

APPROVED

REVISED

Mar 20 2025

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 25-043

DATE March 20, 2025

C.D. 11

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: PALISADES RECREATION CENTER – PROJECT APPROVAL FOR A GIFT OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FROM THE LOS ANGELES PARKS FOUNDATION FUNDED THROUGH DONATIONS FROM FIREAID, GAMETIME, AND BANC OF CALIFORNIA; APPROVAL OF DONOR RECOGNITION SIGNAGE; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15302 [REPLACEMENT OR RECONSTRUCTION OF EXISTING STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES WHERE THE NEW STRUCTURE WILL BE LOCATED ON THE SAME SITE AS THE STRUCTURE REPLACED AND WILL HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME PURPOSE AND CAPACITY] AND SECTION 15311(a) [ON-PREMISE SIGNS] OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 2 AND CLASS (11)(1) OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES

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

General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve a proposed park improvement project at Palisades Recreation Center consisting of the installation of new outdoor playground equipment (Improvements), as described in the Summary of this Report, subject to coordination with, and approval by the Department of Recreation and Parks Planning, Maintenance, and Construction Branch (PMC);
2. Accept the completed Improvements as a donation from the Los Angeles Parks Foundation (LAPF), valued up to \$1,330,000.00, made possible through contributions from FireAid, GameTime, and Banc of California (collectively, "Donors"), subject to the installation of the Improvements pursuant to approved Project Plans;
3. Approve the installation of donor recognition signage (Recognition) in accordance with the RAP Sponsorship Recognition Policy, to be placed within the Improvements area in appreciation and recognition of the contributions made by the LAPF, FireAid, GameTime, and Banc of California for the purchase and installation of the Improvements in support of Palisades Recreation Center and the surrounding community, as described in the Summary of this Report;

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4. Authorize PMC, upon Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) approval of the proposed Improvements and Recognition (collectively, "Project"), to issue a temporary, revokable Right of Entry Permit (ROE) to the LAPF and/or their selected contractors and/or vendors, allowing access to Palisades Recreation Center to construct, install, and complete the Improvements, subject to coordination with, and approval by PMC;
5. Determine that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15302 [Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity] and Section 15311(a) [On-premise signs] of California CEQA Guidelines and Article III, Section 1, Class 2 and Class (11)(1) of City CEQA Guidelines, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation;
6. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the NOE; and,
7. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections in order to carry out the intent of the Board in approving this Report.

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation has received monetary and in-kind contributions with a combined value of \$1,330,000.00, to fund the installation of playground improvements (Improvements) at Palisades Recreation Center, located at 851 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades, California 90272, which was adversely impacted during the Palisades Fire in January 2025. LAPF received the following contributions for the Improvements (collectively, "Donations"):

- FireAid, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, whose mission is to provide monetary support to the communities affected by the Eaton and Palisades fires, made a monetary donation of \$1,000,000.00;
- GameTime, a play and recreation equipment company and approved RAP vendor whose products can be found in many RAP facilities, made an in-kind contribution valued up to \$300,000.00, consisting of playground equipment; and
- Banc of California made a monetary contribution of \$30,000.00.

The FireAid donation is part of the FireAid Symbols of Hope Initiative, which was created to provide visible restoration in the communities impacted by the Eaton and Palisades fires. Funds for this grant were raised through general donations in support of those impacted by the recent Los Angeles area fires, which were received by FireAid from various donors throughout the City of Los Angeles, the United States, and World, which were combined with ticket sales from the FireAid Benefit Concert held on January 30, 2025. The Concert featured over thirty performers and took place at both the KIA Forum and INTUIT Dome in Los Angeles. It should be noted that the Annenberg Foundation, a longstanding supporter of the Department of Recreation and Parks

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through the LAPF, played an integral role in the organization of the concert and management of the funds generated.

As illustrated by Attachment 1 of this Report (Project Renderings), the Improvements will feature both a pre-school playground and a universally accessible playground installed adjacent to one another in the same area where the existing Palisades Recreation Center playground has been located for the past thirty-five years. The goal is for the Improvements to be completed by July 1, 2025, in anticipation of a Fourth of July public opening. Although the funding for the proposed Improvements has been secured, the final scope of work and cost estimates are not yet complete. It is requested that the Board approve the proposed Improvements for installation, subject to appropriate permits being in place where applicable.

As the fiscal recipient of the Donations, LAPF will contract directly with the general contractors, sub-contractors, and/or vendors (collectively, "Contractors") for the purchase, construction, and installation of the Improvements. The Improvements will be installed in accordance with the terms and conditions of an ROE to be issued by PMC subsequent to the approval of this Report. LAPF will manage the Project, making payments directly to the Contractors.

To thank and acknowledge the Donors for their generous contribution to the Improvements, staff recommends approval of proposed Recognition in the form of a sponsor 60" x 24" recognition sign to be installed at a location approved by RAP, which shall read as follows:

"The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks thanks the
Los Angeles Parks Foundation for this Playground made possible by the
FireAid Benefit Concert 1/30/2025, GameTime, and the Banc of California,
and other generous donors!"

TREES AND SHADE

The installation of proposed Improvements will not require the removal of any trees.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of the replacement of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and have substantially the same purpose and capacity and installation of signs.

According to the parcel profile report retrieved on March 10, 2025, this area resides in a very high fire severity zone and construction will follow the required fire prevention protocols. This site is not within a liquefaction, coastal, methane, or historic zone. RAP tested the sand in the existing playground and found that the samples did not exceed the residential screening levels set by the EPA and DTSC for metals and did not detect any Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) in the sand as combustion byproducts from the recent fire. Based on these considerations, 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

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known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of March 10, 2025, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) have not listed the Project site. They listed case T0603701313 near the Project area (within 1,000 feet), which involved a gas station where a leak occurred in 1986, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board closed the case in 2008. 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 determine that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15302 and 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article III, Section 1, Class 2 and Class 11(1) of City CEQA Guidelines. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation upon Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

There will be no fiscal impact to the RAP General Fund as the costs associated with the construction and installation of the Improvements will be funded entirely by LAPF through funds provided by the Donors.

This Report was prepared by Melissa Bettis, Management Analyst, and Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II, Partnership Section.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Attachment 1 – Playground Rendering

Palisades Recreation Center Playground Design

Note: The design concept is illustrative only, and may be subject to minor modification based on, among other things, site characteristics and safety considerations."

