

April 11, 2023

C-14

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to approve a grant application for the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Proposition 68 Lower LA River Grant Program for the 51st Street Greenbelt Project; if awarded, accept an amount up to \$2,000,000 for completion of the 51st Street Greenbelt Project; and, execute all documents necessary to accept and expend the funds and implement the project. (District 8)

DISCUSSION

The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) was approved by voters in June 2018. In July 2022, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) began soliciting applications for the Proposition 68 Lower LA River Grant Program (Grant). This competitive Grant program supports developing urban recreation projects, habitat protection or restoration projects, community access, and natural resource protection. Multi-benefit and nature-based solutions are a priority, which includes funding to support climate change impacts on fish and wildlife, habitat restoration, and activities that accelerate climate smart management of California's natural and working lands and help meet the State's 2030 Green House Gas reduction goals.

The Parks, Recreation and Marine Department is requesting City Council authorization to approve a grant application for the 51st Street Greenbelt Project (Project) requesting \$2,000,000 in funds. Funds awarded through the Grant would contribute to the success of the City of Long Beach's (City) efforts to provide healthy and safe park spaces and increase the funding needed to complete the 51st Street Greenbelt Project.

The Project will create additional open space in a park deficient neighborhood, provide connectivity to the nearby Los Angeles River Regional Bike Path, and address storm water capture. Components of the project include planting carbon sequestering trees, native and drought resistant plants, a new pedestrian walking path, trash receptacles, lighting, irrigation, hydration stations, and bioswales for storm water capture and ground water replenishment.

The Project was identified as being the most competitive considering the grant criteria in that it:

- Is close to shovel-ready
- Is within RMC's priority area along the Los Angeles River

- Restores or enhances habitat while providing high carbon sequestration benefits
- Improves public open space (natural landscapes and/or urban greenspaces), to increase access to nature and low impact recreation for all communities
- Promotes healthy lifestyles and improves the environment, providing additional social, economic, and environmental benefits

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Anita Lakhani on March 14, 2023 and by Budget Analysis Officer Greg Sorensen on March 22, 2023.

SUSTAINABILITY

The project will provide green buffers between the community and nearby port goods movement activities by reducing impacts from the nearby I-710 freeway from freight operations including emissions, traffic, and noise. The project will help mitigate air quality and improve water quality by planting carbon-capturing trees and landscaping that emphasizes nature-based solutions to filter stormwater contaminants.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on April 11, 2023, to adopt the Resolution required for submittal within 60 days of the grant application deadline.

FISCAL IMPACT

If awarded, the City will receive grant funds up to \$2,000,000 for the Project. No matching funds are required for this grant opportunity. City staff will return to the City Council to accept and appropriate grant funds if awarded. A portion of the project is currently supported by a grant from the Port of Long Beach through its Parks and Open Space program in the amount of \$999,115 in the Capital Projects Fund Group in the Public Works Department. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



BRENT DENNIS
DIRECTOR
PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

APPROVED:



THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
DAWN MCINTOSH, City Attorney
411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 9th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

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RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 68 LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER GRANT PROGRAM, FOR THE 51ST STREET GREENBELT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the people of the State of California have enacted the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), which provides funds by the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the RMC has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the grant program in its jurisdiction, setting up necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the RMC require the Applicant's Governing Body to certify by resolution the approval of the Application before submission of said Application to the State; and

WHEREAS, City of Long Beach ("Applicant") desires to submit a grant application to Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Prop 68 Lower Los Angeles River Grant Program for the 51st Street Greenbelt Project ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, if awarded, Applicant intends to accept an amount up to Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) for completion of the Project and authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute all documents necessary to accept the funds and implement the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as follows:

1 Section 1. The City Council of the City of Long Beach (“Applicant”)
2 approves the filing of an Application for local assistance funds from the RMC Proposition
3 68 San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) Grant
4 Program for the 51st Street Greenbelt Project (“Project”) and certifies as follows:

5 A. The Project is consistent with local or regional land use plans or
6 Programs; and

7 B. The Project is consistent with the goals of Proposition 68 developing
8 urban recreation projects and habitat protection or restoration projects in
9 accordance with statewide priorities; and

10 C. The Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and
11 maintain the Project that is being submitted for funding consideration; and

12 D. The Applicant has reviewed and understands the General
13 Requirements and General Policies of the RMC Proposition 68 Grant Program
14 Guidelines; and

15 Section 2. The City Council of the City of Long Beach appoints the City
16 Manager, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute, and submit all
17 documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and
18 so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the Project.

19 Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption
20 by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

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OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
DAWN MCINTOSH, City Attorney
411 W. Ocean Boulevard, 9th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

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I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council
of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of _____, 2023, by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: _____

Noes: Councilmembers: _____

Absent: Councilmembers: _____

Recusal(s): Councilmembers: _____

City Clerk