

APPROVED

July 07 2022

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 22-178

DATE: July 07, 2022

C.D. 8

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. RECREATION CENTER – DONATION FROM THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION THROUGH THE LOS ANGELES PARKS FOUNDATION CONSISTING OF THE INSTALLATION OF TWELVE (12) 24-INCH BOX TREES AND A TWO (2) YEAR FOREST MAINTENANCE PLAN; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(8) [MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING LANDSCAPING, NATIVE GROWTH, WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS; AND BRUSH CLEARANCE FOR WEED ABATEMENT AND FIRE PROTECTION]; CLASS 1(14) [ISSUANCE, RENEWAL OR AMENDMENT OF ANY LEASE, LICENSE OR PERMIT TO USE AN EXISTING STRUCTURE OR FACILITY INVOLVING NEGLIGIBLE OR NO EXPANSION OF USE] AND CLASS 4(3) [NEW GARDENING, TREE PLANTING, OR LANDSCAPING] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15301, 15304(b), and 15311(a) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz	_____	* M. Rudnick	<u>MR</u>
H. Fujita	_____	C. Santo Domingo	_____
J. Kim	_____	N. Williams	_____

D. Diaz
General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve a proposed park improvement project at Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center (Park), consisting of the installation of twelve (12) 24-inch box trees which include two (2) Pink Trumpet (*Tabebuia ipe*) trees, three (3) Desert Museum Palo Verde (*Cercidium Hybrid 'Desert Museum'*) trees, four (4) Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees, and three (3) Indian Rosewood (*Dalbergia sissoo*) trees, and a two-year maintenance plan (collectively, "Project"), through the Los Angeles Parks Foundation's (LAPF) Los Angeles Park Forest initiative, as a donation to the City of Los Angeles (City) and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), as further described in this Report;
2. Authorize RAP's Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch (PMC), upon the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' (Board) approval of the Project, to issue a Right of Entry Permit (ROE) to LAPF and their selected contractors and/or vendors, allowing access to Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center for the installation and maintenance of the proposed Project improvements over a two-year term within certain areas of the Park as identified on Attachment 1 of this Report;

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3. Accept the proposed Project improvements valued up to approximately Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), as a donation to the City from the Annenberg Foundation 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 Project improvements;
4. Determine that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(8) [Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, water supply reservoirs; and brush clearance for weed abatement and fire protection]; Class 1(14) [Issuance, renewal or amendment of any lease, license or permit to use an existing structure or facility involving negligible or no expansion of use] and Class 4(3) [New gardening, tree planting, or landscaping] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15301, 15304(b), and 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;
5. 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 purpose of filing an NOE; and
6. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

LAPF has 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. The Board has previously approved several similar Park Forest projects initiated by the LAPF at other RAP parks throughout the City. These site-specific projects align with the goals of the City's 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 effects, and supporting groundwater recharge. The size of each forest and associated elements are tailored to the needs and conditions of the park in which they are planted. The specific species and size of the trees have been vetted by, and coordinated with, RAP's Planning, Construction & Maintenance Division and Forestry Division.

Through funding received by the LAPF from the Annenberg Foundation in the amount of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), the LAPF has offered to fund the proposed park-forest Project improvements described herein at Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center, located at 3916 S Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90062 (Park), at no cost to RAP. The proposed Project valued at approximately \$25,000.00, consists of park-forest improvements which include the planting of twelve (12) 24-inch box trees, consisting of two (2) Pink Trumpet (*Tabebuia ipe*) trees, three (3) Desert Museum Palo Verde (*Cercidium Hybrid 'Desert Museum'*) trees, four (4) Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees, and three (3) Indian Rosewood (*Dalbergia sissoo*) trees in grassy areas throughout the Park that do not interfere with irrigation or existing facilities as indicated on the aerial Site Map attached to this Report (Attachment 1). The tree planting is

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scheduled to occur in the month of July 2022, which has been pre-approved by RAP's Forestry Division. In addition to the tree installation, the funding provided to the LAPF will also fund a two-year maintenance plan implemented by the LAPF through its licensed landscape contractor(s) and vendor(s) (collectively "Contractors"), which will include monthly, as-needed maintenance including deep water irrigation, weeding and pest abatement, and tree replacement in the event of any tree loss.

The funding provided for the proposed Project was donated to the LAPF by the Annenberg Foundation, a philanthropic foundation dedicated to addressing the critical issues of our time through innovation, community, compassion and communication since 1989. The value of the donation, including the trees and two-year maintenance service plan, is approximately Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00). LAPF will select, purchase and install the trees described above, through direct contracts with its Contractors, at no cost to RAP. LAPF coordinated the tree selection, planting location(s), and all other necessary approvals with PMC staff and the RAP Forestry Division. LAPF will be responsible for implementing the Project through its Contractors, including the maintenance of the planted trees for two (2) years.

