

**APPROVED**  
OCT 20 2022

BOARD OF RECREATION  
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

**BOARD REPORT**

NO. 22-270

DATE: October 20, 2022

C.D. 3

**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

SUBJECT: L.A.P.D. S.W.A.T. OFFICER RANDAL D. SIMMONS PARK – DONATION FROM THE ROSALINDE AND ARTHUR GILBERT FOUNDATION THROUGH THE LOS ANGELES PARKS FOUNDATION CONSISTING OF THE INSTALLATION OF FIFTEEN (15) 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] AND CLASS 4(3) [NEW GARDENING, TREE PLANTING, OR LANDSCAPING, BUT NOT INCLUDING TREE REMOVAL EXCEPT DEAD, DAMAGED OR DISEASED TREES OR LIMBS] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15301(h) AND 15304(b) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz	<u>                </u>	* M. Rudnick	<u>MR</u>
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General Manager

Approved X Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Approve a proposed park improvement project at L.A.P.D. S.W.A.T. Officer Randal D. Simmons Park (Park), consisting of the installation of fifteen (15) 24-inch box trees which include eight (8) Shumard Oak and seven (7) Coast Live Oak trees, temporary fencing around each tree, and a two-year forest maintenance plan (Project), under 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 the Park for the installation and maintenance of the proposed Project improvements over a two-year term within the areas of the Park as identified on Attachment 1 of this Report;

BOARD REPORT

PG. 2 NO. 22-270

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 Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert 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 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] and Class 4(3) [New gardening, tree planting, or landscaping, but not including tree removal except dead, damaged or diseased trees or limbs] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(h) and 15304(b) of California CEQA Guidelines and direct 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 private funding received by the LAPF from The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert 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 L.A.P.D. S.W.A.T. Officer Randal D. Simmons Park, located at 6731 Wilbur Avenue, Reseda, CA 91335 (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 fifteen (15) 24-inch box trees consisting of eight (8) Shumard Oak and seven (7) Coast Live Oak trees with temporary fencing installed around each of the trees in grassy areas of 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 scheduled to occur in the month of November 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 RAP-approved licensed landscape contractor(s) and vendor(s), 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.

## BOARD REPORT

PG. 3 NO. 22-270

The funding provided for the proposed Project was donated to the LAPF by The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation. 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 vendors and contractors (collectively "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. The proposed planting area is identified in Attachment 1. 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

Fifteen (15) 24-inch box trees consisting of eight (8) Shumard Oak and seven (7) Coast Live Oak trees will be installed under the proposed Project.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of maintenance of existing landscaping and new tree planting.

According to the parcel profile report retrieved on September 30, 2022, this area resides in a liquefaction zone. The planting of new trees 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 September 30, 2022, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://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. Geotracker listed RB Case #: 913350816 and RB Case #: 913350816A near the Project area (within 500 feet). The first was closed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board in 1998 and the second in 2006 and they don't pose any threat to the public. 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, RAP staff recommends that the Board determines that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(8) and Class 4(3) of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(h) and 15304(b) 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 improvements will not have any fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund, as associated costs will be funded entirely by LAPF. The first two years of tree maintenance will be

## BOARD REPORT

PG. 4 NO. 22-270

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 and Partnership Sections, and Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II, Partnership Section.

### LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Park Forest Site Map

**Attachment 1**

**L.A.P.D. S.W.A.T. Officer Randal D. Simmons Park  
Park Forest Tree Planting Area**

