



D

Anexo

Comentarios escritos
recibidos

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CONTENTS

FECHA	ORGANIZACIÓN	PÁGINA
July 14, 2017	Our Parks Coalition	3
November 14, 2017	Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force	11
December 22, 2017	Safe Routes to School National Partnership	16
January 10, 2018	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	20
January 31, 2018	City of El Segundo	43
February 2, 2018	AARP California	44
February 5, 2018	The Trust for Public Land	47
February 8, 2018	City of Torrance	51
February 12, 2018	Enterprise Community Partners	53
February 12, 2018	Southeast Asian Community Alliance	57
February 14, 2018	Seven Steering Committee Members	59
February 20, 2018	Enterprise Community Partners	62
February 27, 2018	Community Nature Connection	66
February 28, 2018	Prevention Institute	68
March 5, 2018	Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust	75
March 7, 2018	Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust	77
March 7, 2018	Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust	92
March 8, 2018	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	100
March 8, 2018	Advancement Project	104
March 8, 2018	Advancement Project	108
March 8, 2018	County of Los Angeles Public Health	114
March 29, 2018	Community Conservation Solutions	118
April 12, 2018	City of Long Beach	127
April 12, 2018	Advancement Project	170
April 17, 2018	The Trust for Public Land	174
May 3, 2018	County of Los Angeles Public Health	179
June 11, 2018	Southeast Asian Community Alliance	181
June 16, 2018	The Trust for Public Land	184
July 9, 2018	Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	187
July 9, 2018	City of Long Beach	188
July 9, 2018	Promesa Boyle Heights / InnerCity Struggle	208



July 14, 2017

Jane Beesley
Administrator
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District
510. S Vermont Ave., Room 230
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Re: Measure A Implementation Competitive Grant Program Guideline Development

Dear Administrator Beesley,

On behalf of the OurParks Coalition, we thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and guidance on the development of the funding framework and grant guidelines for Measure A.

The Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment is a critical mechanism to the implementation of Measure A. The Needs Assessment established a framework and set of criteria for identifying park access and park quality gaps throughout the county. As such, OurParks strongly endorses the Needs Assessment as a foundation for efforts towards implementing Measure A.

We also recognize that more work is necessary by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) team and the Measure A Implementation Steering Committee to determine how programmatic-focused funds will be distributed to programs and projects in a manner that ties back into the Needs Assessment by increasing access and serving communities in high and very high need study areas.

Above all, funding must be equity focused and integrate multi-benefit approaches to project design and implementation. We encourage RPOSD to develop a clear framework and granting process that is based on equitable access to high-quality parks and open spaces and that embrace innovation in community engagement, transparency, and ongoing evaluation.

The following recommendations provide specific priorities that we believe are critical to achieving a successful equity-based funding program.

1. Equity

The goal of Measure A is to provide an equitable distribution of resources to meet the needs of Los Angeles County residents through parks and open space projects. The OurParks Coalition defines park equity as all residents of Los Angeles County, regardless of zip code, age, race, or income level, having access to a safe and well-maintained park, playground, garden, or open space within a 10-minute walk from where they live. With this in mind, we recommend the following:

- **Equity-based criteria** need to be developed that allow for the prioritization of funding and planning efforts. In developing such criteria, we encourage RPOSD to clearly define the characteristics of the very high, high, and low need communities outlined in the Needs Assessment, to assist in equitable prioritization and allocation. These criteria should be demonstrated using both data-driven and narrative formats in the application and should weigh the potential to improve social equity and close racial disparities.

Criteria should include, but not be limited to:

- percentage of population that is low-income, non-white, and linguistically isolated;
- median household income;
- percentage of youth and senior citizens;
- additional issues faced by the community including historic and current environmental issues; rates of illness and health disparities; risk for exposure to toxic environments; and the impacts of climate change, specifically extreme heat and flooding.

We also ask that RPOSD consider factors in developing the grant guidelines that help identify who directly benefits from the project and any unanticipated burdens that may be placed upon communities that are being recommended for funding (e.g. displacement).

Some potential factors to consider include:

- numeric disparities based on race, color, national origin, income, and wealth of the community;
 - statistical studies and anecdotal evidence related to need in the community;
 - support of partnerships with organizations that include race and social justice as fundamental to their operations and business practices; and
 - actively involving park-poor, low-income, and communities of color in every step of the development of the guidelines.
- **Environmental justice and health disparities.** Communities that historically and currently face environmental injustices and that are over-burdened by negative health impacts should be prioritized for Measure A funding. Parks and/or proposed park projects that are located in very high or high need communities that also exhibit more than one of the following factors should receive prioritization:

- high rates of crime and low factors of safety as identified and discussed by community members and documented by local crime statistics;
 - overall health of the community as compared to the county-wide average;
 - other physical and environmental health issues that are reported by the community or local agencies;
 - communities that are most at risk to the impacts of climate change with a focus on extreme heat and flooding.
- **Expanded access.** Funding should prioritize communities that have the least amount of *accessible and usable* park and open space acreage. Many factors determine accessibility and usability including: necessary travel time, distance and need for vehicular transportation; physical obstacles such as freeways; the perceived safety of the space; hours of operation and associated costs of entry; recreational amenities available in the space; and the physical appearance and condition of the space. These factors and realities need to be taken into account when determining criteria to ensure equitable park access.

Regional open space acquisition applications should require an access plan that demonstrates who is being served by the project and how access is being provided.

- **Non-traditional recreational spaces.** Many currently park-poor neighborhoods in Los Angeles County are also very dense, with limited available land to develop into park space. In these communities we encourage RPOSD to consider innovative models and projects that increase access to nature and open space through creative solutions including:
 - utilizing publicly owned rights-of-way and vacant spaces such as transmission corridors, alleys, and school yards;
 - expanding the urban forest and integrating public gardens and other natural elements into park-poor communities;
 - provide transit to parks and regional open spaces outside of a direct neighborhood; and
 - provide funding for programs that serve communities from park-poor neighborhoods even if the program itself is not physically located within a park-poor neighborhood.

2. Multi-benefit projects

Every opportunity should be considered when designing new parks or retrofitting existing parks to examine how they can best serve the multiple needs of the region and the communities that depend on them.

Within the grant application, multi-benefit project strategies should be described in narrative format, while remaining data-driven. Additionally, we recommend that RPOSD research best practices in both using data-based tools to support grant application development, as well as

integrating data-driven decision making in the grant selection process. This could include developing a tool based on the Needs Assessment or directing users to existing tools such as the California State Parks Community Fact Finder, CalEnviroScreen, or The Trust for Public Land's Climate Smart Cities Decision Support Tool to supplement Needs Assessment data.

More specifically, in developing criteria for expenditures, RPOSD should prioritize projects that:

- **Integrate multiple objectives**, including: water conservation and supply; water and air quality improvements; flood risk management; greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction; carbon sequestration; heat-island reduction; habitat protection and biodiversity; alternative transportation; urban agriculture; and public health and environmental protection and justice.
- **Leverage opportunities identified in integrated regional planning efforts** (such as the Los Angeles County Climate Action Plan, Watershed Management Plans, the County's Los Angeles Basin Stormwater Conservation Study, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Stormwater Capture Master Plan). No project should be evaluated and designed in a vacuum, but rather planned as part of a comprehensive, data-driven strategy in partnership with regional planners, municipalities, agencies, and local stakeholders.
- **Apply design principles that prioritize sustainability and ease of maintenance.** Plants should be climate-appropriate and have "Low" to "Very Low" water needs, or be a part of the native plant community. They must not be listed in the Cal-IPC Invasive Plants database. The design should conserve the natural features of the site to the greatest extent possible and provide for the continued ecological health of the area, including a preference for native plant material and enhancement of soil health.
- **Utilize carbon negative materials and construction practices.** Project planners should minimize the cost of construction, installation, and operation and maintenance by using: gravity flow rather than pumped flow; living filtration over synthetic/mechanical filtration; and living surface infiltration instead of piped drainage. Where possible, projects should avoid the use of carbon intensive Portland cement and utilize low-albedo materials for any hardscapes. Priority should be given to pervious surfaces over impervious surfaces. Parking areas should include adequate tree canopy using appropriate native tree species, and should be designed to manage a 5-year storm without creating off-site nuisance flow.
- **Mimic natural processes.** Planners should include sufficient spaces for healthy, living soils and native vegetation to sequester carbon, reduce runoff water volume and pollutant load, provide shading and cooling, and enhance wildlife habitat and sense of place. Where feasible, projects should direct off-site runoff into the park space, employ visible grading and contour practices that maximize stormwater capture and infiltration,

and daylight channelized subsurface flows. Native landscapes that have local sources of water enhance natural habitat and reduce the need for imported water and costly drainage conveyance infrastructure.

- **Support local water supply strategies that measurably reduce GHG emissions, climate change impacts, and reliance on water imports.** Parks and open spaces should be considered as green infrastructure. Projects should incorporate stormwater management to reduce energy intensive water imports for irrigation through rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and efficient irrigation practices. These methods are cost-effective, resilient to changes in climate, and benefit local communities and ecosystems.
 - **Outdoor water.** Parks should use stormwater and other non-potable sources as primary irrigation sources. They should feature water-efficient landscape and irrigation strategies, including water harvesting, reuse and recycling, to reduce outdoor potable water consumption by a minimum of 50 percent over that consumed by conventional practices. Planners should employ design and construction strategies that reduce stormwater and polluted site water runoff.
 - **Indoor water.** Parks should incorporate strategies that in aggregate reduce potable water use by a minimum of 20 percent below the indoor water use baseline calculated for the building, after meeting the Energy Policy Act of 1992 fixture performance requirements.
 - **Potable water.** Drinking water needs to be available in Los Angeles County parks near restrooms, libraries, most information booths, and on trail heads when water access is available. Existing fountains need to be assessed and tested for lead in pipes and replaced when water flow is compromised. New bottle refill stations need to be installed where locations have high pedestrian use. Tap water education should be supported through interpretive signage where possible.
- **Maximize educational interpretive opportunities.** The benefits of green infrastructure practices are ecological, economic, and social. Park and open space projects should actively engage users with strategies and best practices being deployed through the use of interpretive features and programming so that they may see, understand, appreciate, and replicate the many benefits being provided.
- **Integrate urban nature.** This includes projects that protect existing natural areas or areas that have significant habitat value, or projects that are helping to remove invasive weeds and restore a site with plants that have value to pollinators or food for wildlife. Native or habitat-friendly plants that support overall ecosystem function and that help to provide habitat value such as shade, food, and hiding spaces should be prioritized.
- **Employ a comprehensive approach.** A park's composition should be comprehensive and promote many healthful benefits so as to ensure that these many benefits extend beyond its boundaries to the surrounding community. When possible, public grounds

should be connected by greenways, including alternative transportation ways and boulevards so as to extend and maximize park spaces, and improve the integrity and resiliency of ecological corridors.

3. Community investment

We believe strongly that Measure A funds should strive to benefit the existing community, through investments and protections where possible. To this end we recommend the following:

- **Local hiring.** Where possible and feasible, funding programs should include a requirement that grantees identify and clearly articulate how they will include local hiring and/or youth training for project implementation. This could include partnering with the local conservation corps. Applicants should include a letter demonstrating their intent to partner with the conservation corps or other specific details on how they will work with the community to integrate local hire requirements into their construction process.
- **Anti-displacement.** Grant programs like the Transformative Climate Communities program require anti-displacement planning as part of the funding application. We recognize that this may not be feasible for smaller grant amounts. We recommend that RPOSD consider a funding threshold at which a formal community displacement planning effort is required.

4. Community engagement

Planning for a project should include deep community engagement that encourages marginalized populations to participate in the funding process as active decision makers in their communities. Applicants should be required to describe in detail their approach to community engagement and the ways the project addresses community priorities. Outreach should be tailored to the needs of individual communities, consist of a range of different techniques, and be conducted in locations and at times that are convenient for community residents. Translation, childcare, and food should be provided where appropriate. If necessary, workshops or technical assistance for community outreach should be provided to ensure that applicants have the tools to develop and implement a robust engagement plan.

Additionally, we encourage RPOSD to support the development of innovative partnerships through the distribution of grant funding. By thinking outside the box, grant programs can ensure community needs are met by involving organizations that truly represent the communities receiving funding.

5. Program evaluation

The Needs Assessment was an important tool to help determine the areas of greatest park need in the county, however there is still more work to be done around developing further and deeper community planning initiatives. We recommend that RPOSD create a **Technical Advisory Committee** (TAC) to be facilitated by RPOSD and including diverse representation of park and open space stakeholders throughout the county. The TAC will:

- provide technical assistance support;

- help to monitor the success of the grant program through setting numeric equity-based goals for local parks, beaches, open space, and water resources, as well as for efficiency, conservation, and sustainability of the grant program;
- course correct if needed to ensure funding is reaching and having an impact in high-need communities;
- identify and provide support for issues associated with displacement, ensuring they are being addressed up-front and throughout the entire project implementation process;
- ensure accountability and transparency of Measure A funding; and
- provide input during updates of the Needs Assessment.

Moreover, we recommend that RPOSD includes on the TAC a diverse set of stakeholders with expertise in:

- housing and urban development,
- environmental justice,
- economic development,
- anti-displacement policy,
- conservation,
- ecology and biology,
- botany,
- climate science, and
- community engagement.

Once the TAC has established equity-based numeric goals for local parks, beaches, open space, and water resources, we recommend that RPOSD create a **report card** to clearly communicate to the public how Measure A funds are being spent. The report card should include equitable development monitoring to report on community wellbeing and displacement risk, as well as track progress in community investments.

The report card should be based on annual evaluation and be used as an adaptive management tool to adjust the competitive programs, ensuring goals are being met across the region. Evaluation is an opportunity to do the following:

- reassess project selection criteria, taking into account how impactful the funding is being;
- ensure a balance of types of services by service area;
- analyze distribution of funding; and
- allow opportunities for applicants to provide feedback.

Finally, we would like to reinforce the need for RPOSD to comply with state and federal laws on equal access to publicly funded resources, including parks and recreation programs, and the need for RPOSD to ensure recipients of Measure A funding comply with these laws when relevant and applicable to parks. Our nation was founded on the ideal that all of us are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Fortunately, we know what works to keep all communities healthy and green and to ensure equal access to parks and recreation. This is how people achieved the community victories to create and protect the Kenneth Hahn Recreation

Center in the Baldwin Hills, Los Angeles State Historic Park, Río de Los Angeles State Park, and Los Angeles River revitalization. These laws include, for example, California Government Code 11135 and its regulations, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its regulations, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Fair Housing Act, the President's Executive Order 12898 on environmental justice and health, and others.

It is our hope that a focus on delivering projects does not come at the expense of ensuring those projects advance multi-benefit goals; the guidelines must include an emphasis on planning and project development. A significant amount of support for Measure A was premised on its progressive vision for parks and open space as critical green infrastructure and the need to close the gap for severely impacted communities with little or no access to parks or open space. We believe the suggestions provided will help ensure the promises of Measure A are fulfilled.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide guidance on the implementation of Measure A. We look forward to working with the RPOSD team to ensure Measure A funding is distributed in a way that considers equity, justice, and environmental benefit.

Sincerely,

The #OurParks Coalition Core Team

#OurParks is convened by Audubon at Debs Park, Bruce Saito, The City Project, Community Nature Connection, Friends of the Los Angeles River, From Lot to Spot, Heal the Bay, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, San Gabriel Mountains Forever, TreePeople, The Trust for Public Land, and The Wilderness Society.



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November 14, 2017

Jane Beesley, District Administrator
LA County Regional Park and Open Space District
c/o Department of Parks and Recreation
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ADDRESSING LA COUNTY HEALTH INEQUITIES THROUGH MEASURE A GUIDELINES

Dear Ms. Beesley:

We write today in regards to the development of guidelines for allocating funds from the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Protection Measure of 2016 (Measure A). The LA County Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force recognizes Measure A as an historic opportunity to address significant inequities in health outcomes through attention to the distribution of park and recreation facilities throughout the County. Comprised of public health experts, healthcare providers, academics, and executives from local, state, and national organizations, the Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force (hereafter, “Task Force”) is an advisory body comprised of 25 community leaders. Members are appointed by the LA County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Public Health. Formed in 2015, the Task Force advises the Board on priority health and safety concerns and provides guidance on primary strategies for improving population health and promoting healthy, equitable communities.

As public health experts, we know that creating the conditions to ensure health starts long before any of us gets to the doctor’s office or a hospital. It starts, for the most part, in our neighborhoods and is based on the resources and opportunities that are available to people in their daily lives. Additionally, there is overwhelming research confirming the strong link between park access and health outcomes.¹ As such, the Task Force is highly invested in the implementation of Measure A, particularly as it relates to the allocation of funds to areas of the County marked by

Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force Members:

Sonya Young Aadam · Manal Aboelata · Mayra Alvarez · Tamika Butler · Melinda Cordero-Bárzaga
Michael Cousineau · Veronica Flores · Michelle Fluke · Cathy Friedman · Mark Glasscock
Nancy Halpern Ibrahim · Mary Lee · Virginia Lee · Joan Ling · Jim Mangia
Megan McClaire · Denise Miller · Lauren Nakano · Elisa Nicholas
Ashlee Oh · Luis Pardo · Maryjane Puffer · Margaret Smith
Rosa Soto · Benjamin Torres

overlapping high park need and poor health outcomes. It is the view of this Task Force that improving the health of LA County residents requires the participation, commitment, and dedicated resources of all County Agencies, including the Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD). Given the voters' overwhelming mandate for quality of life on the November 2016 ballot and a specific call to address park need in the case of Measure A, RPOSD can play a pioneering role in narrowing the health equity gap in LA County.

Too many LA County residents do not have reasonable access to safe parks, trails, or open spaces in or near their neighborhoods. In fact, according to the 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, nearly 5.3 million LA County residents live in a community deemed to be in 'Very High Need' or 'High Need' of new parks and park improvements. Of these 5.3 million people, nearly 82% are estimated to be people of color,² which correlates with the unconscionable 15-year life expectancy gap across the county communities, ranging from 75.8 years in Sun Village to 90.5 in Walnut Park.³ For comparison, this is the roughly the same life expectancy gap as between the United States and the Congo - and it is completely preventable.⁴

Simply put, those without adequate access to parks—communities of color and those living in the Very High Need and High Need Study Areas—are getting sicker and dying sooner than their higher income, white counterparts who have abundant parks and open space.⁵ Based on our review of the data and analysis of past and current park funding policies, we have reached a conclusion that the current system of park funding and processes for resource allocation need to profoundly change to close the gap in health outcomes and park inequities across neighborhoods, racial and ethnic groups, and income levels.

As highlighted in the Department of Public Health's May 2016 Parks and Public Health report, prioritizing resources for park expansion and improvement in communities with less park access (and in cities which have had less municipal park spending) is a critical strategy for the County to better ensure livability, sustainability and the conditions critical to health for all residents in the County.

In developing guidelines for Measure A fund allocation, we specifically encourage RPOSD to pursue the following:

1. In scoring criteria for all competitive grant applications, award points to applications that explicitly work to improve health outcomes for people who currently have poorer health status and address health inequities.
2. Set aside no less than 30% of all competitive grant funding for projects located in Very High and High Need Study Areas.
3. Encourage all agencies receiving Measure A non-competitive funding to develop spending plans that incorporate strategies to address park access gaps in communities suffering from poor health outcomes.
4. Develop a culturally-competent technical assistance program that supports and nurtures park project and systems-level capacity in the Very High and High Need Study Areas.

5. Create measurable and observable standards for participatory community engagement guidelines that ensure the planning and design of new parks and park improvements are driven by local residents and community groups and utilize evidence-based best practices in engagement.
6. Build knowledge and awareness of the entire Measure A Implementation Steering Committee regarding the health equity opportunity. Consider a training on the links between health equity and park equity by LA County Department of Public Health and partner organizations.
7. Maintain a steadfast commitment to the results and methodology of the LA Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, honoring the voters' intent to prioritize resources in Very High and High Need Study Areas. Do not create a new methodology for the Park Needs Assessment that would impede RPOSD and the Department's ability to demonstrate positive improvements over the baseline as the grants are awarded.

