

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

APPROVED

NO. 15-004

DATE January 7, 2015

JAN 07 2015

C.D. 4

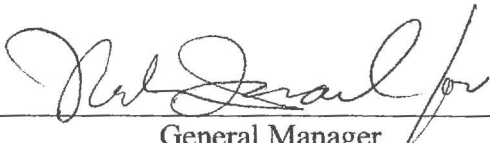
BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

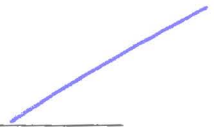
BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: RUNYON CANYON ACQUISITION PROJECT – LAND AND WATER
CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM – AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT
GRANT APPLICATION; CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION; ACCEPTANCE OF
GRANT

R. Adams _____
R. Barajas _____
H. Fujita _____

*V. Israel 
K. Regan _____
N. Williams _____


General Manager

Approved 

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) submission of a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant application for the Runyon Canyon Acquisition Project, which consists of the acquisition of an approximately 3.81-acre parcel (APN 5571-026-007), located at 2450 Solar Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90046, for recreational purposes;
2. Designate RAP's General Manager, Executive Officer, or Assistant General Manager as the agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Runyon Canyon Acquisition Project;
3. Recommend to the City Council the adoption of the accompanying Resolution, which authorizes the submission of a grant application for the LWCF grant in the approximate amount of \$1,500,000.00 for the Runyon Canyon Acquisition Project;
4. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to establish the necessary account and/or to appropriate funding received within "Recreation and Parks Grant" Fund 205 to accept the LWCF grant in the approximate amount of \$1,500,000.00 for the Runyon Canyon Acquisition Project; and
5. Direct staff to transmit a copy of the Resolution to the City Clerk for committee and City

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Council approval, in accordance with LWCF grant guidelines.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting of October 3, 2007, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners approved the preliminary authorization to expand Runyon Canyon Park by acquiring the property located at 2450 Solar Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90046, at the request of Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Fourth District (Board Report No. 07-230). At the time of the approved report, Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff had determined that the approved Proposition K funding was not sufficient to complete the acquisition and began working with other City entities and outside partners to seek additional funding for the project.

In November 2014, RAP was contacted by The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, whose mission is to create parks and protect land for people, to assist in the submission of a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant application for the Runyon Canyon Acquisition Project, which is located in the Hollywood Hills area of Los Angeles, adjacent to Runyon Canyon Park. The grant application is due by February 3, 2015.

Over the years, TPL has partnered with RAP in the acquisition and development of various capital projects. Currently, TPL is working with the City of Los Angeles (City) to preserve an approximately 14-acres in the area of the City's popular Runyon Canyon Park by helping RAP to acquire the proposed project parcel, also known as the "Knoll." This LWCF grant will be used to supplement current funding for the proposed Runyon Canyon Acquisition Project, which is estimated to cost approximately \$3,000,000.00. The total anticipated funding for the project will include the secured \$1,500,000.00 in Proposition K Specified funds and \$1,500,000.00 in LWCF funds, if awarded. The acquisition is anticipated to be completed by December 2015.

Once acquired, the parcel is intended for general, open space, recreational use as the site is widely popular with hikers, joggers, and dog walkers as an expansion of the Runyon Canyon Park. The proposed parcels are currently private property and under the constant threat of further development or being closed to the public altogether. By acquiring this property for conservation, RAP will ensure that it will remain open to the public for recreational purposes.

With regards to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination, RAP's Environmental Management Section has determined that the proposed acquisition and minimal development of the site for use as recreational open space are exempt from the provisions of the CEQA, pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 25, of the City CEQA Guidelines.

The proposed Runyon Canyon Acquisition Project has support from Council District 4 as well as the community members.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

At this time, there is no anticipated fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund; however, future maintenance costs have yet to be determined.

This report was prepared by Isophine Atkinson, Senior Management Analyst, Grants Administration.

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND
RUNYON CANYON ACQUISITION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Congress under Public Law 88-578 has authorized the establishment of a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant-In-Aid program, providing Matching funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for acquiring lands and developing Facilities for public outdoor recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for administration of the program in the State, setting up necessary rules and procedures governing APPLICATIONS by local agencies under the program; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant certifies by resolution the approval of the APPLICATION and the availability of eligible MATCHING funds prior to submission of the APPLICATION to the State; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES HEREBY:

1. Approves the filing of an APPLICATION for Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance for the proposed: Runyon Canyon Acquisition Project.
2. Agrees to abide by SECTION 6(f)(3) of Public Law 88-578 which states "No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the National Secretary of the Interior, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses. The Secretary shall approve such conversion only if he finds it to be in accord with the then existing comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan and only upon such conditions as he deems necessary to assure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location."
3. Certifies that said agency has Matching funds from eligible source(s) and can finance 100 percent of the Project, which up to half may be reimbursed; and
4. Appoints the General Manager, Executive Officer, or Assistant General Manager, of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, as agent of the APPLICANT to conduct all negotiations and execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, amendments, payment requests, and compliance with all applicable current state and federal laws which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned PROJECT.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Angeles at its meeting of _____.

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT, City Clerk

By: _____