



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE



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www.LBParks.org

selected
best in the nation

December 12, 2017

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to accept a total of \$981,509 in grant funding from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, through the Housing-Related Parks Program, to be utilized for the rehabilitation of park facilities and park grounds at Drake, Peace, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parks; execute any documents necessary for the administration of the projects; and,

Increase appropriations in the Capital Projects Fund (CP) in the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department (PR) by \$981,509, offset by reimbursement grant revenue. (Districts 1, 6)

DISCUSSION

On November 21, 2016, the City of Long Beach (City) received notification that the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), through the Housing-Related Parks Program (Program), was soliciting for proposed park projects, including the creation, development, or rehabilitation of park and recreation facilities that will serve disadvantaged and park-deficient communities. The goal of the Program is to increase the overall supply of affordable housing for lower-income households by providing financial incentives for the creation, expansion, or renovation of community park and recreation amenities. The Program reflects a commitment to work in partnership with local governments to address California's critical housing and community development needs, while recognizing and reinforcing the critical linkages between housing, jobs, and the economy in creating vital, livable communities. Grant funding available from the Program will be allocated to address issues such as replacing play equipment, refurbishing interior public spaces, addressing exterior accessibility issues, and general site improvements to address critical safety concerns and deferred maintenance. The investment will enhance the overall recreational opportunities for the surrounding community. The HCD calculated the 2016 grant awards on a per bedroom basis for each affordable housing unit that was newly constructed, substantially rehabilitated, and/or preserved with an extended affordability term. Applicants were also eligible for bonus funding for units developed as infill projects, developments serving extremely low-income households, and for proposed park projects that would serve disadvantaged and park-deficient communities.

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The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, with the assistance of the Department of Development Services, recommended that the City Council approve a grant application for the rehabilitation of park facilities and park grounds at Drake, Peace, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parks. These three parks were selected for a variety of reasons, including their proximity to newly-developed or rehabilitated affordable housing units, and because they serve disadvantaged and park-deficient communities, which makes the City eligible for bonus funding. These parks were also selected because the aging facilities have created safety and accessibility issues that impact program and staff functionality. In addition, they have suffered from deferred maintenance and have obsolete equipment that is difficult and costly to maintain. The City Council approved the submission of the grant application on February 21, 2017, and HCD awarded the grant funding to the City on June 30, 2017. The improvements include \$350,000 to renovate the playground at Peace Park, \$315,754 to renovate the playground at Martin Luther King Jr. Park, and \$315,754 to repair water damage and renovate the community center interior at Drake Park.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Linda T. Vu on November 17, 2017 and by Budget Management Officer Rhutu Amin Gharib on November 22, 2017.

SUSTAINABILITY

Elements of the park projects include the following:

- Play equipment that is made up of 93 percent recycled materials;
- Installation of rubberized playground safety surfacing that will contain material derived from tires diverted from local California landfills;
- Use of mulch from the City's Mulch Program; and,
- Reuse of existing playground sand.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on December 12, 2017, to appropriate the grant revenue and to commence and complete the projects to comply with the grant deadline of June 30, 2019. In addition, this grant funding will augment other funding for projects that must be completed by March 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT

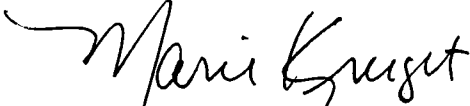
An appropriation increase in the amount of \$981,509 is requested in the Capital Projects Fund (CP) in the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department (PR), offset by grant revenue received from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, Housing-Related Parks Program. There is no match requirement for this grant. This funding will be used for park improvement projects at Drake, Peace, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parks. The recommended action will result in a positive impact on jobs. Several temporary construction jobs will be created, although the exact number is unknown at this time.

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SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



MARIE KNIGHT
DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

MK:SS:MR:en

APPROVED:



PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER