



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE

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October 4, 2005

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application, through the California River Parkways Grant Program, to the California Resources Agency, in the amount of \$6 million for the DeForest Wetlands project; and to execute any documents necessary for the implementation and administration of the project at a total cost of \$6 million. (Districts 8 and 9)

DISCUSSION

In 2002, California voters passed the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Act), also known as Proposition 50. The Act authorized the Legislature to create the California River Parkways Grant Program, within the Office of the Secretary of Resources, to oversee the awarding of \$40.5 million statewide to river parkway projects. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine proposes to apply for funding for the DeForest Wetlands project (Project), which is located along the east bank of the Los Angeles River (Attachment A). The Project will provide for the development of a multi-functional wetlands and recreational facility in the Los Angeles County Flood Control District Market Street Detention Basin, which is south of DeForest Park along the Los Angeles River south to Del Amo Boulevard.

In 2002, at the request of the City and the California Coastal Conservancy, the engineering firm of CH2M Hill completed a feasibility study at the site. The purpose of the study was to: 1) Evaluate the feasibility of conversion and restoration to wetlands and riparian habitats at the DeForest Nature Center site, along the Los Angeles River Market Street Detention Basin; 2) Determine what public use elements could be included in the plans to enhance recreational use and enjoyment of the site; and 3) Determine if the quality of water used at the site would be sufficiently improved after passing through the created on-site wetlands. The results of the study were very positive for all outcomes. Last fall, the design phase of the project began with funding from the City, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the California Coastal Conservancy, and Los Angeles County. The design phase will provide complete construction documents, as well as final environmental documents for construction of

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

October 4, 2005

Page 2

the Project. Should the grant be awarded, a partnership between the City and County will be formalized in an agreement, a request for which will be presented to the City Council. Currently, design is thirty percent (30%) complete with completion of the full construction drawings expected in early 2006.

Due to the limited amount of funds available statewide, and in order to remain competitive in the funding process, the grant application for the DeForest Wetlands project will provide approximately sixty percent (60%) of the construction costs in order to complete the first phase of the Project. Specifically, the grant funds would provide for the majority of the wetlands infrastructure and limited habitat construction without providing recreational amenities. If this Project is funded in the first cycle of funding, the Department would apply for funds to complete the remaining forty percent (40%) of the habitat landscaping and to provide for recreational amenities in a future cycle when more monies are available. The total cost to complete both phases of the Project is estimated at \$10 million.

This item was reviewed by Donna F. Gwin, Senior Deputy City Attorney, on September 21, 2005, and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on September 23, 2005.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on October 4, 2005 is critical as the completed grant application must be submitted to the California Resources Agency office in Sacramento on October 18, 2005.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of the Project at sixty percent (60%) construction, including project management costs, is estimated at \$6 million. If funded, the grant monies will offset \$6 million of the project development costs. Funding to cover the City's four percent (4%) overhead rate is not an eligible grant expense. If the grant is awarded, the City's overhead expense will come from Park Impact Fees in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PR).

In accordance with the goal established in the Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine is seeking to add over 1,000 acres of recreational open space to the city. Such additional recreational space will require additional City expenditures for staffing and maintenance. Passive recreational spaces and native habitats require lower staffing and maintenance expenditures than equivalent areas in traditional parks.

If the grant is awarded by the state, the Department will request City Council approval to accept and appropriate the funds.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

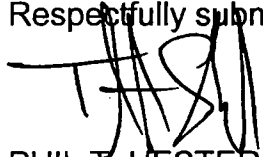
October 4, 2005

Page 3

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



for PHIL
HESTER

PHIL T. HESTER
DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

PTH:DLE:AM:LH

(City Council Letters/DeForest Wetlands.doc)

Attachments:

Map
Resolution

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER