

APPROVED

JAN 20 2022

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 22-009

DATE January 20, 2022

C.D. 1

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ELYSIAN PARK – SOLANO CANYON UNIVERSAL ACCESS PLAYGROUND, FITNESS EQUIPMENT, PICNIC AREA AND NEW RESTROOM (PRJ21271) PROJECT; ELYSIAN PARK – ADAPTIVE RECREATION CENTER BUILDING AND OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS (PRJ21278) PROJECT; MODIFICATION OF PROJECT SCOPES; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(3) [ALTERATIONS OF EXISTING PEDESTRIAN TRAILS], CLASS 2 [REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING STRUCTURES WITH NEW STRUCTURES OF SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME SIZE AND LOCATION], CLASS 4(3) [NEW LANDSCAPING], CLASS 4(12) [MINOR TRENCHING AND BACKFILLING WHERE THE SURFACE IS RESTORED] AND CLASS 11(6) [CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW ACCESSORY STRUCTURES IN EXISTING PUBLIC FACILITIES] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15301(c), 15302, 15304(b), 15304(f) AND 15311 OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz	_____	M. Rudnick	_____
H. Fujita	_____	<i>FJF</i> C. Santo Domingo	<i>DF</i> _____
J. Kim	_____	N. Williams	_____



General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the modification of the scope of work of Elysian Park – Solano Canyon Universal Access Playground, Fitness Equipment, Picnic Area and Restroom Project (PRJ21271) (Project), as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Approve the proposed Project to be bid and constructed through RAP’s list of pre-qualified on-call contractors;
3. Approve the authorization of change orders as authorized under Board Report No. 06-136, for the construction contracts for this Project in the budget contingency amounts for such construction contracts as set forth in this Report;

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4. Approve the modification of the scope of work of the Elysian Park – Adaptive Recreation Center Building and Outdoor Improvements Project (PRJ21278), as described in the Summary of this Report;
5. Determine that the proposed Project located at Solano Canyon (PRJ21271) is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3) [Alterations of existing pedestrian trails], Class 2 [Removal and replacement of existing structures with new structures of substantially the same size and location], Class 4(3) [New landscaping], Class 4(12) [Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored] and Class 11(6) [Construction and installation of new accessory structures in existing public facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(c), 15302, 15304(b), 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;
6. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check in the amount of \$75.00 to the Los Angeles County Clerk for the purpose of filing the NOE; and,
7. Authorize RAP Staff to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

Elysian Park is located at 929 Academy Road and is bordered by the Echo Park, Angelino Heights, Chavez Ravine, Solano Canyon, Chinatown, Lincoln Heights, Cypress Park and Elysian Valley communities of the City. Elysian Park covers 563 acres of parkland and provides a wide array of recreational activities for the use of the surrounding community. An estimated 9,712 City residents live within a one-half (½) mile walking distance of Elysian Park. Due to the size of the park and to the facilities, features, programs, and services it provides, Elysian Park meets the standard for a Regional Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan.

PROJECT SCOPE

On July 13, 2016, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) approved the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between RAP and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) for the transfer of Twelve Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$12,500,000) from LADWP to RAP (Board Report No. 16-165). The funding is for park enhancements in the Elysian Park area.

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On February 20, 2019, the Board approved the scopes of work for various proposed projects in Elysian Park that were identified in partnership with the local community and stakeholders and are proposed to be funded with the funding provided by LADWP (Report No. 19-042).

RAP Staff has determined that it is necessary to modify the existing scope of work for two of the projects that have been previously approved by the Board. This modification of the scope of work is necessary as RAP had determined that it would be appropriate and beneficial to park users to relocate the proposed new Elysian Park splash pad from the Adaptive Recreation Center to Solano Canyon. This change would allow the new splash pad to be constructed adjacent to the new playground and the new restroom building that will be developed in Solano Canyon.

