

**CITY OF LONG BEACH**

Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

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July 19, 2005

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize the City Manager to accept the grant award and execute all documents necessary to implement and administer the San Gabriel River Walk project through the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; and
2. Increase appropriations in the Capital Projects Fund (CP) in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PR) by \$622,600. (Districts 4, 5)

DISCUSSION

The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) has awarded \$622,600 in funding to the City of Long Beach through Proposition 50, the California Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Bond Act of 2002, for the San Gabriel River Walk project (Project). This first phase of the Project consists of the development of a publicly accessible multi-use pedestrian and bicycle trail through a restored native landscape along the western bank of the lower San Gabriel River between Spring Street and Atherton Street (see Attachment #1). Currently, the 30-acre area is closed to the public and is used as a utility right-of-way.

Specifically, the Project consists of site preparation and soil treatment, installation of a 1.5 mile, 12-foot wide decomposed granite trail, installation of irrigation (for plant establishment period and supplemental irrigation during periods of drought), limited restoration of native and California friendly plant communities (trees, natural and low maintenance meadow grasses and wildflowers), trail seating, and interpretive signage. Future phases of the Project will provide for additional native landscaping. One community meeting has already been held to provide for public comment on the proposed project, with another public meeting scheduled for August 4, 2005.

Once restored, the Project will be a place for native, endangered and threatened species, both plant and animal, to find habitat, food, shelter, and nesting sites. The site will also provide opportunities for bird watching, walking and other passive recreational pursuits. In addition, educational programs and naturalist led tours may be provided by the El Dorado Nature Center, which is located across the river from the Project.

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This letter was reviewed by Donna F. Gwin, Senior Deputy City Attorney, on July 7, 2005, and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on July 11, 2005.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

The RMC has requested that the City enter into the agreement without delay; therefore, City Council action is requested on July 19, 2005.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost of the Project is estimated at \$622,600. Funding to provide ongoing operation and maintenance of the trail will be provided by the Department's annual operating budget.

Since the grant award is currently unbudgeted, an appropriation increase is included in the recommendation section. Funding to cover the City's 4 percent overhead rate is not an eligible grant expense and is not included in the grant funding. The overhead expense will come from existing General Fund (GP) appropriations in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PR).

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,



PHIL T. HESTER
DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

PTH:DLE:AM:LH

APPROVED:

for 
GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER