



CITY OF LONG BEACH

RES-26

Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

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May 11, 2004

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

City of Long Beach

California

SUBJECT: Resolution to Apply for Grant Funds From the State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board, for Installation of Fishing Platforms at Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier (District 3)

DISCUSSION

As part of the revitalization of the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier area, the concept of fishing platforms attached to the pier has been discussed. The platforms would create a safer and modern structure to meet the needs of the citizens and visitors of Long Beach.

The pier is only 24' wide, and fishing activities require five to six feet, with fishing currently allowed on both sides. As a result, fishing activity conflicts with other activities on the pier, including pedestrian traffic, bicycle traffic, and vehicular access for maintenance purposes. This conflict also restricts overhead casting, which further limits fishing activity. Finally, fishing patrons have expressed a desire to be closer to the water.

In September 2003, a consultant was hired to develop a fishing platform layout and provide estimated costs. The conceptual plan includes three platforms that are 10-feet wide and 60-feet in length. They would be structurally independent of the pier, closer to the water than the pier, and accessible by fixed gangways that meet ADA requirements.

The State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), provides grants for the purpose of constructing fishing piers and development of fishing access sites. The fishing platforms qualify for this grant program. The State of California would lease the actual platforms, to protect its investment, but the platforms would be operated and controlled, for all practical purposes, by the City.

The estimated cost for the fishing platforms is \$1,250,000. The WCB grant requires a 50 percent match, which will be satisfied through the City's investment in other improvements on the pier, including structural improvements, restrooms and parking lot improvements, which are already City funded. With the City Council's approval, the City Manager will be able to pursue this important source of funding, and enable the City to further improve the pier for fishing patrons, as well as other pier visitors. This project has been reviewed by the Marine Advisory Commission.

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This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney James McCabe on March 31, 2004, and Budget Manager Michael Killebrew on April 6, 2004.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

This item is not time critical.

FISCAL IMPACT

Wildlife Conservation Board Public Access Project Grants offer matching funds for the construction of fishing piers. The projected costs of \$1,250,000 can be matched by funds appropriated for improvements to the pier, fishing concessions, restrooms, and parking lot. After the grant is awarded, City Council action will be requested to appropriate these grant funds.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

1. Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for grant funds totaling \$1,250,000 from the State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board, to construct fishing platforms at the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier.
2. If the grant is approved, authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the State of California, Wildlife Conservation Board to accept the funds, and to execute, implement, award, and administer the grant agreement, including the execution of any documents necessary for the implementation and administration of the project.

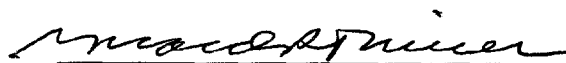
Respectfully submitted,



PHIL T. HESTER
DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

PTH:MAS:bjg
Attachment

APPROVED:


GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER