

APPROVED

APR 04 2021

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 24-062

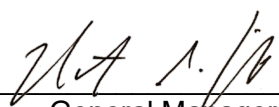
DATE April 04, 2024

C.D. 7

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: HANSEN DAM RECREATION AREA – DONATION FROM WELLS FARGO THROUGH THE LOS ANGELES PARKS FOUNDATION CONSISTING OF THE INSTALLATION OF TWELVE (12) 24-INCH BOX TREES AND A TWO (2) YEAR FOREST MAINTENANCE PLAN; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15301(h) [MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING LANDSCAPING, NATIVE GROWTH, AND WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS] AND SECTION 15304(b) [NEW GARDENING OR LANDSCAPING, INCLUDING THE REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING CONVENTIONAL LANDSCAPING WITH WATER EFFICIENT OR FIRE RESISTANT LANDSCAPING] OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(8) AND CLASS 4(3) OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES

*B. Aguirre	<u>BA</u>	M. Rudnick	_____
B. Jones	_____	C. Santo Domingo	_____
B. Jackson	_____	N. Williams	_____



 General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve a proposed park improvement project at Hansen Dam Recreation Area (Park), consisting of the installation of twelve (12) 24-inch box trees which include six (6) Mexican Sycamore trees, four (4) Island Oak trees, and two (2) Engelmann Oak trees, temporary fencing around each tree, and a two-year forest maintenance plan (Project), under the Los Angeles Parks Foundation's (LAPF) Los Angeles Park Forest initiative, as a donation to the City of Los Angeles (City) and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), as further described in this Report;
2. Authorize RAP's Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch (PMC), upon the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' (Board) approval of the Project, to issue a Right of Entry Permit (ROE) to LAPF and their selected contractors and/or vendors, allowing access to Hansen Dam Recreation Area for the installation and maintenance of the proposed Project improvements over a two-year term within certain areas of the Park as identified on Attachment 1 of this Report;
3. Accept the proposed Project improvements valued up to approximately Twenty-Five

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Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), as a donation to the City from Wells Fargo through the LAPF, for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public, subject to a post-installation inspection and approval by RAP's PMC staff of the completed Project improvements;

4. Determine that the Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15301(h) [Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs] and Section 15304(b) [New gardening or landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient or fire resistant landscaping] of California CEQA Guidelines and Article III, Section 1, Class 1(8) and Class 4(3) of City CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the California Office of Planning and Research;
5. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing an NOE; and,
6. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections to carry out the intent of this Report.

BACKGROUND

The LAPF has established a Park Forest Initiative that involves the solicitation of donations to support the planting of clusters of new trees within existing parks that act as micro-forests. The Board has previously approved several similar Park Forest projects initiated by the LAPF at other RAP parks throughout the City. These site-specific projects align with the goals of the City's Green New Deal by providing multiple environmental benefits, such as air quality improvements, increasing biodiversity and wildlife habitat areas, increasing tree canopy coverage and shade, mitigating urban heat island effects, and supporting groundwater recharge. The size of each forest and associated elements are tailored to the needs and conditions of the park in which they are planted. The specific species and size of the trees have been vetted by, and coordinated with, RAP's Planning, Construction & Maintenance Division and Forestry Division.

Through private funding received by the LAPF from Wells Fargo in the amount of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), the LAPF has offered to fund the proposed park forest Project improvements described herein at Hansen Dam Recreation Area located, at 11770 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace, CA 91342 (Park), at no cost to RAP. The proposed Project consists of park-forest improvements which include the planting of twelve (12) 24-inch box trees, consisting of six (6) Mexican Sycamore trees, four (4) Island Oak trees, and two (2) Engelmann Oak trees, with temporary fencing installed around each of the trees in grassy areas throughout the Park that do not interfere with irrigation or existing facilities as indicated on the aerial Site Map attached to this Report (Attachment 1). The specific tree species selected were chosen to foster biodiversity and resilience and to create a more vibrant and sustainable ecosystem that will benefit the community of Pacoima for generations.

This Project is an addition to a previous Park Forest installation at the Park which was also funded

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by Wells Fargo through the LAPF and which was approved by the RAP Board in October 2022, and installed at Hansen Dam in November 2022. These twelve (12) trees (4 Shumard oak, 5 coast live oak & 3 Torrey pine) are currently being maintained by the LAPF as part of their previously approved two (2) year maintenance plan, and are thriving additions to the green space at Hansen Dam. The new tree planting proposed under this Report is scheduled to occur in the month of April 2024, which has been pre-approved by RAP's Forestry Division. In addition to the tree installation, the funding provided to the LAPF will also fund a two-year maintenance plan implemented by the LAPF through its RAP-approved licensed landscape contractor(s) and vendor(s), which will include monthly as-needed maintenance including deep water irrigation, weeding and pest abatement, and tree replacement in the event of any tree loss.

LAPF will select, purchase and install the trees described above, through direct contracts with its vendors and contractors (collectively "Contractors"), at no cost to RAP. The LAPF coordinated the tree selection, planting location(s), and all other necessary approvals with PMC staff and the RAP Forestry Division. The proposed planting area is identified in Attachment 1. The LAPF will be responsible for implementing the Project through its Contractors, including the maintenance of the planted trees for two (2) years.

TREES AND SHADE

Twelve (12) 24-inch box trees, consisting of six (6) Mexican Sycamore trees, four (4) Island Oak trees, and two (2) Engelmann Oak trees will be installed under this proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of the maintenance of existing landscaping and new landscaping.

According to the parcel profile report retrieved March 28, 2024, this area does not reside in a liquefaction, methane or coastal zone, so there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern or have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of March 28, 2024, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) have not listed the Project site or any contaminated sites near the Project area (within 1000 feet). According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway Map there is no scenic highway located within the vicinity of the proposed Project or within its site. Furthermore, the proposed Project is not located in proximity of a known historical resources and will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historical resource.

Based on this information, staff recommends that the Board determines that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(8) and Class 4(3) of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(h) and 15304(b) of California CEQA Guidelines. RAP Staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk and California Office of Planning and Resources

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upon Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The installation of the improvements will not have any fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund, as associated costs will be funded entirely by the LAPF. The first two years of tree maintenance will be funded and performed through the forest maintenance plan implemented by the LAPF. Beyond that, future maintenance of the improvements will be addressed through the Hansen Dam Recreation Area's existing maintenance budget and the annual budget process.

This Report was prepared by Priya Macwan, Management Analyst, Partnership and Sustainability Sections and Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II, Partnership Section.

List of Attachments:

1. Park Forest Site Map




Hansen Dam Wells Fargo Park Forest Site Map

The following map shows the location of the Park Forest Project in Section 4 of Hansen Dam, near the Ranger Station.



Hansen Dam Wells Fargo Park Forest Project

Project Description: Supply/Installation of 12 24” box trees at Hansen Dam (Section 4) & 2-year establishment maintenance

-  = This section will hold 6 24” box new Mexican Sycamore trees
-  = This section will hold 2 24” box new Engelmann Oak trees
-  = This section will hold 4 24” box new Island Oak trees