Solano Canyon Universal Access Playground, Fitness Equipment, Picnic Area and Restroom Project (PRJ21271)

The approved scope of work for the Elysian Park – Solano Canyon Universal Access Playground, Fitness Equipment, Picnic Area and Restroom Project (PRJ21271) includes the removal of the old playgrounds and picnic area, the construction of a new Universal Access Playground, construction of new picnic area with shade structure, installation of a fitness equipment area with shade structure, demolition of the existing restroom and construction of a new restroom, improvements to provide accessible path of travel to all new amenities, and adjustments to the existing landscape and irrigation to accommodate the new improvements.

RAP Staff has determined that it is necessary to modify the existing scope of work of this project to include the construction of a new splash pad.

Adaptive Recreation Center Building and Outdoor Improvements Project (PRJ21278)

The approved scope of work for the Elysian Park – Adaptive Recreation Center Building and Outdoor Improvements Project (PRJ21278) includes the renovation of the interior of existing building with a Community Room and Park Ranger Office, adding an exterior pre-fabricated restroom building, construction of an outdoor basketball court, splash pad, skate park and paths of travel.

RAP Staff has determined that it is necessary to modify the existing scope of work of this project to remove the new splash pad.

PROJECT FUNDING

Funding for the proposed projects will be from the Community Parks Enhancement Fund as stated in the executed MOU between RAP and LADWP.

The proposed change in scope will not require any additional funding in order to complete.

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The anticipated pre-qualified on-call contracts for the Elysian Park – Solano Canyon Universal Access Playground, Fitness Equipment, Picnic Area and Restroom Project (PRJ21271) will be for Park Facility Construction. The budget contingency for the Park Facility Construction contracts will be Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00).

FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

Source	Fund/Dept/Acct	Amount	Percentage
Community Parks Enhancement Fund	205/88/88NMAH	\$12,500,000.00	100%
Total		\$12,500,000.00	100%

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

RAP staff has determined that sufficient funding has been identified and construction for the Elysian Park – Solano Canyon Universal Access Playground, Fitness Equipment, Picnic Area and Restroom Project is anticipated to begin in February 2022.

TREES AND SHADE

Per Report No 21-052, the Elysian Park – Solano Canyon Universal Access Playground, Fitness Equipment, Picnic Area and Restroom Project will include integrated shade at the playground and new shade structures at the picnic area.

Additionally, the project will result in the removal of one Chinese Elm (Ulmus parvifolia) tree. That tree will be replaced with a new 36” box tree. The species type and specific planting location of the new 36” box tree is to be determined by RAP Forestry staff.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project located at Solano Canyon (PRJ21271) consists in a change of scope of the Project approved by the Board on February 20 2019 (BR No. 19-042) and includes minor alterations of existing pedestrian trails, removal and replacement of existing structures with new structures of substantially the same size and location, new landscaping, minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored and construction and installation of new accessory structures in existing public facilities.

This site is not within a coastal, methane, or historic zone, so there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern or have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of January 4, 2022, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) has not listed the proposed Project site or any contaminated sites near the proposed Project area (within 500 feet). According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway Map there the project site is 0.5 miles from the Arroyo Seco Freeway, a federally designated scenic highway. Furthermore, the proposed Project is not located in proximity of a known historical resources and will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

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Based on this information, staff recommends that the Board determine that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3), Class 2, Class 4(3), Class 4(12) and Class 11(3) of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(c), 15302, 15304(b), 15304(f), 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon Board's approval

The Adaptive Recreation Center Building and Outdoor Improvements Project (PRJ21278) has not yet been designed. Once a detailed scope of work has been defined, staff will proceed with a CEQA analysis and return to the Board for approval of a CEQA determination.

FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of these projects will have no fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund. The costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are to be funded by the Community Park Enhancements Fund from LADWP.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

Goal No. 1: Provide Safe and Accessible Parks

Outcome No. 2: All parks are safe and welcoming

Result: The proposed improvements in Solano Canyon and the relocation of the splash pad would enhance the park users' experience.

This Report was prepared by Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.