

APPROVED
AUG 14 2013

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 13-212

DATE August 14, 2013

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. Various

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: CITY PARK IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS AND LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER FOR IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENTS AT SELECTED PARK SITES AND EXEMPTION FROM CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

R. Adams	_____	K. Regan	_____
H. Fujita	_____	*M. Shull	<u><i>M. Shull</i></u>
V. Israel	_____	N. Williams	_____

Ronald O. Nichols
General Manager

Approved *as amended*

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, specifying the terms and conditions for the use of funding provided by the LADWP for RAP's operation of the City Park Irrigation Improvement Program (Program), subject to the approval of the Mayor and the City Attorney as to form;
2. Give proper recognition to the LADWP, as represented by its General Manager, Ronald O. Nichols, its Chief Financial Officer, Frank R. Leiber, its Water Conservation Policy Manager, Penny Falcon; and its Water Conservation Manager, Mark Gentile;
3. Authorize RAP to receive from the LADWP, initial funding up to \$3,000,000.00 for the initial implementation of the Program at Elysian Park;

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG 2

NO. 13-212

4. Direct the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to deposit the initial funding (up to \$3,000,000.00) as follows, upon inter-departmental transfer from the LADWP:

<u>Park Site</u>	<u>Dept./Fund No./Account No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Elysian Park	88/205/TBD	\$3,000,000.00

5. Direct the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to establish project accounts for future LADWP Program approved projects and related interdepartmental funding transfers from the LADWP, respectively, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the MOU;
6. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed MOU to the Mayor for review and approval, pursuant to Executive Directive No. 3, and to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form;
7. Authorize the General Manager to execute the MOU upon receipt of the necessary approvals; and,
8. Find that the approval of the MOU and the associated project at Elysian Park is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

SUMMARY:

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) approved Board Report No. 07-137 on June 20, 2007, subsequently establishing the City Park Irrigation Improvement Program (Program), a partnership between the LADWP and RAP to promote water conservation by maximizing landscape water use efficiency. This 5-year Program had a budget of \$11,000,000.00 and successfully implanted water savings projects at 18 park facilities, saving over 400 acre-feet (AF) of water per year with an estimated utility bill cost savings of \$200,000.00 per year. The Program expired in ~~2012~~ 2011.

Due to the tremendously success efforts of RAP with the Program, the LADWP has offered to re-establish this partnership Program with RAP through the proposed MOU attached hereto for the continued operation of the Program. The Program's purpose is to develop and promote water conservation by maximizing landscape water use efficiency at City parks through actions that include, but are not limited to, the repair and/or replacement of existing irrigation distribution systems and the installation of weather-sensitive irrigation control equipment that irrigates on the basis of actual site characteristics and local weather conditions. Under the proposed MOU and related Program, the LADWP will provide funding to RAP up to \$3,000,000.00 each fiscal year through interdepartmental transfers for irrigation improvements at specified park sites. Each fiscal year RAP shall submit to the LADWP a water conservation work plan which shall set forth in detail, on a park by park (Project) basis, the work to be performed, Project milestones, and the cost

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG 3

NO. 13-212

on a park by park (Project) basis, the work to be performed, Project milestones, and the cost estimates for each Project in the respective fiscal year. The five (5)-year term of the proposed MOU is from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018.

The LADWP will initiate the Program with an initial transfer of funds up to \$3,000,000.00 allocated to a Project at Elysian Park in the First Council District (CD-1). The existing irrigation/fire line water system in Elysian Park was constructed in the 1930's by the Work Projects Administration (WPA) and is currently in a state of disintegration. The Project funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-2014 will begin the process of replacing all of the mainline irrigation piping in Elysian Park, beginning on the west side of the park, which is in the worst condition. These new main line water pipes will also be constructed for future recycled water use, as well as supply water to the dozens of fire hydrants throughout the park for fire prevention. Additionally, LADWP is currently working (under a separate project) to extend their recycled water pipes from Rio de Los Angeles State Park, across the Los Angeles River, to a new 2,000,000 gallon tank in Elysian Park. This new tank will replace the existing tank adjacent to Bishops Field.

The LADWP recognizes the need to improve the irrigation infrastructure in City parks and proposes to fund irrigation improvement projects at City parks under the Program as an important step towards addressing these needs. Subsequent to the initial interdepartmental transfer for the aforementioned Project (FY 2013-2014), the LADWP will provide Program funding up to, and not to exceed, \$3,000,000.00 for FY 2014-2015 and \$3,000,000.00 each fiscal year thereafter through June 30, 2018. Each fiscal year, available funds will be allocated to the Program contingent upon the LADWP annual budgeting process and the written approval of RAP's annual water conservation work plan for each fiscal year, submitted to LADWP on or prior to May 1st of each preceding fiscal year. The plan for FY 2013-2014 shall be submitted no later than thirty (30) days following the execution of the proposed MOU by RAP to the LADWP.

As an acknowledged leader in water conservation, the LADWP recognizes the educational value that this project represents in promoting proper 'smart' irrigation techniques to achieve significant savings in outdoor water use. The ultimate goal of this project is to install the necessary infrastructure that will properly irrigate and promote ease of maintenance at City park sites that are in great need of refurbishment. The benefit to the communities, and ultimate outcome of these Projects, will be long-term water conservation, reduction of dry weather runoff, the elimination of system leakages, and the enhanced health and aesthetics of the park through the use of smart irrigation controller technology.

Staff has determined that the irrigation improvement Projects engendered by the proposed MOU will consist primarily of the repair and/or replacement to existing subsurface irrigation pipelines and control systems, initially at Elysian Park, then subsequently at various selected park sites. Therefore, the first Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG 4

NO. 13-212

pursuant to Article III, Section 1(a), Class 1(17) and Section 1(b), Class 2(5) of the City CEQA Guidelines. The subsequent projects are provisionally exempt pursuant to the same categories, and will be re-evaluated according to CEQA as each Project is approved for funding under the Program.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the MOU and that proper recognition be given to the LADWP, as represented by its General Manager, Ronald O. Nichols, its Chief Financial Officer, Frank R. Leiber, its Water Conservation Policy Manager, Penny Falcon; and its Water Conservation Manager, Mark Gentile.

Staff has discussed the proposed MOU with the Assistant General Manager of Planning, Construction and Maintenance, and the Superintendent of Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch, and each concurs with staff's recommendations.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There will be no adverse fiscal impact associated with this Project, as the Program operation and related irrigation improvements will be funded through LADWP interdepartmental transfers. RAP and affected communities will benefit greatly from the Program through improved irrigation systems at selected park sites, which will produce increased water conservation and healthier looking parks through reduced dry weather runoff, elimination of irrigation system water leaks, and healthier landscaping.

The Report was prepared by Tom Gibson, Landscape Architect and Gregory Clark, Management Analyst, of the Advanced Planning and Real Estate and Asset Management Sections.