

BOARD OF RECREATION  
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 20-177

DATE: September 17, 2020

C.D. 13

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: LEMON GROVE RECREATION CENTER – DONATION AND INSTALLATION OF TWELVE (12) 24-INCH BOX TREES AND A TWO-YEAR FOREST MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR A LOS ANGELES PARK FOREST TO BE PLANTED IN FALL OF 2020; APPROVAL OF DONOR RECOGNITION SIGNAGE; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 4(3) [NEW GARDENING, TREE PLANTING, OR LANDSCAPING] AND CLASS 11(1) [PLACING OF ON-PREMISE SIGNS] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15304(b) AND 15311(a) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

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

General Manager

Approved   X        Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_      Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve a proposed park improvement project at Lemon Grove Recreation Center consisting of the installation of twelve (12) 24-inch box trees and a two-year forest maintenance plan for a Los Angeles Park Forest to be planted during fall of 2020 (Project), as a donation to the City of Los Angeles and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), through the Los Angeles Parks Foundation (LAPF);
2. Authorize RAP’s Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch (PMC), upon the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners’ (Board) approval of the proposed improvements, to issue a Right of Entry Permit (ROE) to LAPF and their selected contractors and/or vendors, allowing access to Lemon Grove Recreation Center to construct, install, and maintain the Project improvements;
3. Accept the Project improvements valued up to approximately Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), as a donation to the City and RAP from Leeor Maciborski (Donor) through the LAPF, for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public, subject to a post-installation inspection and approval by RAP’s PMC staff of the completed Improvements;
4. Approve the installation of the proposed donor recognition signage which shall be mounted on a new park bench to be installed at a location within Lemon Grove Recreation

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Center, to be agreed upon by RAP and the Donor, in appreciation and recognition of the Donor's valued support of Lemon Grove Recreation Center and the surrounding community, as described in the Summary of this Report below;

5. Find that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(3) [New gardening, tree planting, or landscaping] and Class 11(1) [Placing of on-premise signs] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15304(b) and 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE); and
6. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) for the NOE.

### SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation (LAPF) recently established a Park Forest Initiative that involves the solicitation of donations to support the planting of clusters of new trees within existing parks that act as micro forests. These site-specific projects align with the goals of the City of Los Angeles' Green New Deal by providing multiple environmental benefits such as air quality improvements, increasing biodiversity and wildlife habitat areas, increasing tree canopy coverage and shade, mitigating urban heat island effect, and supporting groundwater recharge. The size of each forest and associated elements will be tailored to the needs and conditions of the park in which they are planted and the species and size of the trees have been vetted by, and coordinated with, RAP's Planning Division and Forestry Division.

Leeor Maciborski (Donor), through LAPF, has offered to fund the park forest improvements described herein at Lemon Grove Recreation Center, located at 4959 Lemon Grove Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90029). The proposed donation of park forest improvements includes the planting of twelve (12) 24-inch box trees and a two-year "forest" maintenance plan for the Los Angeles Park Forest to be planted in fall of 2020. In addition to the tree installation, the funding provided by the Donor to LAPF will also fund maintenance contract expenses to pay BrightView, a RAP approved, licensed landscape company, to implement the two-year maintenance plan. BrightView will provide tree maintenance at the forest once each month, performing as-needed maintenance including deep water irrigation, weeding, pest abatement, and tree replacement in the event of any tree loss. Additionally, a park bench will be installed containing recognition signage described herein. The bench will be installed near the project area to recognize and acknowledge the donation brought to RAP through the LAPF.

Six of the box trees are Jacaranda trees and six are Shumard oak trees. The value of the donation, including the trees, bench, plaque, and maintenance service under the two-year L.A. Park Forest maintenance plan is approximately Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00).

LAPF used the donation to select, purchase and install the trees described above, through direct contracts with vendors and contractors (collectively "Contractors") to design and create a park forest at Lemon Grove Recreation Center, at no cost to the City. LAPF coordinated with RAP to

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prepare a design plan which has been approved by RAP's PMC Branch and which is included herein as Attachment 1. As referenced above, LAPF coordinated the tree selection, planting location(s), and all other necessary approvals with PMC staff. LAPF also conducted outreach to the Office of Council District 13 and obtained support for the proposed Project. LAPF will have the lead in implementing the Project through said Contractors, including the maintenance of the planted trees for two years.

To thank and acknowledge the Donor, Mr. Leeor Maciborski, for his generous contribution, and subject to the Board's approval, a donor recognition plaque measuring 12" x 3", will be mounted on the park bench and installed as described above at a RAP-Donor mutually agreed upon location in the area of the Park Forest, which will read as follows:

"The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks along with the Los Angeles Parks Foundation thank and acknowledge Leeor Maciborski for planting this forest to mitigate climate change for the people of Los Angeles."

### TREES AND SHADE

Twelve (12) non-native 24"-box trees will be installed as part of the scope of the proposed project.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of planting of new trees and of the placement of on-premise signs. Therefore, RAP staff recommends the Board determines that this project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(3) and Class 11(1) or City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines, as well as to Article 19, Sections 15304(b) and 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines. RAP staff will file an NOE with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon the Board's approval.

### FISCAL IMPACT

The installation of the park improvements will not have any fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund, as associated costs will be funded entirely by LAPF through funds provided by the Donor. The first two years of tree maintenance will be funded and performed through the forest maintenance plan. Beyond that, future maintenance of the improvements will be addressed through Lemon Grove Recreation Center's existing maintenance budget and the annual budget process.

This report was prepared by John Busby, Senior Management Analyst I, and Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II of the Service Contract and Partnership Sections, respectively.

### LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Forest Design Plan – Lemon Grove Recreation Center

**Lemon Grove Recreation Center**  
4959 Lemon Grove Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90029

**L.A. Park Forest Site Plan**



Jacaranda mimesifolia-Jacaranda-24" box

Quercus shumardii-Shumardii Red Oak-24" box

**Lemongrove Rec Center-A Forest Plan**

