



Office of the City Manager

09

CONSENT CALENDER

December 1, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront
 Subject: Grant Application: the California Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program for new park development at selected Santa Fe Right-of-Way parcels

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to: submit a grant application in the amount of up to \$8,000,000 to the California Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program for new park development at selected Santa Fe Right-of-Way parcels; accept any grants; execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The California State Parks Prop 68 Statewide Parks Program does not require local matching funds. If awarded, the City will assign City staff to manage the project as an in-kind match to the grant, at a value of approximately 10% of the grant, or up to \$800,000, over the duration of the project.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In July of 2020, the California Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program announced a call for proposals, due in December of 2020. This grant program provides funding for projects that involve the creation of new parkland or the improvement of existing parks. The program is extremely competitive in that all proposals are ranked in terms of the median household income (MHI) and the shortage of parkland acreage, with the lowest measures receiving the highest scores. In addition, the grant requires an extensive community process to demonstrate how the project would help address local community challenges. The City's Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department evaluated a number of potential parks projects and determined that the creation of new parkland at selected Santa Fe Right-of-Way parcels would be the most competitive project in Berkeley.

BACKGROUND

In 1980, the City acquired 3.5 miles of linear right-of-way parcels from the Santa Fe Railroad. In the early 1980's, after extensive planning efforts on how to use these parcels, the City constructed two senior housing developments via the Berkeley Housing Authority, two city parks (Cedar Rose and Strawberry Creek), two community gardening projects, and there are currently six undeveloped parcels south of University Ave). Over the past several years, the City and School District have made concerted attempts to consider these parcels for potential housing and other projects, but projects

have not been implemented due to several constraints (e.g., the small linear parcels are not financially feasible for typical housing construction, etc.) In addition, as the former site of the Santa Fe railroad bed, the parcels likely have some soil contamination that could need remediation before new uses could be implemented. With an upper grant limit of \$8 million, this Prop 68 grant program could potentially provide sufficient funds to remediate selected Santa Fe Right-of-Way parcels and create much-needed new parkland for the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This project will help the City promote two goals contained in the City's Climate Action Plan: Goal 2 of Chapter 3 involves increasing access to parks and plazas; and Goal 1 of Chapter 6 involves making Berkeley resilient to the impacts of climate change by designing public improvements such as parks for retention and infiltration of stormwater.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

These grant funds could potentially allow the City to create new parkland in Southwest Berkeley.

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director, PRW, 981-6700
Evelyn Chan, Supervising Civil Engineer, PRW, 981-6430

Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S

GRANT APPLICATION: THE CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 68 STATEWIDE PARKS PROGRAM FOR NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT AT SELECTED SANTA FE RIGHT-OF-WAY PARCELS

WHEREAS, in July of 2020, the California Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program announced a call for proposals, due in December of 2020. This grant program provides funding for projects that involve the creation of new parkland or the improvement of existing parks; and

WHEREAS, the program is extremely competitive in that all proposals are ranked in terms of the median household income (MHI) and the shortage of parkland acreage. In addition, the grant requires an extensive community process to demonstrate how the project would help address local community challenges; and

WHEREAS, the City's Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department evaluated a number of potential projects and determined that the creation of new parkland at selected Santa Fe Right-of-Way parcels would be the most competitive project in Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, these grant funds could potentially allow the City to create new parkland in Southwest Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, the California State Parks Prop 68 Statewide Parks Program does not require local matching funds. If awarded, the City will assign City staff to manage the project as an in-kind match to the grant, at a value of approximately 10% of the grant, or up to \$800,000, over the duration of the project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to: submit a grant application in the amount of up to \$8 million to the California Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program; accept any grants; execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