TREES AND SHADE

Twelve (12) 24" box trees, consisting of two (2) Pink Trumpet (*Tabebuia ipe*) trees, three (3) Desert Museum Palo Verde (*Cercidium Hybrid 'Desert Museum'*) trees, four (4) Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees, and three (3) Indian Rosewood (*Dalbergia sissoo*) will be installed under the proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of maintenance of existing landscaping; issuance of a permit to use an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use; and new gardening, tree planting on City property.

According to the parcel profile report retrieved on June 22, 2022, this area resides in a liquefaction zone. The planting of trees included in this agreement will not create conditions that could lead to liquefaction. This site is not within a coastal, methane, or historic zone, so there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern or have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of June 22, 2022, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) have not listed the Project site or any contaminated sites near the Project area (within 500 feet). According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway Map there is no scenic highway located within the vicinity of the proposed Project or within its site. Furthermore, the proposed Project is not located in proximity of a known historical resources and will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historical resource.

Based in this information, staff recommends that the Board determines that the Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

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pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(8), Class 1(14), and Class 4(3) of City CEQA and Article 19, Section 15301, 15304(b), and 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines. RAP Staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

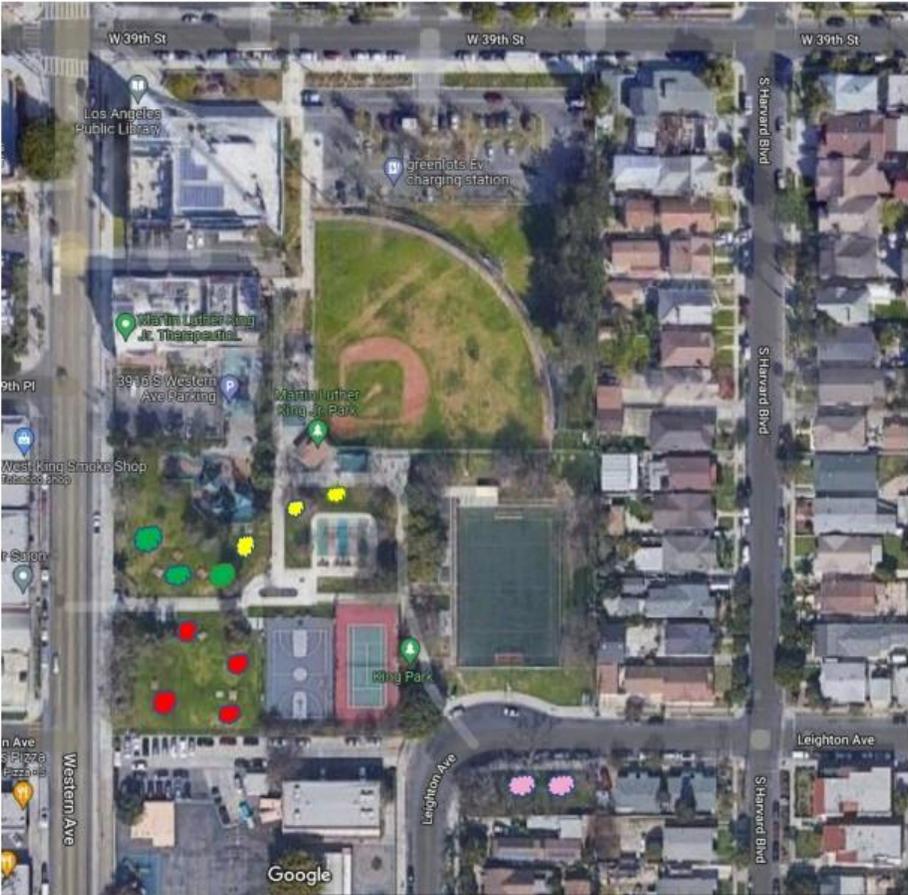
The installation of the Project improvements will not have any fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund, as associated costs will be funded entirely by the Annenberg Foundation through the LAPF. The first two years of tree maintenance will be funded and performed through the forest maintenance plan implemented by LAPF. Beyond that, future maintenance of the improvements will be addressed through the Park's existing maintenance budget and the annual budget process.

This report was prepared by Priya Macwan, Management Assistant, Sustainability Section, and Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II, Partnership Section.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Park Forest Site Map

Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center Park Forest Site Map



Tree Key

-  (2) Pink Trumpet
-  (3) Desert Museum Palo Verde
-  (4) Coast Live Oak
-  (3) Indian Rosewood

MLK Park: 3916 S Western Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90062

Plan: Supply & Install 12 24" Box Trees, 2-year Maintenance