREES AND A TWO-YEAR FOREST MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR A LOS ANGELES PARK FOREST TO BE PLANTED IN SPRING 2021; APPROVAL OF DONOR RECOGNITION SIGNAGE; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 4(3) [NEW GARDENING, TREE PLANTING, OR LANDSCAPING] AND CLASS 11(5) [PLACEMENT OF SIGNS LOCATED ON CITY PROPERTY MANAGED BY A CITY DEPARTMENT WHICH HAS A SIGN POLICY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15304(b) AND 15311 OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz _____
H. Fujita _____
J. Kim _____

* M. Rudnick MR
C. Santo Domingo _____
N. Williams _____



General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve a proposed park improvement project at Hollenbeck Park consisting of the installation of twenty (20) 24-inch box trees and a two-year forest maintenance plan for a Los Angeles Park Forest to be planted during spring 2021 (Project), as a donation to the City of Los Angeles and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), through the Los Angeles Parks Foundation (LAPF);
2. Authorize RAP's Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch (PMC), upon the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' (Board) approval and acceptance of the Project, to issue a Right of Entry Permit (ROE) to LAPF and their selected contractors and/or vendors, allowing access to Hollenbeck Park to construct, install, and maintain the proposed Project improvements over a two-year term;
3. Accept the proposed Project improvements valued up to approximately Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00), as a donation to the City and RAP from the Sikand Foundation (Donor) through LAPF, for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public, subject to a post-installation inspection of the completed improvements and approval by RAP's PMC staff;

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4. Approve the installation of proposed donor recognition signage which shall be on an aluminum plaque measuring 18" x 7.5" on a parking lot fence, in appreciation and recognition of the Donor's support of the Project at Hollenbeck Park, as described in the Summary of this Report below;
5. Find that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(3) [New gardening, tree planting, or landscaping] and Class 11(5) [Placement of signs located on City property managed by a City department which has a sign policy adopted by the Board of Commissioners] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15304(b) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE);
6. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) for the NOE; and
7. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation (LAPF) has established a Park Forest Initiative that involves the solicitation of donations to support the planting of clusters of new trees within existing parks that act as micro forests. These site-specific projects align with the goals of the City of Los Angeles' Green New Deal by providing multiple environmental benefits such as air quality improvements, increasing biodiversity and wildlife habitat areas, increasing tree canopy coverage and shade, mitigating urban heat island effect, and supporting groundwater recharge. The size of each forest and associated elements is tailored to the needs and conditions of the park in which they are planted and the species and size of the trees have been vetted by, and coordinated with, RAP's Planning Division and Forestry Division.

The Sikand Foundation (Donor), through LAPF, has offered to fund the park forest improvements described herein at Hollenbeck Park, located at 415 S. Saint Louis Street, Los Angeles, 90033. Trees selected from the following RAP approved species will be planted in the grassy area on the northeast border of the park to mitigate freeway exhaust and noise (see Attachment 1): Engelmann oak, Island oak, Torrey pine, Shumard oak, Ghost gum, Tipu tree, Brisbane box, African fern pine, and Jacaranda. The proposed donation consists of the planting of twenty (20) twenty-four (24) inch box trees and a two (2) year "forest" maintenance plan for the Park Forest to be planted in spring 2021 at Hollenbeck Park. In addition to the tree installation, the funding provided by the Donor to LAPF will also fund maintenance contract expenses with BrightView Landscaping Services, a RAP approved, licensed landscape company, to implement the two-year maintenance plan. BrightView will provide tree maintenance at the forest once each month, performing as-needed maintenance including deep water irrigation, weeding, pest abatement, and tree replacement in the event of any tree loss.

The value of the donation, including the trees and maintenance service under the two-year L.A. Park Forest maintenance plan is approximately Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00). LAPF will

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use the donation to select, purchase and install the trees described above, through direct contracts with its vendors and contractors (collectively "Contractors") to design and create a park forest at Hollenbeck Park, at no cost to the City. LAPF coordinated the tree selection, planting location(s), and all other necessary approvals with PMC staff. LAPF also conducted outreach to the Office of Council District 14, the Hollenbeck Park Advisory Board, and Hollenbeck Park staff, and obtained support from them for the proposed Project. LAPF will have the lead in implementing the Project through said Contractors, including the maintenance of the planted trees for two (2) years.

To thank and acknowledge the Donor for its generous contribution, subject to the Board's approval, a donor recognition aluminum plaque measuring 18" x 7.5" will be placed on a parking lot fence across from the Park Forest, which will read as follows:

"Welcome to the Forest
The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, along with the Los Angeles Parks
Foundation Thank and Acknowledge the Sikand Foundation for Planting this Forest for the
People of Los Angeles

May 2021"

TREES AND SHADE

Twenty (20) 24"-box trees will be planted among existing trees as part of the scope of the proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of planting of new trees and placement of a plaque located on City property managed by a City department which has a sign policy adopted by the Board of Commissioners. Therefore, RAP staff recommends the Board determines that this project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(3) and Class 11(5) of City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines, as well as to Article 19, Sections 15304(b) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines. RAP staff will file an NOE with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon the Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

The installation of the park improvements will not have any fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund, as associated costs will be funded entirely by LAPF through funds provided by the Donor. The first two years of tree maintenance will be funded and performed through the forest maintenance plan. Beyond that, future maintenance of the improvements will be addressed through Hollenbeck Park's existing maintenance budget and the annual budget process.

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This report was prepared by Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II, and Raymond Chang, Management Analyst, Partnership Section.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Park Forest location

Hollenbeck Park

415 S. Saint Louis St., Los Angeles, 90033

Park Forest Location: Northwest Area of Park, adjacent to 5 Freeway at 4th Street.

