

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

November 24, 2020

Submission of Grant Applications for the MacLaren Community Park Project and Authority to Negotiate and Enter into Lease for Park Project

From the 1960s until the early 2000s, MacLaren Hall operated as a County facility housing foster youth for short-term stays. Since its closure, much of the MacLaren property has been walled off and inaccessible to the community, although parts of the facility remain in use with administrative offices for County departments, a medical clinic, and Alma Family Services.

In 2019, my office along with staff from the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and the City of El Monte (City) initiated efforts to engage the community in shaping a new vision for an unused area of open space at the MacLaren site, up to 4.99 acres in size. Working in collaboration, the County and City have held a series of community workshops to introduce local residents to the proposed project and begin soliciting their ideas and feedback on the design and programming of a new park. In addition, the County and City convened a Community Advisory Committee of key local stakeholders to guide the design and programming of the new park.

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SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

The proposed design for the new park was developed through community-driven design processes that included surveys, discussions, and facilitated workshops. Throughout each of the community engagement sessions, residents expressed their desires and preferences for the design of the space, informing and shaping the conceptual plan for the new park. The community expressed a strong desire for options to support healthy living, requesting such amenities as athletic fields, exercise equipment, and walking areas, as well as areas for picnics and other passive activities, and educational elements such as interpretive signage.

With the adoption of the 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, the Board of Supervisors has affirmed the importance of ensuring that all County residents have access to parks, as a matter of public health and social equity. Parks are the cornerstones of their communities, and they provide far-reaching benefits: improving our physical and mental well-being, strengthening the social fabric and community pride, establishing a sense of place, cleaning the air and water, and boosting the economy. This project would provide much-needed open space and recreational amenities for the El Monte community, which has just 0.4 acres of park space per thousand residents, compared to the average of 3.3 acres per thousand residents in Los Angeles County, according to the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment.

The County and City intend to submit grant applications to the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program (SPP), as well as the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Conservancy's Regionwide Grant Program (RMC), both of which are funded by the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and

Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68). Design and construction costs are eligible to be funded by these grants, and once construction is complete, the City will assume all responsibilities for operating and maintaining the new park. The funds available from the competitive Proposition 68 grant programs represent a historic opportunity to transform this long-underutilized County property into a new open space asset that could provide far-reaching benefits in a community where they are greatly needed.

The proposed actions are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15325 and 15332. The park project will consist of the development of the following amenities on a site of up to approximately 4.99 acres. The amenities will include facilities such as soccer fields (2), softball diamond, basketball court, tennis court, walking path, convenience parking, restrooms, picnic areas, shade structures, outdoor classroom/performance space, ecological/sustainability educational features, children's play areas, exercise stations, water feature, security and field lighting, and other accessory or support uses.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the MacLaren Community Park Project and proposed actions are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under sections 15325 and 15332 of the State CEQA Guidelines, which are applicable to acquisition, sale or other transfer to preserve open space or lands for parks purposes and in-fill development. In addition, based on the proposed project records, the proposed park will comply with all applicable regulations, and it is

not in a sensitive environment and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, damage to scenic highways, listing on hazardous waste site lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, or indications that it may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource that would make the exemptions inapplicable. Upon approval of the recommended actions, the Chief Executive Office will file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk pursuant to section 21152 of the California Public Resources Code.

2. Approve the MacLaren Community Park Project.
3. Adopt the Resolutions authorizing grant applications to the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, respectively, for Proposition 68 funds for the MacLaren Community Park Project.
4. Authorize the Acting Chief Executive Officer, or her designee (CEO), as agent of the County of Los Angeles, to accept grant funds from the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, respectively, and to execute the agreements, conduct all negotiations, and apply for and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, amendments, memoranda of unrecorded grant agreements, deed restrictions, and payment requests which may be necessary for the completion of the proposed project.
5. Find that the portion of the MacLaren property proposed to be leased to the City of El Monte (City) for use by the City as a public park is exempt surplus land pursuant to Government Code section 54221(f)(1)(D), and therefore, not subject

to the requirements for the disposition of surplus land pursuant to the California Surplus Land Act.

6. Pursuant to Government Code section 25550, by unanimous vote, delegate authority to the CEO to negotiate and execute a 30-year gratis ground lease with the City for the unused area of open space at the MacLaren site, up to 4.99 acres in size, with the agreement of the City that it establish, operate, and maintain a public park on the property.
7. Delegate authority to the CEO to negotiate and execute any ancillary documents and exhibits, subject to approval as to form by County Counsel, for transfer of the property to the City for public park purposes.

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HLS:wr:gdm

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND
COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program, setting up necessary procedures governing the application; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, successful Applicants will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the Grant Scope project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors hereby:

**APPROVES THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE MACLAREN
COMMUNITY PARK PROJECT; AND**

1. Certifies that said Applicant has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, the sufficient funds to complete the project; and
2. Certifies that if the project is awarded, the Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project, and
3. Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and
4. Delegates the authority to the Acting Chief Executive Officer, or her designee, to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Grant Scope; and

5. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines; and
6. Will consider promoting inclusion per Public Resources Code §80001(b)(8 A-G).

Approved and adopted the 24th day of November, 2020.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution, Number 79111, was duly adopted by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors following a roll call vote:

Ayes: Supervisors Solis, Ridley-Thomas, Kuehl, Hahn and Barger

Noes: 0

Absent: 0



CELIA ZAVALA, Executive Officer –
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles

By *[Signature]*
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RODRIGO A. CASTRO-SILVA
Acting County Counsel

By *[Signature]*
Senior Assistant County Counsel

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA
DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR
ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (PROPOSITION 68), FOR THE MACLAREN
COMMUNITY PARK PROJECT**

WHEREAS, The people of the State of California have enacted the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68), which provides funds for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, The RMC has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the grant program in its jurisdiction, setting up necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the RMC require the Applicant's Governing Body to certify by resolution the approval of the Application before submission of said Application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant will enter into a contract with the State of California for the Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an Application for local assistance funds from the RMC Proposition 68 Grant Program for the MacLaren Community Park Project (Project) under the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68); and
2. Certifies that the Project is consistent with local or regional land use plans or Programs (or if it is not, that the project is still approved); and
3. Certifies that the Project is consistent with the goals of Proposition 68 developing urban recreation projects and habitat protection or restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities; and
4. Certifies that the Application has or will have sufficient funds to operate and

maintain the Project that is being submitted for funding consideration; and

5. Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed and understands the General Requirements and General Policies of the RMC Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines; and
6. Delegates the authority to the Acting Chief Executive Officer, or her designee, to conduct all negotiations, execute, and submit all documents including, but not limited to Applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the Project.

Approved and adopted the 24th day of November, 2020.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution, Number 79112, was duly adopted by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors following a roll call vote:

Ayes: Supervisors Solis, Ridley-Thomas, Kuehl, Hahn and Barger

Noes: 0

Absent: 0



CELIA ZAVALA, Executive Officer –
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RODRIGO A. CASTRO-SILVA
Acting County Counsel

By [Signature]
Senior Assistant County Counsel

By [Signature]
Deputy