

APPROVED
JUNE 18 2020
BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 20-118

DATE June 18, 2020

C.D. 1

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK – PLAY AREA REPLACEMENT (PRJ21316) PROJECT – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(3), [MINOR ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING PEDESTRIAN TRAILS], CLASS 2 [REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING STRUCTURES WHERE THE NEW STRUCTURE WILL BE LOCATED ON THE SAME SITE AND HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME PURPOSE AND CAPACITY], CLASS 4(3) [NEW LANDSCAPE AND TREE PLANTING], CLASS 4(12) [MINOR TRENCHING AND BACKFILLING], AND CLASS 11(6) [PLACEMENT OF MINOR STRUCTURES ACCESSORY TO EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15301(c), 15302, 15304(b), 15304(f) AND 15311 OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz	_____	S. Piña-Cortez	_____
H. Fujita	_____	*C. Santo Domingo	<u>DP</u>
V. Israel	_____	N. Williams	_____



General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the scope of work for the Sycamore Grove Park – Play Area Replacement (PRJ21316) Project (Project), as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Determine that the proposed Project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3) [Minor alterations to existing pedestrian trails], Class 2 [Replacement of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site and have substantially the same purpose and capacity], Class 4(3) [New landscape and tree planting], Class 4(12) [Minor trenching and backfilling], and Class 11(6) [Placement of minor structures accessory to existing institutional facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Sections 15301(c), 15302, 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,

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4. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

In 2016, Los Angeles County (County) voters approved Measure A, which provides the City of Los Angeles formula-based annual allocations for capital improvement projects under Community-based Park Investment Program (Category 1) and Neighborhood Parks, Healthy Communities, & Urban Greening Program (Category 2); competitive grants for capital improvement projects and recreational access programs under Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection (Category 3); Regional Recreation Facilities, Multi-use Trails and Accessibility (Category 4); and additional competitive grants for Youth and Veteran Job Training and Placement (Category 5) as well as Implementation, Operations and Oversight Category. Additional annual allocations are available under the Maintenance and Servicing Program to offset Proposition A and Measure A funded capital projects. Funding through the Measure A grant program will be generated in perpetuity through the collection of a parcel tax, with an estimated total annual funding of \$96.8 million across the County. In October 2018, City Council designated the L.A. For Kids Steering Committee as the administering entity for Measure A with RAP serving as the Grant Administrator (Council File (C.F.) No. 18-0611).

On April 2, 2019, Los Angeles City Council approved RAP's Park Improvement Plan (PIP). The PIP is a three-year planning tool which enables RAP to effectively manage capital projects receiving Measure A annual allocation funding under Categories 1 and 2. The PIP identified specific parks within the City of Los Angeles' 43 study areas to receive Measure A funded capital improvement. To effectively develop and complete park projects identified by the PIP, RAP will develop capital projects through a phased approach.

On February 6, 2020, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) authorized the submission of 15 capital improvement project applications for Measure A funds and acceptance of the grant funds upon award. These 15 projects represent the first phase of capital projects developed in accordance with the 3-year PIP (Report No. 20-026).

City Council authorized the submission of the Measure A grant applications and RAP to accept the awarded grant funds on April 22, 2020 (C.F. No. 20-0278).

RAP Staff has submitted the grant applications, and the County has awarded the grants to the City.

PROJECT SCOPE

Sycamore Grove Park is located at 4702 North Figueroa Street in the Northeast Los Angeles community of the City. This 13.62-acre facility provides a play area and benches for the surrounding community. Approximately 6,454 City residents live within a one-half mile walking distance of Sycamore Grove Park.

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The proposed Sycamore Grove Park – Play Area Replacement (PRJ21316) Project includes the demolition and removal of the existing play area (playground located adjacent to Ramona Hall); installation of a new playground with safety surface; new landscape and tree planting with irrigation; new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramp with resurfaced pedestrian trails; and installation of a new drinking fountain.

In Report No. 20-026, RAP staff indicated that it would conduct community outreach and engagement in accordance with the County of Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) requirements. In May 2020, the RPOSD agreed to waive the community meeting requirement for the initial 15 proposed projects due to the COVID-19 limitations to gather in groups. Alternatively, RPOSD approved a RAP proposed alternative to community engagement plan that is consistent with current COVID-19 public health guidelines. RAP staff will notify the surrounding community of the proposed Project via the Information Sharing method of community engagement as defined by RPOSD, which includes website postings, social media postings, email blasts, and other outreach methods.

PROJECT FUNDING

The Sycamore Grove Park – Play Area Replacement (PRJ21316) Project was awarded a total of Four Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand, One Hundred Dollars (\$466,100.00) in Measure A funds.

FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

Source	Fund/Dept/Acct	Amount	Percentage
Measure A	TBD	\$466,100.00	100%
Total		\$466,100.00	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

This proposed Project will have no impact on the existing trees at Sycamore Grove Park. The new playground will include integrated shade toppers.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of minor alterations to existing pedestrian trails; of replacement of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site and have substantially the same purpose and capacity; of new landscape and tree planting with minor trenching and backfilling, and of the placement of minor structures accessory to existing institutional facilities. Therefore, RAP staff recommends that the Board determines it is exempt from the provisions of

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CEQA pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3), Class 2, Class 4(3), Class 4(12), and Class 11(6) of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(c), 15302, 15304(b), 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by Measure A 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 replacement of the play area and accessibility improvements will increase accessibility and enhance the park user's experience.

This Report was prepared by Ajmal Noorzayee, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.