

APPROVED  
JUL 16 2020

BOARD OF RECREATION  
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 20-142

DATE July 16,2020

C.D. 2

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: VALLEY PLAZA PARK – OUTDOOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS (PRJ21331) PROJECT – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 4(3) [NEW LANDSCAPE AND TREE PLANTING], CLASS 4(12) [MINOR TRENCHING AND BACKFILLING], AND CLASS 11(3) [INSTALLATION OF MINOR STRUCTURES] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15304(b), 15304(f) AND 15311 OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz \_\_\_\_\_ S. Piña-Cortez \_\_\_\_\_  
H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_ \*C. Santo Domingo DF  
V. Israel \_\_\_\_\_ N. Williams \_\_\_\_\_

M. Oliva  
General Manager

Approved X

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the scope of work for the Rhodes Avenue parcel of Valley Plaza Park –Outdoor Park Improvements (PRJ21331) Project (Project), as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Find that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(3) [New landscape and tree planting], Class 4(12) [Minor trenching and backfilling], and Class 11(3) [Installation of minor structures] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15304(b), 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines;
3. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks’ (RAP) Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing a Notice of Exemption (NOE); and,
4. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

## BOARD REPORT

PG. 2 NO. 20-142

### SUMMARY

On June 5, 2018, Proposition 68 (Prop 68) was passed by state of California (State) voters to fund a \$4.1 billion “California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor For All Act of 2018” (Prop 68). Prop 68 is intended to fund state and local parks, beaches, environmental protection and restoration, water infrastructure, and flood protection projects.

In early July 2019, the State notified RAP that through the State budget process, Proposition 68 Specified Grant funds had been earmarked for one City of Los Angeles (City) project through the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 California State budget process.

The Prop 68 funds for the project will liquidate on June 30, 2022 since they were approved through the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 State Budget. The State required RAP to complete the application process with a Resolution for the project before a grant agreement was issued. The State then issued a grant agreement upon approving the proposed grant scope and Resolution.

On December 18, 2019, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) authorized the application submission for Proposition 68 funds for this project and the acceptance of the grant funds upon award. (Report No. 19-243).

City Council authorized the submission of the Proposition 68 grant applications and RAP to accept the awarded grant funds on March 2, 2020 (Council File No. 19-1604).

RAP Staff has submitted the grant applications, and the County of Los Angeles has awarded the grants.

The Office of Council District 2 is in support of this proposed Project.

### PROJECT SCOPE

Currently, the proposed Project site is on a sliver of Valley Plaza Park that is separated from the main park property by Vanowen Street and Rhodes Avenue. While the land is technically within the Valley Plaza Park boundaries, both staff and the community informally refer to this separate parcel as Rhodes Park. Valley Plaza Park is located at 12240 West Archwood Street in the North Hollywood – Valley Village community of the City. This 77.64-acre park provides multipurpose fields, basketball and tennis courts, children's play areas, a recreation center, and a swimming pool for the use of the local community. Approximately 8,963 residents live within a one-half mile walking distance of Valley Plaza Park. Due to the facilities, features, programs, and services it provides, Valley Plaza Park meets the standard for a Community Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan.

The proposed Project includes the installation of new fitness equipment, a multipurpose walking path, water fountain, smart irrigation system and the planting of new trees.

## BOARD REPORT

PG. 3 NO. 20-142

### PROJECT FUNDING

The proposed Project was awarded a total of Four Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$485,000.00) in Proposition 68 funds.

### FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

<u>Source</u>	<u>Fund/Dept/Acct</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Proposition 68	205/89/89SRGR	\$485,000.00	100%
<b>Total</b>		\$485,000.00	100%

### PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

RAP staff has determined that sufficient funding has been identified and construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to begin in August 2020.

### TREES AND SHADE

Twenty-three (23) 36" Texas Red Oak (*Quercus Shermadii*) are to be planted as part of the Project.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of new landscaping and tree planting, installation of a new walking path, installation of a new irrigation system and installation of accessory structures (fitness equipment). As such, RAP staff recommends that the Board determines that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(3), Class 4(12) and Class 11(3) of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15304(b), 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines. RAP staff will file an NOE with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon the Board's approval.

### FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by Proposition 68 funds or funding sources other than the RAP's General Fund. The maintenance of the proposed park improvements can be performed by current staff with minimal impact to existing maintenance service at this facility.

### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

**Goal No. 1:** Provide Safe and Accessible Parks

**Outcome No. 2:** All parks are safe and welcoming

**Result:** The outdoor park improvements will increase accessibility and enhance the park user's experience.

BOARD REPORT

PG. 4 NO. 20-142

This Report was prepared by Ligaya Khennavong, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.