

**APPROVED**  
FEB 20 2013

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 13-054

DATE: February 20, 2013

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
& PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: FRANKLIN CANYON ORANGE GROVE - AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES PARKS FOUNDATION TO ACCEPT A GIFT OF IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES

R. Adams _____	K. Regan _____
H. Fujita _____	M. Shull _____
*V. Israel _____	N. Williams _____

  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Accept a gift of restoration and improvements of the Franklin Canyon Orange Grove (Grove) from the Los Angeles Parks Foundation (LAPF) through a donation from the David Bohnett Foundation (DBF) valued at approximately \$46,345.00, as described more fully in the Summary below, and that appropriate recognition be provided to LAPF and DBF;
2. Accept the offer of maintenance services of the Grove from LAPF through donations from DBF valued at approximately \$60,000.00 over ten years as described more fully in the Summary below, and that appropriate recognition be provided to LAPF and DBF;
3. Approve a proposed ten-year Agreement between the City of Los Angeles and LAPF for the restoration, improvements, and maintenance of the Grove, substantially as on file in the Board Office, subject to approval of the Mayor and the City Council and of the City Attorney as to form;
4. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed Agreement to the Mayor, in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and concurrently to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form; and,
5. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the Agreement subsequent to all necessary approvals.

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SUMMARY:

The Department of Water and Power (DWP) has approved a lease of a 9.8 acre portion of the Lower Franklin Reservoir, commonly referred to as the Franklin Canyon Orange Grove (Grove), to the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP). The Grove is located at 1300 North Beverly Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90210. RAP, with the support of the Los Angeles Parks Foundation (LAPF), would like to restore, improve, and maintain the Grove with funding from the David Bohnett Foundation (DBF).

LAPF has secured funding from DBF in the amount of \$46,345.00 for various restorations and improvements to the Grove including replacement of 31 orange trees that have died to bring the total number of orange trees to approximately 101, upgrades to the irrigation system such as individual irrigation to each tree, pruning of all existing trees, new fencing and gate, mulching of tree wells, and the placement of two traditional park signs. The new signs will incorporate recognition to the LAPF and DBF, subject to specific review and approval of RAP. LAPF has also secured a commitment for ongoing funding in the value of \$6,000.00 per calendar year for ten (10) years, for a total of \$60,000.00, through donations awarded by DBF for the monthly maintenance of the Grove. In addition, the Grove will have the added benefit of being designated for sustainable food production. LAPF will work with non-profit organizations to harvest the food and provide food for the needy.

LAPF will contract initial restoration and improvement work through the Valley Crest Tree Company and the Quality Fence Company, which will be authorized access for the work through issuance of a Right-of-Entry permit. The Agreement allows LAPF access to and use of the Grove for on-going maintenance and some public events. LAPF will contract the monthly maintenance work through the Valley Crest Tree Company. Additionally, LAPF will arrange for various non-profit food banks to harvest the oranges from the Grove and provide food for the needy up to eight times per year.

Upon completion of construction of restorations and improvements, RAP shall conduct a Post-Development Inspection of the Grove to ensure that work is in compliance with the City's standards. LAPF, through its contractors, will provide monthly maintenance and repairs to the Grove including the pruning and necessary care for the orange trees, the evaluation and required maintenance and repair of the irrigation systems, and the disposal of trash and debris. RAP and LAPF have the option to extend the term an additional ten (10) years pursuant to prior approvals by the City. It is understood that LAPF and DBF may desire to fund additional improvements to be constructed at the Grove during the term of this agreement, which will be presented to the Board for consideration and acceptance.

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The restoration, improvements, and maintenance of the Grove will not only beautify this portion of the City but also provide food to the needy, all at no cost to the City.

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), RAP has determined that the proposed project would consist of minor alterations to the land to replace dead and diseased orange trees along with other landscaping improvements for park and community agricultural purposes. Therefore, the project is Categorical Exempt from CEQA, pursuant to Article III, Section 1(d), Class 4(3, 7) and Class 25 of the City CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

This project is a gift of material and services valued at approximately \$106,345 for work which RAP is not budgeted to perform and, therefore, contributes beneficially to the City. There will be unknown but probably negligible costs associated with monitoring of the work.

This report was prepared by Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst and Robert De Hart, Senior Recreation Director II, Partnership Division.