

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 03-127

DATE April 16, 2003

C.D. \_\_\_\_\_

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION IN RESPONSE TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FY 2003 LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

J. Combs \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Corrales \_\_\_\_\_  
J. Duggan \_\_\_\_\_

H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_  
J. Kolb \_\_\_\_\_  
\*B. Lukehart \_\_\_\_\_

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General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Approve the submission of a proposal for a \$950,000 grant for Camp Radford under the Land and Water Conservation (LWCF) Grant Program for FY 2003;
2. Authorize the Department to submit a report to Council requesting approval of a resolution to authorize the General Manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks to submit a grant proposal under the Land Water Conservation Fund Program, administered by the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code ("Admin Code") Section 14.8(c), and any subsequent amendments thereto authorized by Admin Code Section 14.8(a) and (b); and subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney; and
3. Authorize the General Manager to represent the City and execute any resulting grant agreements, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

SUMMARY:

The Department has selected Camp Radford for a proposal to be submitted under the LWCF program. The project was selected based upon a review of the grant program criteria and the competitiveness of the proposed project.

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The Department operates a high mountain camp (Camp Radford) in the San Bernadino mountains that has been closed for over ten years due to damage from the Landers earthquake in 1992. The Department operates the camp under a lease agreement with the United States Department of Forestry Service. To reopen the camp the Department is required by code to seismically upgrade the kitchen and dining hall, install code compliant commercial equipment in the kitchen, and renovate the restrooms to meet ADA requirements.

The total cost for the project is estimated at \$1.9 million. The Department is requesting \$950,000 from the LWCF program. The LWCF program requires a 50% match which will be met by the Proposition G \$950,000 awarded for Camp Radford. Should this grant not be awarded, the Department will continue to seek grant funds to fund the renovation project. Letters of support have and will be garnered from the Mayor, City Councilpersons, advocacy groups, and state and federal legislators

### **Background**

The LWCF 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 funds for the LWCF 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. About 40% of the funds available each year are allocated to local and state agencies.

### **Eligible Applicants and Projects**

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.

Each proposal will be evaluated based upon the completeness, accuracy, and above all, its ability to meet the recreation needs of the community. Camp Radford is technically competitive and also programmatically competitive. The camp has the capacity to serve 300 campers and provides excellent outdoor recreational opportunities for residents of the City of Los Angeles. The top ten outdoor recreational priorities cited by the LWCF program are met by the Camp Radford project. Camping is the number one priority followed by an assortment of other outdoor recreational activities. For development projects that are awarded LWCF funds, plans and specifications must be approved by the state before advertising for bids.

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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 LWCF Program requires applicants to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Federal National Environmental Policy act of 1969 (NEPA). The Camp Radford project is categorically exempt and the notice of exemption has been filed with the County Clerk. Because the project is categorically exempt under the CEQA guidelines, the NEPA requirement is simplified and requires only that the General Manager sign an environmental certification at time of application.

Prepared by Steve Uranga, Senior Management Analyst II.