

APPROVED
AUG 07 2019

**BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

BOARD REPORT

NO. 19-160

DATE August 7, 2019

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH PARK – AERIAL TRANSIT SYSTEM FEASIBILITY STUDY – SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING – EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 2(d) [FEASIBILITY AND PLANNING STUDIES FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION] OF THE CITY CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz	_____	S. Piña-Cortez	_____
H. Fujita	_____	C. Santo Domingo	<u>CS</u>
V. Israel	_____	N. Williams	_____



General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) Chief Accounting Employee to transfer \$150,000 from Fund 205, Department 88, Account 88180D to Account 88RMDZ;
2. Approve the allocation of \$150,000 to Fund 205, Department 88, Account 88RMDZ for the performance of an aerial transit feasibility study in Griffith Park;
3. Find that the proposed Griffith Park Aerial Tram Feasibility Study (Project) is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article II, Section 2(d) of the City CEQA guidelines, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE);
4. Authorize the RAP Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing an NOE; and;
5. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

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SUMMARY

On March 6, 2019, the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners (Board) approved the allocation of \$600,000 for the Griffith Park Aerial Tram Feasibility Study (Feasibility Study) (Report No. 19-044).

As discussed in Report No. 19-044, the purpose and goal of the Feasibility Study is to provide an objective assessment of the feasibility of an aerial transit system in Griffith Park. The Feasibility Study will serve as a tool to allow informed decision making on whether to move an Aerial Transit System forward for Griffith Park. The Feasibility Study is being performed by Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec).

The scope of work for the Feasibility Study includes six primary tasks and topic areas, and will address issues such as technical feasibility analysis related to mobility pros and cons, technology systems, alignment alternatives, safety, and natural resources considerations. Additionally, community outreach and engagement is to be performed throughout the Feasibility process, with a point of emphasis on gathering community and local stakeholder input.

RAP staff, working with Stantec, has identified several additional tasks and activities that would be beneficial to add to the current scope of work of the Feasibility Study. These additional tasks and activities would enable RAP and Stantec to engage in a more robust community outreach and engagement process, would provide enhanced data to better refine the financial feasibility analysis, and would provide data relative to park users' visitation and travel patterns to, from, and within Griffith Park.

Therefore, RAP Staff is recommending that an additional \$150,000 in funding be allocated to the Feasibility Study.

PROJECT FUNDING

The Board previously approved the allocation of \$600,000 in RAP Funds for the Feasibility Study (Report No. 19-044). Upon approval of this Report, an additional \$150,000 would be allocated for the Feasibility Study and the total amount of funding that would be available for the Feasibility Study, including previously allocated funds, would be \$750,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of the preparation of feasibility and technical studies for possible future action. Therefore RAP Staff recommends that the Board determines that the proposed Project is exempt from the provision of CEQA pursuant Article II, Section 2(d) of the City's CEQA Guidelines. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon approval by the Board.

FISCAL IMPACT

The requested transfer between accounts will have no impact on RAP's General Fund.

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STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

Goal No. 1: Provide safe and accessible parks.

Outcome No. 4: The health of young Angelenos, particularly children of low income families, is improved through greater access to regional parks.

Result: The completion of the Griffith Park Aerial Tram Feasibility Study would support RAP's efforts to increase access and mobility to, from, and within Griffith Park.

This Report was prepared by Darryl Ford, Senior Management Analyst II, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch.