

C-17

October 18, 2022

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to submit a grant application to Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for their Climate Resilient Grant Program for the El Dorado Duck Pond Restoration Project; if awarded, accept an amount up to \$1,500,000 for completion of the Duck Pond Restoration Project; and, execute all documents necessary to accept the funds and implement the project. (District 4)

DISCUSSION

In July 2022, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) began soliciting applications for the Climate Resilience Grant Program (Grant). This competitive Grant program supports climate resilience, 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 submit a grant application for the El Dorado Duck Pond Restoration Project (Project) requesting \$1,500,000 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 Project.

The Project will address safety hazards and improve water quality. To do so, the Project will dredge the pond of accumulated sediments, pollutants, and organic matter to enhance water quality, add native wetland vegetation to provide additional roosting and nesting sites, and remove nonnative vegetation to filter storm water runoff before it enters the pond. An added benefit is that once the Project is completed, water from the pond will be recycled and used to irrigate the municipally-owned El Dorado Park Golf Course and replace reclaimed water as its primary water source. This is a significant benefit as the region continues to experience extreme drought conditions and will help lower the City's demand for imported water sources by freeing up reclaimed water for other uses.

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

- Is shovel-ready,
- Restores or enhances habitat that have 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, and
- Promotes healthy lifestyles and improves the environment, providing additional social, economic, and environmental benefits.

On April 12, 2022, the City Council approved a Resolution to apply for separate grant funding through the California Department of Parks and Recreation in an amount up to \$3,000,000. The City received notice that the project was not selected for that grant funding opportunity.

Additional project funding in the amounts of: \$2,800,000 in Measure W funds, \$2,254,000 in Measure A funds, \$1,117,000 from the Long Beach Water Department, \$300,000 in grant funding from the Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space Prop A funds, and \$515,184 of one-time General Capital Funds are currently appropriated in the Capital Projects Fund Group in the Public Works Department.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Anita Lakhani on September 27, 2022 and by Budget Analysis Officer Greg Sorensen on September 28, 2022.

SUSTAINABILITY

The Project will clean incoming storm water from the surrounding local watershed by routing it through a restored wetland to reuse the water to irrigate the El Dorado Park Golf Course. As the drought in Southern California continues, water saving is important for the City in both conservation and budget. Cleaning and reusing the water that flows into the Duck Pond will help the City decrease its use of reclaimed water, saving the City an estimated \$175,000 per fiscal year, making reclaimed water available for other sites which may be using potable water.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on October 18, 2022, to adopt the Resolution required to be submitted within 60 days of submittal of the grant applications.

FISCAL IMPACT

If awarded, the City will receive grant funds up to \$1,500,000 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. If unsuccessful, Measure W funds are also available to help complete the project. 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.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

October 18, 2022

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SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



BRENT DENNIS
DIRECTOR
PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE



ERIC LOPEZ
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Attachment - Resolution

APPROVED:



THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER

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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 CLIMATE RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM, FOR THE EL DORADO DUCK POND RESTORATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the State of California has authorized an expenditure of General Funds by the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) for the Climate Resilience Grant Program in Section 69 of Senate Bill 170, known as the Budget Act of 2021; 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 desires to submit a grant application to Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the Climate Resilience Grant Program for the Duck Pond Restoration Project (Project); and

WHEREAS, if awarded, City intends to accept an amount up to One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) for completion of the Duck Pond Restoration 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:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Long Beach ("Applicant")

1 approves the filing of an Application for Grant Funds from the RMC Climate Resilience
2 Grant Program and certifies as follows:

3 A. The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains
4 Conservancy Climate Resilience Grant Program, for The El Dorado Duck Pond
5 Restoration Project (“Project”) is consistent with local or regional land use plans or
6 Programs; and

7 B. The Project is consistent with the goals of Climate Resilience Grant
8 Program including multi-beneficial and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed
9 protection projects in accordance with statewide priorities; and

10 C. The Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain
11 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 Grant Program Guidelines; and

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

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

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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 _____, 2022, by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: _____

Noes: Councilmembers: _____

Absent: Councilmembers: _____

Recusal(s): Councilmembers: _____

City Clerk

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