RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the submission of a grant renewal application for $1,690,607.63 to the California Department of Education for the 2007 Summer Food Service Program, an entitlement grant with an estimated City match of $168,164.39 (the total estimated cost of the program is $1,858,772.02);

2. Direct staff to transmit the grant application to the Mayor, the City Council, and the City Attorney, for review as to form;

3. Request that the City Council authorize the Department to execute the grant award so long as the grant award contains all binding elements in the approved grant application; and,

4. Authorize the General Manager to represent the City and execute the corresponding grant agreement, and any subsequent amendments thereto, within the authorization contained in Administrative Code Section 14.8 et seq., as may be amended, on behalf of the City, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

SUMMARY:

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is an entitlement program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the California Department of Education
(CDE). The Department of Recreation and Parks submits an annual application to CDE for each program year to include both the traditional summer and school off-track periods.

Funds are used to provide a free nutritious lunch and snack at recreation centers citywide to children ages one through 18 who are on summer vacation from school. The purpose of this valuable program is to ensure that low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. The Summer Lunch Program operates during school vacations, primarily in the summer months and also during "off-track" from a non-traditional year-round school schedule. All sites are “drop-in” sites where meals are available to all children in the area. Children do not need to apply, meet eligibility requirements, sign up or sign in. The lunches and snacks are nutritious and well-balanced meals that must meet Federal meal pattern requirements.

The current reimbursement rate per lunch is $2.56 plus $0.2225 for administrative costs; and, per snack is $0.59 plus $0.0575 for administrative costs. The rate of reimbursement is determined by the USDA each January. Costs vary depending on the bid price for meals, number of lunches and snacks ordered and served, number of meals, any regulation violations, and the annual reimbursement rate. Rates are calculated based on the number of “first” meals (those served that do not include leftovers or second servings to the same children), with an allowable conversion of second meals of 2%.

The Department’s matching contribution will be provided through budgeted personnel resources who assist in the delivery of meals and administration of the program. The estimated cost of the program is $1,858,772.02, and the anticipated reimbursement amount from the CDE is $1,690,607.63, which is based on the projected number of meals served using the current year’s data. The balance of $168,164.39 must be subsidized by the Department and is based on 80% of the full-time salaries and 40% of part-time salaries. The exact figures above are unknown until the end of the grant year when the actual costs are available.

The 2005-06 Off Track Program served 204,290 children, and the 2006 Summer Program served 440,291 (includes lunches and snacks) children. The combined reimbursement for the 2006 summer and the 2005-06 off-track programs was $1,380,609 with a City match of $129,020.44.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The estimated cost to the department is $168,164.39 based on the projected number of meals served using the current year’s data and will utilize the Department’s General Fund.

This report was prepared by Debby Rolland, Superintendent, West Region.