

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - LAND USE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 4

SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY URBAN GREENING PROGRAM (DISTRICT: 1)

OVERVIEW

On September 14, 2016, Senate Bill 859 created the California Natural Resources Agency's (CNRA) Urban Greening Program to support the development of green infrastructure projects. In 2021, Senate Bill (SB) 170 allocated \$50,000,000 from the State General Fund to the CNRA Agency for its Urban Greening Program for projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and provide multiple benefits such as reducing energy demand and promoting resource efficiencies. The competitive CNRA Urban Greening Program has made \$47,500,000 available for projects, across the state, that acquire, create, or expand community parks and green spaces, and/or use natural systems to provide environmental and social benefits in the State's disadvantaged or low-income communities. Last year, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) was awarded \$1,000,000 from the CNRA for the construction of Village View local park located in the community of Fallbrook.

DPR analyzed 89 park projects using the Capital Investment Model and California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen 4.0) to determine the eligibility of funding based on the grant requirements. Out of the projects analyzed, DPR determined that the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park (TRVRP) Active Recreation and Community Park is the most competitive project for the CNRA Urban Greening Program grant within our portfolio. The TRVRP Active Recreation and Community Park is located in the northeast section of the 1,800-acre regional park, immediately adjacent to the Nestor community in the City of San Diego. The project meets the requirements of the grant by creating a new 64-acre community park and green space adjacent to a disadvantaged community, as defined in CalEnviroScreen 4.0. The park project is in the initial phases of design and the amenities will be determined throughout the public outreach and design process. DPR envisions that the park project will bring local and community active recreation amenities to the established regional park.

This request is to adopt a resolution authorizing DPR to apply for and accept up to \$11,630,300 from the Urban Greening Program administered by the California Natural Resources Agency for the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Active Recreation and Community Park. The total estimated cost of the project is \$37,764,603 and it is currently scheduled in CINA 2023-24 for design and CINA 2025-26 for construction. Additionally, this request will authorize the Director, DPR, or designee, to conduct all negotiations and to execute and submit all documents that may be necessary to apply for and accept the grant funds.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find that the proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines
2. Adopt a resolution entitled: RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR URBAN GREENING PROGRAM.
3. Authorize the Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, or designee, as agent of the County, to conduct all negotiations and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, contracts, payment requests and to execute the grant agreements, including any extensions or amendments thereof that do not materially impact or alter the grant program or funding levels.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The park project will serve the community of Nestor in the incorporated area of the City of San Diego. The new community park will be in the Tijuana River Valley and will provide new opportunities to engage in recreation activities that promote healthy, active living and reduce the risk of chronic disease and stress. The proposed project will expand active recreation opportunities in an area that does not currently have sufficient access to such programming. The project meets the grant requirements by creating a new 64-acre community park and green space adjacent to a disadvantaged community, as defined in the CalEnviroScreen 4.0.

At present, 40% of residents in this region are more than a 10-minute walk, 20-minute bike ride, or 30-minute transit trip to a park per the City of San Diego's 2021 Parks Master Plan. While the park is operated by the County of San Diego, it is located within the City of San Diego. The park project will serve all residents of the region, and the local park amenities will be designed to serve the immediately surrounding neighborhood of Tijuana River Valley and Nestor, both of which are part of the City of San Diego. The addition of active recreation programming will increase access to recreation for residents of the Tijuana River Valley and will expand opportunities to recreate and experience nature closer to home, work, or school. It will also create an intergenerational hub and shared gathering space for friends, families, and neighbors to come and build a community.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved, today's actions would authorize the submittal of one application for grant funds up to \$11,630,300 for the Urban Greening Program. There are no matching funds required for this grant.

The Board approved a waiver of Board Policy B-29 for LUEG grants on June 24, 2020 (12), therefore a waiver is not requested as part of this action. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will return to the Board of Supervisors to establish the necessary appropriations for construction not covered by grant funds in FY 2025-26. The amount needed for construction is currently estimated at \$37,764,603. The park is projected to open in FY 2026-27. DPR will return to the Board during the advertise and award phase to request any additions to operations and maintenance costs that are determined to be necessary during the design phase of the project. If a grant is awarded, any unrecovered cost per Board Policy B-29 would be funded by available prior year General Fund fund balance.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Fletcher, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent, adopting Resolution No. 22-122, entitled: RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR URBAN GREENING PROGRAM.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter