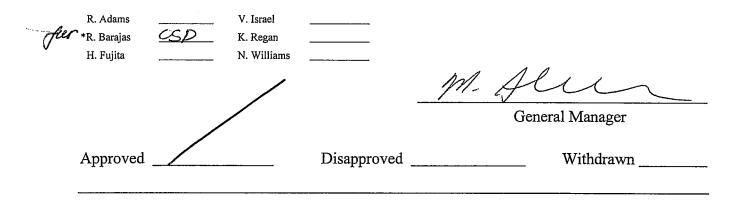
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REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER		NO. <u>14-283</u>
	NOV 1 9 2014	
DATE <u>November 19, 2014</u>	*, OARD OF RECREATION 1 PARK COMMISSION	C.D. <u>14</u>

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: PERSHING SQUARE – PLAYGROUND (PRJ20742) PROJECT – ALLOCATION OF PROPOSITION 1C HOUSING-RELATED PARKS PROGRAM FUNDS AND EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT



## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Board:

- 1. Approve the allocation of \$1,000,00.00 in Proposition 1C Housing-Related Parks Program (HRP) Funds from Pershing Square Account To Be Determined (TBD) for the Pershing Square - Playground (PRJ20742) project, as described in the Summary of this Report;
- 2. Find that the actions taken by the Board herein are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);
- 3. Authorize the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

## SUMMARY:

Pershing Square is located at 525 South Olive Street, in the Jewelry District of Downtown Los Angeles. This 5.02 acre facility, which is located atop an underground public parking facility, provides a large plaza, landscaped areas, and community room for use by the general public and

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the surrounding community. Pershing Square provides space for special programming and special events such as concerts and holiday ice skating.

The HRP Program, funded through the passage of Proposition 1C, is designed to reward local governments for developing new residential housing affordable to low-income households and has awarded RAP \$8,221,950.00 available for the 2013 Program Year. The HRP Program funds may be used for the creation or rehabilitation of park and recreational facilities including, but not limited to, the acquisition of land, sport play fields, play areas, non-motorized recreation trails, play structures, outdoor recreation, and landscaping.

Working with the community, department staff has determined the renovation and improvements of the corridor, along 6<sup>th</sup> Street between Olive and Hill streets and along Olive Street, near the southwest corner of the park, into playground space is necessary and will benefit park users and the surrounding community. The scope of the project includes the installation of a playground for two (2) to five (5) year olds along Olive Street and a playground for five (5) to twelve (12) year olds along 6<sup>th</sup> Street; the installation of poured-in-place rubber surfacing beneath all the play areas; the planting of twenty-two (22), 36-inch box, Chinese Pistache trees to replace the rootbound Camphor trees, which pose a potential hazard to the parking infrastructure; and other park amenities.

Staff recommends that \$1,000,000.00 of the \$1,000,000.00 from the Proposition 1C HRP funds awarded to Pershing Square be allocated to the Pershing Square - Playground (PRJ20742) project at Pershing Square (Council File No. 14-0996 and Board Report #13-313).

Staff has determined that the subject project will consist of modifications to existing park facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use and placement of new accessory structures. Therefore, the project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1,3) and Class 11(3) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

#### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The approval of this allocation of Proposition 1C Housing Funds will have no fiscal impact on the Department as the implementation of the proposed park capital improvements will not increase the level of daily maintenance required at this facility. The maintenance of the proposed park improvements can be performed by current staff with no overall impact to existing maintenance services.

The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by Proposition 1C Housing Funds or funding sources other than the Department's General fund.

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This report was prepared by Aren Galustians, Architectural Associate II, Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Branch.