



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

*"Parks Make Life Better!"*

Norma E. García-González, Director

Alina Bokde, Chief Deputy Director

**ADOPTED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

39 November 16, 2021

November 16, 2021

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

CELIA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**DEVIL'S PUNCHBOWL NATURE CENTER REPLACEMENT PLANNING PROJECT  
ESTABLISH CAPITAL PROJECT AND BUDGET  
APPROVE APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT  
CAPITAL PROJECT NO. 69979  
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5) (FISCAL YEAR 2021-22, 4-VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Approval of the recommended actions will establish the proposed Devil's Punchbowl Nature Center Replacement Planning Project, approve the proposed project budget, and approve an appropriation adjustment.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find that the recommended actions are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act because the actions do not meet the definition of a project and for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the actions.
2. Establish the proposed Devil's Punchbowl Nature Center Replacement Planning Project, Capital Project No. 69979, with a total project budget of \$540,000.
3. Approve an appropriation adjustment to reflect a total increase of \$540,000 in appropriation to the Devil's Punchbowl Nature Center Replacement Planning Project, Capital Project No. 69979, offset with revenue from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy grant, to fully fund the proposed Project.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will find that the actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); establish the proposed Devil's Punchbowl Nature Center Replacement Planning Project (Project); and approve the proposed Project budget and Appropriation Adjustment.

## Background

The Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area and Nature Center, located at 28000 Devil's Punchbowl Road, Pearblossom, CA 90553, is a regional, national, and international destination for hikers, naturalists, and schools. It is a unique 1,310-acre geological wonder where visitors can walk, hike, take a horseback ride on a 7.5-mile trail. Visitors can see spectacular up-tilted rock formations created by layers of sedimentary rocks and also explore a landscape of Joshua trees, California Junipers, and Pinyon Pine Woodland while observing the variety of wildlife. The Nature Center was remodeled in 1988 to serve as a critical educational resource to teach visitors about the sensitive habitat, local flora and fauna, and how to be safe in the harsh extremes of the desert.

On September 6, 2020, the Bobcat Fire destroyed over 30,000 acres of land, which included many parts of the Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area, including the Nature Center, a small, roughly 1,000-square-foot wooden structure. On September 13, 2020, pursuant to Government Code sections 8558(b) and 8630 and Los Angeles County Code section 2.68.110, the Chair of the Board proclaimed a local emergency for the Bobcat Fire. The Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area and Nature Center has been closed due to the damage caused by the Bobcat Fire.

In July 2021 the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC)'s Wildfire Prevention grant program awarded a grant in the amount of \$540,000 to the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department). The grant will allow the Department to complete a planning package to build a new nature center at the Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area.

## Project Description

The proposed Project will perform the necessary environmental planning and conceptual design work to create a viable, appropriately-sized, and programmed project to replace the previous Nature Center and other related improvements that were destroyed in the Bobcat Fire. The new Nature Center building will address various site constraints, including the limited supply of fresh water, lack of sewer or wastewater system, and limited capacity of the existing parking lot and entry road. The replacement facility will also include amenities such as benches, shaded rest areas, integration with the existing outdoor classroom (an open space with benches in a semicircular configuration), trail access points, and informational/directional signage. The Department will incorporate fire resilient architecture and best practices for building design, including the use of noncombustible materials for the building exterior. Additionally, the Department will develop new interpretive and educational materials to inform the public about fire safety, defensible space, fire ecology, and other related topics at the new Nature Center. The Department will continue to pursue funding opportunities for the re-construction of the Nature Center.

The Department will use a Board-approved as-needed consultant for the preparation of the appropriate environmental document and associated technical studies, assistance with tribal consultation, community engagement and outreach, conceptual design, and a cost estimate.

Following completion of the appropriate environmental document, the Department will return to the Board for consideration of the environmental document when it recommends approval of the proposed Project, and for implementation of the design, construction, and Project budget.

**Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal to Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities (Goal 2) by providing and improving park facilities countywide.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The total cost for planning and environmental services for the proposed Project is \$540,000. This includes preparation of the appropriate environmental document and associated technical studies, assistance with tribal consultation, community engagement and outreach, conceptual design, and a cost estimate. The proposed Project Schedule and Budget Summary are included in Attachment I.

Approval of the Appropriation Adjustment (Attachment II) will reflect a total increase of \$540,000 in appropriation to the Devil’s Punchbowl Nature Center Replacement Planning Project, Capital Project No. 69979, offset with revenue from the RMC grant to fully fund the proposed Project.

