

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

**APPROVED**

NO. 12-102

DATE: April 4, 2012

**APR 04 2012**

C.D. Various

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: PROPOSITION 84 URBAN GREENING PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM –  
CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION; GRANT ACCEPTANCE

R. Adams _____	K. Regan _____
H. Fujita _____	M. Shull _____
*V. Israel <u>[Signature]</u>	N. Williams _____

[Signature]  
General Manager

Approved [Signature]

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Recommend that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution (Attachment No. 1), which authorizes the City of Los Angeles to apply for funds under the Proposition 84 Urban Greening Planning Grant Program for the Downtown Los Angeles Open Space Master Plan project and designates the General Manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks, or designee, as the agent to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including but not limited to grant applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the project;
2. Direct staff to transmit a copy of the Resolution to the Mayor, Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and to the City Clerk for committee and City Council approval, pursuant to the Administrative Code Section 14.6 *et seq.* as may be amended;
3. Authorize the Department's General Manager to accept a \$250,000 grant for the creation of a Downtown Los Angeles Open Space Master Plan from the State of California Natural Resources Agency, subject to Mayor and City Council approval; and
4. Authorize the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to establish the necessary account within "Recreation and Parks Grant" Fund 205 to accept the Proposition 84 Urban Greening Planning Grant Program in the amount of approximately \$250,000 for the Downtown Los Angeles Open Space Master Plan project.

## REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2                      NO. 12-102

### SUMMARY:

On November 7, 2006, California voters passed the “Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006” (Proposition 84), which authorizes \$5.4 billion in general obligation bonds for a number of State grant programs. One of the grant programs created is the Urban Greening Planning Grant Program. A total of \$17.5 million has been dedicated to this program to make grant awards for the purpose of creating urban greening plans that will serve as the master document guiding and coordinating greening projects in the applicant’s jurisdiction.

The Request for Proposals for Round One of the Statewide Park Program was released in April, 2011. The Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles (CRA/LA) submitted a grant application for the development of a Downtown Los Angeles Open Space Master Plan (Master Plan) and was awarded \$250,000 in grant funds to complete this worthy project. Unfortunately, due to the dissolution of the CRA/LA, the agency is not able to complete the project, thus the Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) was asked to take over the grant and complete this open space plan. The original project performance period was May 1, 2011 through May 1, 2014. However, due to the year delay in starting the project, the Department will be requesting that the State extend the performance period through 2015.

The project scope for the Master Plan project, as determined by the CRA/LA and agreed to by the State with the awarding of the grant, includes the creation of an urban greening master plan that identifies open space and park locations and develops open space sustainability requirements as follows:

- Develop internal Department planning and consulting teams and review project scope and responsibilities.
- Conduct walking tour of the Master Plan area, conduct needs and current conditions assessment and review all existing documents regarding parks and open space.
- Develop goals, objectives and action steps for the consulting team that draws from the needs assessment.
- Develop a public outreach strategy to solicit input from stakeholders, community members and the general public.
- Prepare materials and conduct public outreach and visioning meetings to brainstorm and discuss needs, vision, goals and policies with agencies and the public.
- Conduct monthly meetings with entities with service area jurisdiction, community stakeholders and general public.
- Develop a draft of the Master Plan and coordinate with jurisdictional entities to prepare an appropriate planting plan.
- Facilitate public hearings to present the draft Master Plan.
- Prepare appropriate materials and conduct final hearing to present the final Master Plan and plant palette.

## REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 3                      NO. 12-102

Further, while the Master Plan will include elements specific to the Department's jurisdiction, it will also include elements that fall under the jurisdiction of other City entities. It is intended to illustrate the City's development plan for urban greening in the downtown area and to be used as a guiding document for the involved City Departments.

As lead agency, the Department is in a unique position to facilitate and implement, in collaboration with other involved City entities, this Master Plan as it has already expended a substantial amount of resources on the 2009 Citywide Community Needs Assessment. The work plan for this Master Plan is similar in scope to that Citywide Community Needs Assessment from which the Department has gathered a great deal of data for the downtown area.

Prior to the City Council adoption of the Master Plan, as lead agency for the project, the Department must perform, complete, and certify the adequacy of the environmental review in accordance with the California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The appropriate CEQA documentation will be submitted for consideration and approval when the project is brought back before the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners for final approval.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There will be a short term impact to the Department's General Fund as the grant is reimbursable. The State will reimburse the Department for approved direct management costs, costs attributed to planning and conducting public outreach meetings, development, contracting and consulting costs. Once the Department has been reimbursed there will have been no lasting impact to the Department's General Fund.

This report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Division, and Isophine Atkinson, Senior Management Analyst, Grants Administration.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE URBAN  
GREENING PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM UNDER THE SAFE DRINKING WATER,  
WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL  
PROTECTION BOND ACT OF 2006 (PROPOSITION 84)

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Growth Council has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Strategic Growth Council require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicants governing board before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out development of the Urban Greening Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Downtown Los Angeles Open Space Master Plan, and
2. Certifies that Applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application, and
3. Certifies that applicant will have sufficient funds to develop the plan; or will secure the resources to do so, and
4. Certifies that applicant will work towards the Governor's State Planning Priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety as included in Government Code Section 65041.1, and
5. Appoints the General Manager, Executive Officer, or Assistant General Manager, City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the development of the aforementioned plan.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Angeles at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_.

June Lagmay, City Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_