

BOARD REPORT

NO. 24-088

DATE May 02, 2024

C.D. 4, 6, and 9

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: RESCISSION OF PROPOSITION K GRANT AWARDS FOR CRYSTAL SPRINGS (GRIFFITH PARK) BALL FIELDS PROJECT, STRATHERN WETLANDS PARK SYNTHETIC SOCCER FIELD PROJECT, AND SLAUSON RECREATION CENTER LIGHTING PROJECT

B. Aguirre _____	C. Stoneham _____
B. Jones _____	C. Santo Domingo _____
M. Rudnick _____	*N. Williams <u>NDW</u>

General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) General Manager to request that the L.A. for Kids Steering Committee and the City Council rescind the Proposition K 5th Cycle grant award in the amount of \$73,000 for lighting improvement of baseball and basketball areas at the Slauson Recreation Center. (Council File No. 12-0479-S3).
2. Authorize the RAP General Manager to request that the L.A. for Kids Steering Committee and the City Council rescind the Proposition K 7th cycle competitive grant award for construction of new ball field in the amount of \$425,000 for the Crystal Springs (Griffith Park) (Proposition K Project ID C195-7) (Council File No. 14-0588-S1).
3. Authorize the RAP General Manager to request that the L.A. for Kids Steering Committee and the City Council rescind the Proposition K 8th Cycle competitive grant award for construction of a new synthetic soccer field in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Strathern Wetlands Park (Council File No. 14-1194).
4. Direct RAP's General Manager to transmit the request for rescission for the Slauson Recreation Center, Crystal Springs, and Strathern Wetlands projects to the L.A. for Kids Steering Committee for City Council consideration.
5. Authorize the Chief Accounting Employee to transfer expenditures of the Proposition K (Prop K) – Crystal Spring Ball Field Project up to \$425,000 from the following account:

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<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>	<u>FUND/DEPT./ACCT.NO.</u>
Prop K	43K/10/10G207
	43K/10/10H207
	43K/10/10J207
TO: RAP'S Special Fund	302/89/89270K-CS

SUMMARY

In 1996, Proposition K (Prop K) was passed and created a citywide assessment district that generates up to \$25,000,000 each year for a period of 30 years. Over the 30-year period, the Prop K Program is required to distribute at least \$143,650,000 of the total amount generated over the life of the Prop K program, through an open and competitive process to eligible governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and City departments. The funding generated from the Prop K assessments is to be used for capital improvement projects involving the acquisition, development, improvement, and restoration of parks and recreational facilities in the City of Los Angeles. The Prop K program also provides maintenance funds on an annual basis for completed Prop K funded projects. The LA for Kids Steering Committee (LAFKSC) which is chaired by the Mayor's Office, City Administrative Office and Chief Legislative Analyst provides administrative oversight over the Prop K program with staff support from the City Administrative Office and the Bureau of Engineering. Once RAP's request is approved by the RAP Board, RAP staff will then request authority from the LAFKSC followed by City Council and Mayor's Office.

RAP is requesting the authority to rescind three competitive Prop K grants:

- 1) Slauson Recreation Center (awarded 2013) – Lighting Improvement (\$73,000)
- 2) Griffith Park Crystal Springs (awarded 2016) – New Ball Field (\$425,000) and
- 3) Strathern Wetland Park (awarded 2015) – New Synthetic Soccer field (aka Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park) (\$1,000,000).

The cumulative total for three Prop K grants is \$1,498,000. Once rescission is approved, this funding will be reprogrammed to other Prop K park improvement projects which have budget shortfalls within the City of Los Angeles.

RAP requests that the Prop K grant be rescinded for the following purpose:

- Slauson Recreation Center: The Prop K grant's original scope of work – the installation of new LED lights for security measures – was completed in 2019 through funding from Proposition 1C House-Related Parks Program (HRPP) and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
- Crystal Springs: The project is no longer viable because of insufficient funding and there are no plans to move the project forward at this time.
- Strathern Wetland Park: Los Angeles County Public Work's phased project timeline will not be completed by the Prop K program by June 2028 deadline.

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SLAUSON RECREATION CENTER – LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT:

On September 14, 2005, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) authorized RAP's General Manager to submit grant applications for projects to be funded by the Proposition K – L.A. for Kids 5th Cycle Request for Proposals process, which included the grant application to install security lighting around the baseball field, improve security lighting for the parking lot, replace security lights for the play area and basketball court located at 5306 S. Compton Avenue, Los Angeles, 90011.

The Slauson Recreation Center Lighting Project was awarded \$73,000 in Prop K funds, to be used for the installation of security lighting for the baseball and basketball areas.

In 2016, RAP received Proposition 1C Housing-Related Parks Program (HRPP) funds and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for improvements to the athletic fields at Slauson Recreation Center (Council File No 14-0996 and No. 15-1041). A part of the scope of work for those athletic field improvements included the installation of new LED lighting and upgraded fixtures at the multipurpose fields and the basketball courts. The lighting improvements were completed in 2019. The total for this project is \$1,908,109.01.

RAP staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) authorize RAP's General Manager to request that the L.A. for Kids Steering Committee and City Council rescind the Prop K grant in the amount of \$73,000 awarded to RAP for the Slauson Recreation Center Lighting Project as the approved Prop K scope of work was completed with alternate funding sources.

