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June 15, 2026

Honorable Councilmembers  
Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations  
City Clerk, Room 395, City Hall  
Attention: Rita Moreno

**Subject: City of Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission Report – CRC 4 Report Back Request**

**BACKGROUND**

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee directed to CLA to provide language regarding Charter Reform Commission Report – CRC 4 which would place a measure on the November 3rd, 2026 ballot that would amend Charter Section 593 by increasing the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) mandated minimum funding level from .0325% of assessed property value to .0485% of assessed property value, phased in over a four-year period.

**POTENTIAL OFF-SETS AND SUPPORT SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS**

During its consideration of this item, the Committee requested a report back from RAP regarding potential areas where new funding allocations to RAP, if provided under this proposed charter amendment, could off-set or enhance services currently funded outside of the RAP budget. Increasing the minimum Charter Funding allocation for RAP could enable the Department to fund expenses and enhance services provided by other City departments that support recreation and parks, including:

- Security services costs supporting parks, such as the Park Gate Closure Program;
- Staffing costs in the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) supporting park facility capital project delivery;
- Staffing, equipment and other costs in the Personnel Department, General Services Department and Information Technology Agency that support RAP operations.

**ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

During deliberations of this item the Committee also requested a fiscal impact analysis from the City Administrative Officer (CAO) related to the proposed increase in minimum funding for the RAP budget. In the context of that fiscal analysis, it is important to note the following:

- Increased investments in recreation programs and parks yield substantial social, environmental and economic benefits that positively impact other areas of the city budget.
- Increasing the minimum funding allocation to RAP would address unfunded obligations within the RAP budget, including legally-mandated services and Cost of Living Adjustments for part-time staff.
- Increased funding for RAP would also address the rising costs of employee benefits for RAP staff, which are outpacing the current incremental growth of the assessed property value.

<sup>1</sup>Visit [needs.parks.lacity.org](https://needs.parks.lacity.org) for more information on the Park Needs Assessment.



## RESTORING RECREATION AND PARKS SERVICE LEVELS

Increasing the minimum Charter-required funding for RAP would provide the Department the resources it needs to restore service levels, address park equity gaps, and reimburse the City's General Fund for the full cost of its operations. Key areas of investment would include:



**Recreation Services** - Restoring public hours, services and programs at the City's 123 recreation centers, senior centers, and its museums and historic sites



**Public Pools & Beaches** - Restoring cut-backs to public hours at the city's 25 year-round and 27 summer pools and support funding for City owned beaches



**Facility Repairs** - Addressing deferred maintenance and repairs of critical park building infrastructure, and improving response to graffiti and vandalism



**Park Maintenance** - Restoring grounds-keeping and restroom cleaning staffing at 500 parks citywide



**Park Safety** - Restoring staffing levels to the Park Ranger Division to support initiatives like the park gate closure program, while also enhancing broader park safety and fire risk mitigation and prevention



**Emergency Management** - Dedicating appropriate staffing and resources for RAP's mass care responsibilities including cooling centers, shelters and evacuation centers



**Homelessness Services** - Restoring RAP's homelessness response teams to an optimal level to ensure a proactive approach to connecting Angelenos to services and addressing encampments across city parks



**Planning and Project Delivery** - Restoring and expanding staffing capacity in grants administration, park planning and project delivery



**Park Equity** - Addressing gaps in park equity through the acquisition of new parks and the activation of additional community school parks



**Park Trees, Nature Areas & Climate Action** - Restoring and expanding staffing for the management of natural resources, including the City's park trees, ecologically sensitive areas and lakes, and advancing nature-based solutions

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## PARK INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

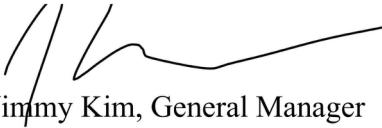
The recent Park Needs Assessment (PNA) estimated a **\$2.68 billion one-time capital improvement need** to upkeep and renovate the City's existing park facilities, such as gymnasiums, recreation centers, and other park amenities. The PNA also noted that the 30-year Proposition K assessment expires this year, further limiting available monies for park improvements.

The aforementioned proposed increase to the charter-required minimum funding allocation for RAP would greatly enhance staffing capacity to perform park planning and capital project delivery and could support capital projects aligned with the City's overall capital improvement planning, but would not fully address the scale and magnitude of the city's aging recreation facility and parks infrastructure.

## CONCLUSION

The Department greatly appreciates that Committee's support for placing a measure on the November 2026 ballot to increase the Charter minimum funding allocation for recreation and parks. Such an increase would reverse years of cutbacks and ensure that our park system is safe, clean and equitable..

Sincerely,



Jimmy Kim, General Manager

JK:mr

CC: Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst  
John Wickim, Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst  
Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer

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