

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 02-121

DATE March 20, 2002

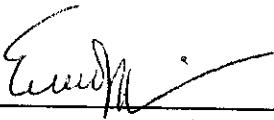
C.D. _____

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

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

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



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Approve the development and submission of three (3) proposals to the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, for the 2001 Land and Water Conservation Fund Program;
2. Authorize the General Manager to sign and transmit the proposals; and,
3. Authorize the General Manager to represent the Department in accepting grant awards, and negotiating and executing any resulting agreements.

SUMMARY:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Program provides funds to federal agencies, and to the 50 states and six territories. The money allocated to the States may be used for statewide planning, and for acquiring and developing outdoor recreational areas and facilities.

The program, which is administered nationally by the National Park Service (NPS), became effective in January of 1965, and was initially authorized a twenty-five period, and has been extended for another twenty-five years to January 2015. Under the provisions of the California Outdoor Recreation Resources Plan Act of 1967, the expenditure of funds allocated to California is administered by the State Liaison Officer (SLO), who is the Director of the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

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Funds for the program are derived from federal recreation fees, sales of federal surplus real property, the federal motorboat fuels tax and the Outer Continental Shelf mineral receipts.

Not less than 40% of the funds available each year are retained by the federal government to be used by federal agencies in acquiring lands for outdoor recreation purposes. Generally, the remaining 40% is allocated to the 50 states and 6 territories, on a formula basis that takes into consideration population and other factors. The costs of preparing the Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Resources Plan and the State Liaison Officer's Contingency Fund are deducted from California's apportionment. The balance of the annual allotment is divided, 60% to local agencies and 40% to state agencies.

Local agencies eligible to share in the fund are counties, cities, recreation and park districts and special districts with authority to acquire, develop, operate and maintain public park and recreation areas.

The LWCF program is limited to outdoor recreation purposes and to indoor facilities which support outdoor recreation activities. This is a reimbursement program. Applicants are expected to finance the entire project. Fifty percent of the actual expenditures up to the support ceiling of the grant will be refunded when the project is completed. The cost estimate submitted in the application will determine the support ceiling.

Proposals will be evaluated based upon the completeness, accuracy, and above all, its ability to meet the recreation needs of the community. For development projects that are awarded LWCF funds, plans and specifications must be approved by the state before advertising for bids.

The Department has selected three projects to be submitted under this LWCF program.

1. Griffith Park and Delano Recreation Center - Synthetic Soccer Fields

The Department will be requesting funds to construct synthetic soccer fields at Griffith Park and Delano Recreation Center. This will be a pilot program which will test a new material on the market that can withstand the wear and tear of soccer on fields. Regular soccer fields are very expensive to maintain and the Department is trying out new methods for potential use at other sites.

2. Camp Radford

The Department operates a high mountain camp in the San Bernadino mountains that has been closed for over ten years. The Landers earthquake in 1992 forced the department to close the site. The Department will be requesting funding to implement the improvements to the registration building and dormitories. The Department operates the camp under a lease agreement with the United States Department of Forestry Service.

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Environmental Requirements

Prior to undertaking the activities for which the grant is being sought, the City as lead agency for the project(s) must perform, complete and certify the adequacy of the environmental review in accordance with the California's 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(s) and nothing herein shall limit the Commission's exercise of their independent judgement and discretion with respect to the project(s). The project(s) will come back to the Commission for further review and consideration after completion of the CEQA process.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund program requires applicants to comply with both the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Verification that the requirements have been met must occur before the project proposal can be considered for funding.

Prepared by Steve Uranga, Senior Management Analyst II.