

APPROVED
AUG 12 2015

BOARD OF RECREATION
& PARK COMMISSIONERS

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 15-187

DATE August 12, 2015

C.D. 1

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: MACARTHUR PARK - 7TH AND ALVARADO ENTRY (PRJ20879)
(W.O. # E1907857) PROJECT – FINAL PLANS; EXEMPTION FROM THE
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

for *R. Barajas CSP K. Regan _____
H. Fujita _____ N. Williams _____
V. Israel _____

Victor Israel for

General Manager

Approved

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve the final plans and specifications for the MacArthur Park – 7th and Alvarado Entry (PRJ20879) (W.O. # E1907857) project; and,
2. Find that the actions taken herein are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

SUMMARY:

MacArthur Park is located at 2230 West 6th Street in the Westlake area of the City. This 29.87 acre property includes a children's play area, synthetic meadow, band shell, lake, walking paths, and picnic areas. Approximately 41,695 City residents live within a one-half (1/2) mile walking distance of MacArthur Park. Due to the facilities, features, programs, and services it provides, MacArthur Park meets the standard for a Community Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2

NO. 15-187

Working with Council District 1, Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) requested the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to develop and prepare a master plan for the park and the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) to evaluate the water quality and provide recommendations for improvements at the park lake.

The proposed design for the MacArthur Park entry focuses on enhancement of the park corner at 7th Street and Alvarado Street. The design proposes a new plaza at this prominent and busy intersection, echoing the design language of the Wilshire Boulevard entries. An arched seat wall defines the new Plaza area and is anchored by two large pillars. These fifteen (15) foot high pillars are internally lit, and identify the Park and the area, with signage of "MacArthur Park" on one pillar and "Westlake" on the other. These pillars frame an entry path into the park from the corner plaza. This entry path is emphasized with new landscaping, paving, park seating, and lighting. The path terminates at the lake edge with new steps and terraced seating that overlook the lake and park.

Conceptually, design has taken into account the layers of historical context as well as the community desire for cultural expression of today's local demographic. This design solution creates a new element that enhances the function of the 7th Street and Alvarado Street entry, while being sensitive to the existing historical context of the park site.

The final design has incorporated comments from community meetings and is supported by Council District 1. The Cultural Affairs Department and Cultural Heritage Commission reviewed the plans and have provided final approval.

With the award of \$2,000,000 Proposition 1C Housing-Related Parks (HRP) Program Funds for this park and given the limited time in which to deliver the grant project, the improvements to the entry at 7th Street and Alvarado Street were accelerated ahead of the master plan in order to meet the grant deadline of June 30, 2016.

The proposed project has been designed by BOE, Architectural Division, and the project is proposed to be constructed using the RAP's on-call Park Facilities construction contracts.

The HRP Program, funded through the passage of Proposition 1C, is designed to reward local governments for developing new residential housing affordable to low-income households. An application for funds was approved by Report No. 13-313 and Council File (CF) No. 14-0996. RAP was awarded \$8,221,950.00, available for the 2013 Program Year. The HRP Program funds may be used for the creation or rehabilitation of park and recreational facilities including, but not limited to, the acquisition of land, sport play fields, play areas, non-motorized recreation trails, play structures, outdoor recreation, and landscaping.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 3

NO. 15-187

RAP staff has determined that approximately \$1,500,000 of the \$2,000,000 from the Proposition 1C HRP funds awarded to MacArthur Park will be used for to the MacArthur Park – 7th and Alvarado Entry (PRJ20879) project.

Staff has determined that the proposed MacArthur Park – 7th and Alvarado Entry project (PRJ20879) project will consist of exterior alterations of an existing park facility involving remodeling or minor construction of accessory park related features where there be negligible or no expansion of use, and in accordance with Secretary of Interior Standards for the treatment of historic MacArthur Park. Therefore, the project is categorically exempt without exception from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1(a), Class 1(1) and Section 1(k), Class 11(6) of the City CEQA Guidelines, and Section 15331 of the State CEQA Guidelines. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk within five (5) days of project approval.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The use of the Proposition 1C HRP Program funds will have no fiscal impact on RAP as the implementation of the proposed park capital improvements will not increase the level of daily maintenance required at this facility. The maintenance of the proposed park improvements can be performed by current staff with no overall impact to existing maintenance services.

The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by Proposition 1C HRP Program funds or funding sources other than the Department's General Fund.

This Report was prepared by Cathie M. Santo Domingo, P.E., Superintendent, Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Branch.