

APPROVED

JAN 20 2022

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 22-014

DATE January 20, 2022

C.D. 1

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: LINCOLN HEIGHTS RECREATION CENTER – PARK IMPROVEMENTS (PRJ21376) PROJECT – MODIFICATION OF PROJECT SCOPE - CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(1) [MINOR ALTERATIONS OF EXISTING STRUCTURES], CLASS 1(3) [MINOR ALTERATIONS OF EXISTING PATHWAYS AND PARKING LOTS] CLASS 1(12) [OUTDOOR LIGHTING AND FENCING FOR SECURITY AND OPERATIONS], CLASS 3(4) [INSTALLATION OF NEW EQUIPMENT FOR SAFETY AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCE], CLASS 3(6) [NEW CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESSORY STRUCTURES], CLASS 4(3) [NEW TREE PLANTING OR LANDSCAPING], CLASS 4(12) [MINOR TRENCHING AND BACKFILLING], AND CLASS 11(3) [PLACEMENT OF SMALL ACCESSORY STRUCTURES] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES, AS WELL AS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15301, 15303, 15304(b), 15304(f) AND 15311 OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz \_\_\_\_\_ M. Rudnick \_\_\_\_\_
H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_ C. Santo Domingo DF
J. Kim \_\_\_\_\_ N. Williams \_\_\_\_\_

M. Slue
General Manager

Approved X Disapproved Withdrawn

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Approve the modification of the scope of work of the Lincoln Heights Recreation Center – Park Improvements (PRJ21376) Project (Project), as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Determine that the Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1) [Minor alterations of existing structures], Class 1(3) [Minor alterations of existing pathways and parking lots], Class 1(12) [Outdoor lighting and fencing for security and operations], Class 3(4) [Installation of new equipment for safety and public convenience], Class 3(6) [New construction of accessory structures], Class 4(3) [New tree planting or landscaping], Class 4(12) [Minor trenching and backfilling], and Class 11(3) [Placement of small accessory structures] of City CEQA Guidelines, as well as pursuant to Article 19, Sections 15301, 15303, 15304(b), 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;

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3. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check for \$75.00 to the Los Angeles County Clerk for the filing the NOE; and
4. Authorize RAP Staff to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

### SUMMARY

Lincoln Heights Recreation Center is located at 2303 Workman Street in the Lincoln Heights community of the City. This 2.87-acre property includes a play area, recreation center, senior citizen center, playground and parking lot. Approximately 41,695 residents live within a one-half mile walking distance of Lincoln Heights Recreation Center.

### PROJECT SCOPE

On March 18, 2021 the Board approved the final plans and specifications for the Lincoln Heights Recreation Center - Park Improvements (PRJ21376) Project (Project) and authorized the Project to be bid and constructed through the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) list of pre-qualified on-call contractors (Report 21-052).

The approved scope of the proposed Project included the following:

- Construction of a new synthetic soccer field with lighting and bleachers.
- Construction of a new walking path, outdoor fitness equipment, and picnic area.
- Installation of new lighting, security cameras and landscaping throughout the park.
- Renovation of the park playground, including a new swing with an integral shade topper.
- Renovation of the outdoor basketball court, including new lighting, parking lot and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant path of travel.
- Renovation of existing fencing.
- Renovation of the recreation center restroom and kitchen.

RAP Staff has determined that it is necessary to modify the existing scope of work of the Project to include the following

- Removal of one Ficus Tree
- Installation of additional trees

Prior to the initiation of construction of the project, staff identified an existing Ficus tree that would potentially be impacted by the construction of the new synthetic soccer field. After evaluating the site and the condition of the tree, staff from the RAP Forestry Division have recommended the removal of the Ficus tree. Currently, the roots of the Ficus tree extend halfway into the area proposed for the new synthetic soccer field. Construction of the new field would impact the existing tree root system and ultimately the long term viability of the tree. Furthermore, if the tree remains its roots may damage the new synthetic soccer field in the future.

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The existing Ficus tree is approximately 41" in diameter. RAP's tree mitigation standard requires that all 41" be replaced.

As there is limited space available at Lincoln Heights Recreation Center, RAP Forestry Division staff recommend that four (4) 36" box trees be planted at Lincoln Heights Recreation Center and that nine (9) 36" box trees be planted at nearby Lincoln Park.

The additional scope of work items listed above will not require any additional funding in order to complete the Project.

### TREES AND SHADE

Per Report No 21-052, the proposed Project included the installation of four (4) new shade structures. One shade structure will be installed at the picnic area, another will be installed at the fitness equipment zone, and the last two will be installed at the new synthetic soccer field bleachers. The proposed Project includes the planting of three (3) new trees at the park: two (2) Crape Myrtle and one (1) American Sweet Gum.

Upon approval of the of this report, the scope of the Project would be modified to include the remove of one (1) Ficus Tree and the planting of thirteen (13) new trees: four (4) Brisbane box trees at Lincoln Heights Recreation Center and nine (9) trees, of species to be determined, at various locations at Lincoln Park.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

On October 2, 2019, with Board Report 19-200, the Board determined that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff filed a NOE with the Los Angeles County Clerk on October 18, 2019.

Staff examined the potential environmental impact of the proposed tree removal and found that it will not have a new significant environmental effect for the following reasons:

- The existing Ficus tree is not a tree protected by a City Ordinance, nor a heritage tree or a Special Habitat Value Tree;
- The proposed project includes the replacement of the existing tree with a number of trees whose diameter equals the diameter of the tree that will be removed, therefore, in time, the new trees will replace the functions of the existing tree.

However, staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) reconsider the entire project and determine that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1), Class 1(3), Class 1(12), Class 3(4), Class 3(6), Class 4(3), Class 4(12), and Class 11(3) of the City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines, as well as pursuant to Article 19, Sections 15301, 15303, 15304(b), 15304(f), and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines. Staff will file a NOE upon Board's approval

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### FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements will be funded by Proposition 68 funds. This is a funding source other than RAP's General Fund. The maintenance of the proposed park improvements can be performed by current staff with minimal impact to existing maintenance service at this facility.

### 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. 2:** All parks are safe and welcoming

**Result:** The various park improvements will increase safety and enhance the park users' experience.

This Report was prepared by Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.