

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Recreation and Parks

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
FROM: MANUEL A. MOLLINEDO, General Manager *Margie Matthews*
SUBJECT: TOBACCO CONTROL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM/GRANT APPLICATION

July 10, 2002

SUMMARY:

On June 26, 2002, the Department submitted a FY 02/03 grant application to the State of California Department of Health Services to receive funding in the amount of \$300,000 for the development of a field program that promotes and facilitates enforcement of local tobacco control laws within specified park areas. The State will announce award decisions on July 22, 2002. Subsequent to a successful award, staff will submit an action Board Report requesting approval of the resulting agreement, and authority to submit the agreement through Council in accordance with Executive Directive No. 26.

FINDINGS:

On May 9, 2002, the State of California Department of Health Services published Request for Application (RFA) #TCS-02-101, Local Enforcement of Tobacco Control Laws. The RFA is seeking potential grant award applicants from qualified California law enforcement agencies or other organizations with code enforcement authority to enforce state and local tobacco control laws.

Staff review of the RFA document and subsequent study on feasibility for Department participation indicate that some park areas are currently subject to tobacco control laws and would benefit from an increased enforcement effort. Applicable law includes California Health and Safety Code Section 104495 prohibiting smoking around playgrounds and tot lot sandboxes; LAMC 57.25.14 prohibiting smoking in mountain fire districts; and LAMC 41.50 prohibiting smoking inside recreation facilities and all other public buildings.

Award of a grant that funds additional staff and material resources would enable the Park Rangers to implement and sustain a directed tobacco control enforcement program that would enhance public health and safety, reduce property destruction by fire, and improve the quality of life at impacted park locations.

The Park Rangers are currently evaluating and identifying which of the citywide park properties are most in need of additional tobacco control enforcement, i.e. Griffith and Elysian Parks, Hansen Dam Recreation Area, Chatsworth Park South, and Harbor Regional Park, and are developing method and strategy that would best serve existing need. The final program will be formatted according to the RFA and made compliant with the grant application procedure.

Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners
Tobacco Control Enforcement Program/Grant Application
Page 2

If this agency is successful in obtaining grant funding for the resulting program, it is anticipated that additional revenue will be generated from citing violators and court collection of applicable fines. The extent of this revenue is unknown at this time.

This report was submitted by Gary Newton, Chief Park Ranger.