**Operating Budget Impact**

Based on the Project description, the Department does not anticipate additional one-time or ongoing costs for the proposed planning Project.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The RMC has provided the Department with specific guidelines, reports, and expenditure procedures for the administration and management of the grant. Unless an amendment is approved by RMC, the grant performance period ends June 30, 2024.

This proposed Project is for the environmental planning and conceptual design of a replacement Devil’s Punchbowl Nature Center. Future Board approval will be required to adopt the environmental findings and to approve a budget and contract(s) for design and construction of the Devil’s Punchbowl Nature Center. At such a time, 1% of the estimated cost of design services and construction costs (up to \$1 million) will be allocated for the design, construction, integration, acquisition, delivery and conservation of Civic Art consistent with the Civic Art Policy updated and adopted on August 4, 2020.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The proposed actions are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Section 15378 (b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines because the actions are administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

The appropriate environmental document for the proposed Project will be brought to your Board for consideration prior to requesting authorization to construct the proposed Project.

**CONTRACTING PROCESS**

The planning and environmental services for the proposed Project will be provided by a Board-

approved as-needed consultant.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

These actions will have no impact on any other projects or services.

**CONCLUSION**

It is requested that an adopted copy of this document be retained by the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board, one adopted copy each be forward to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and three adopted copies be forwarded to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Should you have any questions please contact Sean Woods at (626) 588-5345 or [swoods@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:swoods@parks.lacounty.gov), Clement Lau at (626) 588-5301 or [clau@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:clau@parks.lacounty.gov), Julie Yom at (626) 588-5311 or [jyom@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:jyom@parks.lacounty.gov), or Kimberly Rios at (626) 588-5367 or [krios@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:krios@parks.lacounty.gov).

Respectfully submitted,



Norma E. Garcia-Gonzalez

Director

NEGG:AB:CK:SW:CL:JY

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**ATTACHMENT I**

**DEVIL'S PUNCHBOWL NATURE CENTER REPLACEMENT PLANNING PROJECT  
ESTABLISH AND APPROVE CAPITAL PROJECT, PROJECT SCOPE,  
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT  
CAPITAL PROJECT NO. 69979  
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5) (4-Votes)**

**I. PROJECT SCHEDULE SUMMARY**

<b>Project Activity</b>	<b>Scheduled Completion Date</b>
Grant Awarded	July 2021
Board Approval	November 2021
Planning Services Commence	December 2021
Planning Document Completion	August 2023
Grant Performance Period Ends	June 2024

**II. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY**

<b>Project Activity</b>	<b>Proposed Project Budget</b>
Construction	
Construction	\$ 0
Change Orders	\$ 0
Youth Employment	\$ 0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
Civic Art	\$ 0
Plans and Specifications	\$ 0
Consultant Services	\$ 540,000
Miscellaneous Expenditures	\$ 0
Jurisdictional Review/Plan Check/Permits	\$ 0
County Services	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 540,000</b>

November 16, 2021

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT**

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:**

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. PLEASE CONFIRM THE ACCOUNTING ENTRIES AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HER RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

**ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFORE**

**FY 2021-22**

**4 - VOTES**

**SOURCES**

**USES**

PARKS AND RECREATION  
 DEVIL'S PUNCHBOWL NATURE CENTER REPLACEMENT PLANNING  
 A01-CP-88-8752-65043-69979  
 STATE-OTHER / CAPITAL PROJECTS  
**INCREASE REVENUE** **540,000**

PARKS AND RECREATION  
 DEVIL'S PUNCHBOWL NATURE CENTER REPLACEMENT PLANNING  
 A01-CP-6014-65043-69979  
 CAPITAL ASSETS - B & I  
**INCREASE APPROPRIATION** **540,000**

**SOURCES TOTAL** \$ **540,000**

**USES TOTAL** \$ **540,000**

**JUSTIFICATION**

Reflects a total increase of \$540,000 in appropriation to the Devil's Punchbowl Nature Center Replacement Planning Project, Capital Project No. 69979, fully offset with revenue from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy grant, to fully fund the proposed Project.

**ADOPTED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

39 NOV 16 2021

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE**

Carolyn Bernardez, Chief Financial Officer

**BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL (AS REQUESTED/REVISED)**

CELIA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR---

ACTION

RECOMMENDATION  
Digitally signed by Lan Sam  
BY **Lan Sam**  
Date: 2021.10.26 10:43:29 -07'00'

APPROVED AS REQUESTED

APPROVED AS REVISED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Matthew J. Diaz**  
Digitally signed by Matthew J. Diaz  
Date: 2021.10.28 07:53:53 -07'00'

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

B.A. NO. **052**

DATE **Oct. 26, 2021**

DATE