

APPROVED

OCT 20 2022

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 22-268

DATE: October 20, 2022

C.D. 6

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: BRANFORD RECREATION CENTER – DONATION FROM THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION THROUGH THE LOS ANGELES PARKS FOUNDATION CONSISTING OF THE INSTALLATION OF TWELVE (12) 24-INCH BOX TREES AND A TWO (2) YEAR FOREST MAINTENANCE PLAN; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(8) [MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING LANDSCAPING, NATIVE GROWTH, WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS; AND BRUSH CLEARANCE FOR WEED ABATEMENT AND FIRE PROTECTION] AND CLASS 4(3) [NEW GARDENING, TREE PLANTING, OR LANDSCAPING, BUT NOT INCLUDING TREE REMOVAL EXCEPT DEAD, DAMAGED OR DISEASED TREES OR LIMBS] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15301(h) AND 15304(b) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz \_\_\_\_\_ \* M. Rudnick MR
H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_ C. Santo Domingo \_\_\_\_\_
B. Jackson \_\_\_\_\_ N. Williams \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved X Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

If Approved: Board President [Signature] Board Secretary [Signature]

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Approve a proposed park improvement project at Branford Recreation Center (Park), consisting of the installation of twelve (12) 24-inch box trees which include five (5) Indian Rosewood (Dalbergia sissoo), four (4) Coast Live Oaks (LA Commons Supply) and (3) Desert Museum Palo Verde, temporary fencing around each tree, and a two-year forest maintenance plan (Project), under the Los Angeles Parks Foundation's (LAPF) Los Angeles Park Forest initiative, as a donation to the City of Los Angeles (City) and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), as further described in this Report;
2. Authorize RAP's Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch (PMC), upon the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' (Board) approval of the Project, to issue a Right of Entry Permit (ROE) to LAPF and their selected contractors and/or vendors, allowing access to Branford Recreation Center for the installation and maintenance of the proposed Project improvements over a two-year term within certain areas of the Park as identified on Attachment 1 of this Report;

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3. Accept the proposed Project improvements valued up to approximately Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), as a donation to the City from the Annenberg Foundation through the LAPF, for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public, subject to a post-installation inspection and approval by RAP's PMC staff of the completed Project improvements;
4. Determine that the Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(8) [Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, water supply reservoirs; and brush clearance for weed abatement and fire protection] and Class 4(3) [New gardening, tree planting, or landscaping, but not including tree removal except dead, damaged or diseased trees or limbs] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(h) and 15304(b) of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;
5. 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 purpose of filing an NOE; and
6. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections to carry out the intent of this Report.

### SUMMARY

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. The Board has previously approved several similar Park Forest projects initiated by the LAPF at other RAP parks throughout the City. These site-specific projects align with the goals of the City's 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 effects, and supporting groundwater recharge. The size of each forest and associated elements are tailored to the needs and conditions of the park in which they are planted. The specific species and size of the trees have been vetted by, and coordinated with, RAP's Planning, Construction & Maintenance Division and Forestry Division.

Through private funding received by the LAPF from the Annenberg Foundation in the amount of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), the LAPF has offered to fund the proposed park-forest Project improvements described herein at Branford Recreation Center, located at 13306 Branford Street, Arleta, CA 91331 (Park), at no cost to RAP. The proposed Project, valued at approximately \$25,000.00, consists of park-forest improvements which include the planting of five (5) Indian Rosewood (*Dalbergia sissoo*), four (4) Coast Live Oaks (LA Commons Supply) and (3) Desert Museum Palo Verde trees with temporary fencing installed around each of the trees in a grassy area of the park that does not interfere with irrigation or existing facilities, as indicated on the aerial Site Map attached to this Report (Attachment 1). The tree planting is scheduled to occur in the month of November 2022, which has been pre-approved by RAP's Forestry Division. In addition to the tree installation, the funding provided to the LAPF will also fund a two-year maintenance plan implemented by the LAPF through its RAP-approved, licensed landscape

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contractor(s) and vendor(s), which will include monthly, as-needed maintenance including deep water irrigation, weeding and pest abatement, and tree replacement in the event of any tree loss.

The funding provided for the proposed Project was donated to the LAPF by the Annenberg Foundation. The value of the donation, including the trees and two-year maintenance service plan, is approximately Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00). LAPF will select, purchase and install the trees described above, through direct contracts with its vendors and contractors (collectively "Contractors"), at no cost to RAP. LAPF coordinated the tree selection, planting location(s), and all other necessary approvals with PMC staff and the RAP Forestry Division. The proposed planting area is identified in Attachment 1. LAPF will be responsible for implementing the Project through its Contractors, including the maintenance of the planted trees for two (2) years.

### TREES AND SHADE

Twelve (12) 24"-box trees, consisting of five (5) Indian Rosewood (*Dalbergia sissoo*), four (4) Coast Live Oaks (LA Commons Supply) and (3) Desert Museum Palo trees will be installed under the proposed Project.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of maintenance of existing landscaping and native growth and tree planting.

According to the parcel profile report retrieved September 22, 2022, this area does not reside in a liquefaction zone within a coastal, methane, or historic zone, so there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern or have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of September 22, 2022, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov)) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) have not listed the Project site or any contaminated sites near the Project area (within 500 feet). According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway Map there is no scenic highway located within the vicinity of the proposed Project or within its site. Furthermore, the proposed Project is not located in proximity of a known historical resources and will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historical resource.

Based in this information, RAP staff recommends that the Board determines that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(8) and 4(3) of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(h) and 15304(b) of California CEQA Guidelines. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon Board's approval.

### FISCAL IMPACT

The installation of the improvements will not have any fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund, as

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associated costs will be funded entirely by LAPF. The first two years of tree maintenance will be funded and performed through the forest maintenance plan implemented by LAPF. Beyond that, future maintenance of the improvements will be addressed through Branford Recreation Center's existing maintenance budget and the annual budget process.

This report was prepared by Priya Macwan, Management Assistant, Sustainability and Partnership Sections, and Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II, Partnership Section.

### LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Park Forest Site Map

**Branford Recreation Center and Park  
Park Forest Tree Planting Area**

