

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 02-60

DATE February 6, 2002

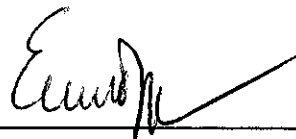
C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FROM THE PROPOSITION 12 CALIFORNIA HERITAGE FUND FOR THE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY.

J. Combs _____
A. Corrales _____
J. Duggan _____
J. Kolb _____

H. Fujita _____
*M. Tamuri _____
M. Matthews _____



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the submittal of a grant application to the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation from the Proposition 12 California Heritage Fund to be utilized for the renovation and expansion of the Griffith Observatory.
2. Authorize the General Manager to submit the application to the Mayor; City Council, and the Arts, Health, and Humanities Committee in accordance with the provision of Executive Directive No. 26.

SUMMARY:

The Department of Recreation and Parks is about to undertake a major renovation and expansion of the historic Griffith Observatory. The Department, in collaboration with Friends Of The Observatory (FOTO), is raising money from a variety of sources (Prop K, Prop A, Prop 12, and private contributions) to complete the project. Griffith Observatory closed on January 6, 2002, the contract for the project will be awarded in April, and construction will begin in June.

The California Heritage Fund of State Proposition 12 will award a total of \$8.506 million to help "acquire, develop (rehabilitate and restore), and interpret historical and archeological resources in California." The key distinguishing element in this program is that projects must be listed on one of the State's historic registers or be on the National Register. Griffith Observatory is on the "California Register of Historic Places" and is therefore an eligible project.

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The grant requires at least a one-to-one match, so the Department intends to apply for up to \$1 million (using \$1 million of Prop K funding as a match) to cover the cost of restoration of the exterior elements of the building.

The Department will continue to work with FOTO in the preparation of the grant. Upon Commission approval, the item will be forwarded to the City Council for an authorizing resolution. The application will then be submitted by the March 1, 2002, submittal deadline.

CEQA

Prior to undertaking the activities for which the grant is being sought, the City as lead agency for the project must perform, complete, and certify the adequacy of environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As a result of the information obtained by means of the CEQA process, the Commission may modify, condition, or disapprove the project and nothing herein shall limit the Commission's exercise of its independent judgment and discretion with respect to the project. The project will come back to the Commission for further review and consideration after completion of the CEQA process.

Board Report prepared by Marjorie Matthews