



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDER
April 20, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront
 Subject: Grant Application: California Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program for new park development at selected Santa Fe Right-of-Way parcels

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to: 1. Submit a grant application in the amount of up to \$8,000,000 to the California Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program for new park development at selected Santa Fe Right-of-Way parcels; 2. Accept any grants; 3. Execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and 4) Authorizing the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The California State Parks Prop 68 Statewide Parks Program does not require local matching funds. If awarded, the City will assign City staff to manage the project as an in-kind match to the grant, at a value of approximately 10% of the grant, or up to \$800,000, over the duration of the project.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In July of 2020, the California Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program announced a call for proposals, due in December of 2020. This grant program provides funding for projects that involve the creation of new parkland or the improvement of existing parks. The program is extremely competitive in that all proposals are ranked in terms of the median household income (MHI) and the shortage of parkland acreage, with the lowest measures receiving the highest scores. In addition, the grant requires an extensive community process to demonstrate how the project would help address local community challenges. The City's Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department evaluated a number of potential parks projects and determined that the creation of new parkland at selected Santa Fe Right-of-Way parcels would be the most competitive project in Berkeley. On December 1, 2020, Council adopted Resolution No. 69,625-N.S. to authorize the submittal of this grant application; however, due to an error, the resolution did not contain certain boilerplate text that is required by the Statewide Parks Program and therefore a new resolution with the correct text must be adopted.

BACKGROUND

In 1980, the City acquired 3.5 miles of linear right-of-way parcels from the Santa Fe Railroad. In the early 1980's, after extensive planning efforts on how to use these parcels, the City constructed two senior housing developments via the Berkeley Housing Authority, two city parks (Cedar Rose and Strawberry Creek), two community gardening projects, and there are currently six undeveloped parcels south of University Ave). Over the past several years, the City and School District have made concerted attempts to consider these parcels for potential housing and other projects, but projects have not been implemented due to several constraints (e.g., the small linear parcels are not financially feasible for typical housing construction, etc.). In addition, as the former site of the Santa Fe railroad bed, the parcels likely have some soil contamination that could need remediation before new uses could be implemented. With an upper grant limit of \$8 million, this Prop 68 grant program could potentially provide sufficient funds to remediate selected Santa Fe Right-of-Way parcels and create much-needed new parkland for the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This project will help the City promote two goals contained in the City's Climate Action Plan: Goal 2 of Chapter 3 involves increasing access to parks and plazas; and Goal 1 of Chapter 6 involves making Berkeley resilient to the impacts of climate change by designing public improvements such as parks for retention and infiltration of stormwater.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

These grant funds could potentially allow the City to create new parkland in Southwest Berkeley.

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director, PRW, 981-6700

Evelyn Chan, Supervising Civil Engineer, PRW, 981-6430

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$8,000,000

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program, setting up necessary procedures governing the application; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, successful Applicants will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the Grant Scope project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley hereby:
Approves the filing of an application for the Santa Fe Railroad Trackbed to Park Conversion Project; and

1. Certifies that said Applicant has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, the sufficient funds to complete the project; and
2. Certifies that if the project is awarded, the Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project, and
3. Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and
4. Delegates the authority to the City Manager to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Grant Scope; and
5. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.
6. Will consider promoting inclusion per Public Resources Code §80001(b)(8 A-G).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley authorize the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

