

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 02-394

DATE November 20, 2002

C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: WHITE POINT NATURE PRESERVE: RESCISSION OF PRIOR BOARD ACTIONS AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARDS

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

H. Fujita _____
* M. Matthews PMF
L. Barth _____


General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners ("Board") take the following corrective actions regarding the White Point Nature Preserve - Trails Project:

1. Rescind the Board's action approving Board Report 01-375 dated October 3, 2001;
2. Recommend that the Arts Health and Humanities Committee rescind its action taken on November 27, 2001, in connection with Council files 99-1237 and 99-1237-S1;
3. Recommend that Council rescind its action taken on December 12, 2001, in connection with Council files 99-1237 and 99-1237-S1;
4. Recommend that Council authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks ("Department") to apply for a grant award from the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Resources Agency, under the Habitat Conservation Program, for funding in the amount of \$96,000.00 to implement the White Point Nature Preserve Trails Project. The Habitat Conservation Program requires a 50% match (\$96,000) of the total project cost (\$192,000);
5. Recommend that Council authorize the Department to accept the Habitat Conservation Program grant award in the amount of \$96,000 for the development of 2.5 miles of trails at White Point Nature Preserve;

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6. Recommend that Council authorize the Department to execute the grant agreement attached hereto, pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code ("Admin. Code") § 14.8(c), and any subsequent amendments thereto authorized by Admin. Code § 14.8(a) and (b), subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney;
7. Authorize the General Manager to execute the grant agreement attached hereto, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney;
8. Recommend that Council authorize the Department to accept the grant award for White Nature Preserve from the MTA Transportation Improvement Program in the amount of \$206,000.00 for the purpose of improvements to the White Point Nature Preserve; \$96,000 of which will be used to fund the match required by the Habitat Conservation Program grant for the development of 2.5 miles of trails at White Point Nature Preserve;
9. Recommend that Council authorize the Department to execute the MTA Transportation Improvement Program Letter of Agreement (LOA) attached hereto, pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code ("Admin. Code") § 14.8(c), and any subsequent amendments thereto authorized by Admin. Code § 14.8(a) and (b), subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney; and,
10. Authorize the General Manager to execute the MTA grant agreement, attached hereto pursuant to Admin. Code § 14.8(c), and any subsequent amendments thereto authorized by Admin. Code § 14.8(a) and (b), subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney and authorization by Council.

SUMMARY

On April 3, 1999, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Resources Agency announced the availability of grant funds on a statewide competitive basis under the Habitat Conservation Fund Program. With authorization from Council, the Department applied for and was subsequently awarded a \$96,000 grant. The Board, Arts Health and Humanities Committee and Council reports associated with Council's initial grant authorization contain incomplete or erroneous information.

This report and the associated actions are required to correct action previously taken by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners and the City Council at the time the Habitat Conservation program grant application was submitted in October 2001. During the application and review process that took place between October and December 2001, the State funding agency allowed the City to increase its original scope of work and correctly account for the City's match requirements. Through inadvertence and incomplete attempts to correct the scope, match requirement and the grant program information, conflicting and incomplete approvals were made by the Board, the Arts, Health and Humanities Committee and the Council.

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Grant funds are being awarded under the State Habitat Conservation Program for the development of 2.5 miles of trails. The total project cost is \$192,000; \$96,000.00 of which will be funded by the Habitat Conservation Program. The Habitat Conservation grant requires a 50% match to fund the remainder of the total project cost.

The City will satisfy the 50% match requirement with a \$206,000 grant from the Metropolitan Transit Authority. As part of the MTA 2001 Call for Projects the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), at its meeting on July 26, 2001, authorize the programming of funds to the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for the White Point Nature Preserve Transportation Improvements subject to the execution of a letter of Agreement (LOA).

The Department applied for and was awarded a \$206,000 grant for the purpose enhancing the aesthetic resources of the scenic and historic area by blending the transportation system with the surrounding natural area through the incorporation of a native plan restoration buffer zone. \$96,000 of the \$206,000 grant will be used to satisfy the matching requirement imposed by the Habitat Conservation Fund program. The MTA grant will not be disbursed until a Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act review has been completed.

The White Point Nature Preserve is located in Council District 15 in the San Pedro area of the City of Los Angeles. Restoration of habitat and full development of the White Point Nature Preserve is governed by a Master Plan adopted by the City Council on December 12, 2001. Development of this trails project is covered by the Master Plan. Pursuant to a land-use agreement, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy is implementing the Master Plan. The trails project proposes to develop 2.5 miles of urban parkland trails on the site and includes a self-guided interpretive program which will serve to enhance visitor appreciation of the Preserve's resources. The project will also bring the existing trail system into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards by providing one half mile of trails which are fully accessible.

The Board and the Council have approved the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the entire project contemplated by the Master Plan for the White Point Nature Preserve to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Councilmember Janice Hahn, Council District 15, California State Assemblymember Alan Lowenthal, 54th District, California State Senator Betty Karnette, 27th District, and the Palos Verdes/South Bay Sierra Club support this project.

Report reviewed and approved by the City Attorney, Mark Brown and Laurel Lightner.

Report prepared by Susan Huntley, Chief Grants Administration.