

APPROVED

MAR 06 2019

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 19-044

DATE March 6, 2019

C.D. 4, 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: TRANSFER AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF A GRIFFITH PARK AERIAL TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDY AND FOR THE CABRILLO BEACH AQUARIUM PROJECT

AP Diaz	_____	V. Israel	_____
R. Barajas	_____	S. Piña-Cortez	_____
H. Fujita	_____	*N. Williams	<u>Now</u>



General Manager

Approved X

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) Chief Accounting Employee to transfer \$600,000 from Fund 205, Department 88, Account 88LMC3 to Account 205/88/Account To Be Determined (TBD);
2. Approve the allocation of \$600,000 from Account 205/88/Account TBD for the performance of an aerial transit feasibility study in Griffith Park;
3. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to transfer \$270,000 from Fund 205, Department 88/Account 88LMC3 to Account 205/88//Account TBD;
4. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to transfer \$250,000 from Fund 302, Department 89, Account 89817M-HA to Account 205/88/Account TBD;
5. Approve the allocation of \$520,000 from Account 205/88/Account TBD to the Cabrillo Beach Aquarium Project and;
6. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Board Report.

SUMMARY

RAP staff is recommending the transfer of funds from Fund 205, Department 88, Account 88LMC3 and Fund 302, Department 89, Account 89817M-HA to two new accounts (account numbers TBD) for the purpose of funding two projects. The funds from Fund 205, Department 88 are residual grant monies (total \$870,000) from completed projects that have been identified as available for other uses. The funds from Fund 302, Department 89 are from the Cabrillo

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Beach Parking Fund.

GRIFFITH PARK AERIAL TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDY

Staff is recommending that \$600,000 from a newly established account be allocated for the performance of an aerial tram feasibility study at or near Griffith Park consistent with City Council adopted actions recommended in the recently conducted Dixon Study. In January 2018, Dixon Unlimited Inc. (Dixon) presented a report to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) entitled “Comprehensive Strategies Report – Improving Access, Safety, and Mobility around Griffith Park & the Hollywood Sign” (Dixon Report). The Dixon Report, commissioned by Council District 4, builds on the “Griffith Park Transportation and Access Plan” previously prepared by Dixon on behalf of RAP, which resulted in the implementation of paid parking near the Griffith Observatory, re-routing of the traffic flow, and creating a seven-day-a-week DASH shuttle service with connectivity to the Metro Red Line.

Following the release of the Dixon Report, City Council instructed RAP, with the assistance of LADOT, Bureau of Engineering (BOE), Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and others to report back on the feasibility of the 29 strategies contained in the Dixon Report.

In June and September 2018, RAP and the CLA submitted reports to the Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River (AEPR) Committee which provided preliminary assessments of each of these strategies.

On October 10th 2018, City Council adopted recommendations by the AEPR Committee relative to the Dixon Report (Council File 18-0057) , which included the following instruction:

“INSTRUCT RAP, with the assistance of BOE and LADOT, to commence a feasibility study of an aerial tram system in Griffith Park that provides viewing locations for the Hollywood Sign. The feasibility study should include meetings with neighborhood groups to allow input. The feasibility study should include a review of any third party proposals submitted for consideration.”

As instructed by City Council, on November 1, 2018 RAP solicited bid proposals for a Griffith Park Aerial Transit System Feasibility Study (GP ATS Feasibility Study) from its pre-qualified Environmental Impact Analysis and Special Studies consultant list. The Invitation to Bid and associated Scope of Work requested that proposals address issues such as technical feasibility analysis related to mobility pros and cons, technology systems, alignment alternatives, safety and natural resource considerations, as well as community engagement to be performed throughout the feasibility study process.

On November 8th, 2018 RAP held a preliminary bid meeting for the proposed Study, which was attended by eight of RAP’s ten pre-qualified and Board approved consulting firms. Four responsive proposals were then received by RAP in mid-December with bid amounts ranging from \$200,000 to \$800,000. RAP convened interviews with the top three responding consultant teams. A five member evaluation panel composed of RAP and BOE staff reviewed the written proposals and conducted consultant interviews. The panel unanimously selected Stantec

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Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec) to perform the feasibility study. The Study will be performed over a period of 180 days in close coordination with RAP for approximately \$540,000 dollars. As instructed by City Council, the Study will provide an objective assessment of the feasibility of an aerial transit system in Griffith Park, with an emphasis on gathering community and local stakeholder input throughout the process.

Next, staff recommends that \$520,000 from a newly established account be allocated for the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Project.

CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM PROJECT

The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA) is located in the San Pedro community of the City of Los Angeles. Within the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, the Susanne Lawrenz-Miller Exhibit Hall (Exhibit Hall) houses 3 comprehensive exhibits which interpret the Southern California marine environment that exists in the coastal park right outside the Aquarium's doors — 1) the Rocky Shore, 2) the Sandy Beaches and Mudflats, and 3) the Offshore Open Ocean.

The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium has 1970's technology in the 21st Century. Since the time when the Main Exhibit Hall was built, there have been tremendous advances in Aquarium design and development. Over the years, the age of the structure along with salt water and ocean air have taken a toll on the facility's life support system — plumbing and electrical equipment that keep the tanks flowing and provide a healthy environment for the live animals at the Exhibit Hall. The life support systems need to be upgraded and modernized for the marine life in the tanks. Outdated exhibit panels, aging infrastructure, worn surfaces and inefficient lighting also need replacement. RAP and Friends of the Aquarium (a non-profit organization) are partnering to raise funds for a new Rocky Shores Exhibit and new life support system which would renovate approximately 25% of the existing Exhibit Hall. Friends of the Aquarium have already allocated \$200,000 toward this endeavor while staff has applied for an invitation to submit a \$2.8 Million Proposition 68 grant.

In addition, the aquarium and larger Cabrillo Beach lacks food and beverage options for the thousands of weekly visitors. The ideal placement for this type of concession is currently occupied by our educators and programming staff. The space currently is inadequate to support the number of existing staff and is in need of building code and ADA-compliant renovations itself. Staff believes this space would serve a better purpose as a food and beverage concession. Staff would be relocated to semi-permanent trailers which would provide the staff with better working conditions.

Therefore, staff recommends that the funds identified in Recommendation 5 support the construction of new semi-permanent trailers that would be used by City staff and Friends of the Aquarium as well as support the predesign work needed for the new life support systems.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

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This Report was prepared by Noel D. Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Division.