THE CRYSTAL SPRINGS (GRIFFITH PARK) – NEW BALL FIELD:

On June 17, 2009, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) authorized RAP's General Manager to submit grant applications for projects to be funded by the Proposition K – L.A. for Kids 7th Cycle Request for Proposals process, which included the grant application to construct new ball fields located at 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, Los Angeles, 90027 (Crystal Springs).

The Crystal Springs (Griffith Park) – Ball Field Project was awarded \$500,000 in Prop K funds, to be used for the construction of the ball fields.

The original project scope included the construction of two (2) new youth baseball fields within the northern portion of the existing Crystal Springs Picnic Area in Griffith Park. The proposed project scope was analyzed in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that was certified by the Board in 2014 (SCH 2013011012 - Report No. 14-061). Notice of Determinations were filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on April 9, 2014 and on August 22, 2014. Opponents of the project later filed a CEQA lawsuit against the City challenging the EIR.

On February 2, 2016, the City Council approved a contingent settlement of that lawsuit, which was dependent on the future approval of certain project changes (Council File No .15-0896). On April 20, 2016 the Board approved a revised project scope for the project that changed the

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scope of the project to one (1) larger baseball field instead of two (2) youth baseball fields (Report No. 16-095).

In response of modified project scope, the City Council subsequently approved a reduction in the Prop K grant amount from \$500,000 to \$425,000 (Council File No. 14-0588-S1). The City Council also directed the City Administrative Officer (CAO), RAP, and the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), to work with Council District Four to identify and seek approval of the additional funds necessary to complete the project and authorized the BOE to proceed with the design of the modified project.

BOE prepared an updated concept plan for the project to incorporate and address the required settlement scope (e.g. field layout, tree replacements, relocation of picnic area and playground, etc.). Further work on the design of project was put on hold by RAP until adequate funding for construction could be identified and secured. However, no additional funding for the project has been identified and secured for the project since the modified scope work was approved in 2016.

RAP staff recommends that the Board authorize RAP's General Manager to request that the L.A. for Kids Steering Committee and City Council rescind the Prop K grant in the amount of \$425,000 awarded to RAP for the Crystal Springs (Griffith Park) – Ball Field Project as the project has insufficient funding and there are no plans to move it forward at this time.

STRATHERN WETLANDS PARK – NEW SYNTHETIC SOCCER FIELD:

On April 18, 2012, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) authorized RAP's General Manager to submit grant application for the Strathern Wetlands Project to be funded by the Proposition K – L.A. for Kids 8th Cycle Request for Proposals process. This project is to develop and construct a new synthetic soccer field, located at 8175 Fair Avenue, Los Angeles, 91352 (Report No. 12-119).

The Strathern Wetlands Project was awarded \$1,000,000 in Prop K funds, to be used for the construction of the new synthetic soccer field (Council File No. 14-1194, June 8, 2015).

The Strathern Wetlands Project is now known as the Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project.

The Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project is part a collaborative effort by the Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles to address major flooding in Sun Valley. This project proposes to convert a 46-acre inert debris landfill into a multi-purpose wetlands park. Once completed, the site would feature: a 21-acre detention pond with the capacity to hold the runoff collected from the upstream tributary area; a 10-acre wetland that serves as a natural water treatment system by removing pollutants from the stormwater; and a 15-acre recreational space.

The Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project is managed by Los Angeles County Public Works, with design and implementation occurring in phases. Implementation of the project's recreational amenities are schedule for the third phase, which is currently anticipated to start construction in 2027 and to be completed in 2029.

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RAP staff recommends that the Board authorize RAP's General Manager to request that the L.A. for Kids Steering Committee and City Council rescind the Prop K grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 awarded to RAP for the Strathern Wetlands Project as it is unlikely that the project will be completed by last Prop K cycle of September 2027 – June 2028.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Section 21065 of California Public Resource Code (CPRC) defines the characteristics of the projects subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). According to said Section, a project subject to CEQA is an activity undertaken or funded by a public agency that may cause direct physical change or foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, or an activity the involves the issuance of a lease, permit to use or other entitlement by public agencies.

The proposed rescission of Prop K funding from three projects is not expected to cause any direct or indirect physical change in the environment, nor any entitlement. Therefore, staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Park commissioners take no CEQA action.

FISCAL IMPACT

By rescinding the Prop K award for Crystal Springs Ball Field, RAP will need to return the full grant amount of \$425,000 to Prop K. Prop K was used for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (No. 14-061, March 5, 2014, and 16-095, April 20, 2016). Prop K expenditure, up to \$425,000, will be transfer to RAP's Special Fund, 302/89/89270K-CS. This amount will impact the RAP's Special Fund. This is no fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund.

There is no fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund for Prop K Slauson Recreation Center – Lighting Project and the Prop K Strathern Wetlands Park – Synthetic Field Project since no Prop K were spent for these two projects.

This Report was prepared by Kai Wong, Service Coordinator, Grants Administration, Finance Division, and reviewed by Darryl Ford, Superintendent of Planning, Maintenance and Construction, Steven Tran, Senior Management Analyst II, Grants Administration, Finance Division, and Sondra Fu, Chief Management Analyst, Finance Division.