SUBJECT: MACARTHUR PARK - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT FEDERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (EDI) GRANT FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RESTROOM

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board recommend that the Mayor and City Council:

1. Authorize the General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks, or his designee to accept earmarked Economic Development Initiative (EDI) funds for MacArthur Park restroom facility improvements in the amount of $196,000;

2. Authorize the General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks, or his designee to negotiate and execute any resulting agreements and to submit all documents necessary to request and receive the EDI funds, and any subsequent amendments thereto, pursuant to 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 Department is requesting approval for the submission of a grant application, and to accept a grant award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiative (EDI), in the amount of $196,000. The grant funding will be used for a restroom improvement project at MacArthur Park, located at 2230 West 6th Street, Los Angeles,
CA 90057. Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-31) initiated action earmarking EDI grant funds for MacArthur Park on December 17, 2007 as indicated in the Congressional Record.

Staff from California’s 31st District, Council District No. 1 and the Department have identified restroom improvements as the logical use for the earmarked funds. Currently, only seven restrooms and ten stalls are available at MacArthur Park and with approximately 900,000 patrons visiting MacArthur Park annually for a wide variety of activities, ranging from youth day camp, Summer Concerts in the Park, soccer on the adjacent synthetic field under construction, to leisurely strolls around the lake, the addition of restrooms adjacent to the Levitt Pavilion/MacArthur Park Bandshell will provide much needed relief and convenience for patrons visiting this historic and heavily used park. [Attachment A]

Staff has determined that the acceptance of the EDI Grant is strictly a government funding mechanism for future development of a proposed restroom facility project at MacArthur Park, which does not involve any commitment to a project that may result in potentially significant physical impacts to the environment. Therefore, this action is not considered a “project” subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) at this time. When all necessary funding, including the EDI Grant, has been identified and project plans are sufficiently developed to constitute a project, the appropriate CEQA documentation will be brought to the Board in support of that project approval.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

This grant does not require a match and provides needed funding for restroom facility improvements at MacArthur Park. Though total cost for the new restrooms has not been finalized, the Department and Council Office are committed to securing additional funds if the project cost exceeds the grant amount. There is no fiscal impact on the Department’s General Fund except for savings as the grant funded improvements will eliminate the need for portable toilets during the Summer Concert Series.

Report prepared by Jason Lew, Management Analyst, Grants Administration.