All of us aspire to live in a place with bountiful opportunities to get outdoors, be physically active, enjoy green spaces and achieve optimal health over our lifetimes. However, those living in High and Very High Need Study Areas have not been able to match their aspirations with opportunity. Inequities in park access and disparate health outcomes exist within a larger context of environmental injustice and racism. In Los Angeles County, communities of color have not received the same level of investments and have for far too long been deemed low-value enough to deprive entire communities of resources. Further, policies, programs, and processes that determine the quality of life of communities along racial, ethnic, and income lines have been a primary driver of the gaps in park need and health outcomes we see today. As it stands today, a park system that fails communities of color, particularly those living in High Need and Very High Need Study Areas, fails everyone. RPOSD in its responsibility has the authority to set the direction of all other park investment going forward and is well positioned to reverse injustice and remedy past and current harm.

Our obligations to health and justice aside, the longer we wait to address the gap in park need, the more costly it becomes for LA County. According to analysis of health expenditure data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, chronic disease is costing LA County nearly \$25.4 billion dollars every year.⁶ Significant costs to the LA County health system, including those arising from asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, depression, and arthritis could be reduced with comparatively modest, sustained, targeted investment in High Need and Very High Need Study Areas where the incidence of these chronic diseases is most pronounced. This targeted investment could also significantly reduce costs incurred by County agencies charged with leading work in criminal justice, environmental sustainability, community economic development, social services, and property tax, not to mention an important support for addressing the homelessness crises on the frontlines.

Measure A is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address significant population health challenges with an important needs-based funding strategy. While this work is not easy, the need for our best and responsive policy making is essential to the health and survival of millions of County residents. The Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force is prepared and equipped to support RPOSD in navigating the path ahead and assuming a national role in health

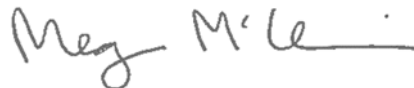
equity leadership. We strongly encourage RPOSD to assert that public health is a foundational principle of its work. Real, transformational change is possible, and our Task Force – and the constituents we represent – stand united in encouraging the County to pursue needs-based funding strategies for equitable Measure A implementation. We applaud RPOSD in all the steps it has taken thus far to administer parks and open space infrastructure dollars and we urge its bold leadership and collaborative partnership with the County Departments of Public Health and Parks and Recreation to accelerate the pace at which we narrow preventable gaps in health, associated with observable gaps in park quality and access.

Measure A presents a significant opportunity to learn from the past and invest in the people and places that have borne the brunt of injustices. In many parts of the County, children are forced to play in streets, alleys, and vacant lots—or not at all—because there is no safe park nearby. On behalf of the Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force, we stand ready to work with you so that Measure A is implemented in a way that sets LA County on the fastest, most strategic track toward a future when every child can play in a park regardless of their race, ethnicity, income, or neighborhood.

Respectfully submitted,



Manal J. Aboelata, MPH
Co-Chair



Megan McClaire, MSPH
Co-Chair

Members: Sonya Young Aadam, California Black Women's Health Project
Manal Aboelata, Prevention Institute
Mayra Alvarez, The Children's Partnership
Tamika Butler, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
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Denise Miller, Glendale Adventist Medical Center
Lauren Nakano, Beach Cities Health District
Elisa Nicholas, The Children's Clinic
Ashlee Oh, Korean American Health Coalition
Luis Pardo, Worksite Wellness LA

Maryjane Puffer, The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
Margaret Smith, Policy Council, Los Angeles County Office of Women's Health
Rosa Soto, LAC+USC Medical Center
Benjamin Torres, Community Development Technologies Center

c: Board of Supervisors
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director, LA County Department of Public Health
John Wicker, Director, LA County Department of Parks and Recreation
Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force

¹ Mowen, A. Parks, Playgrounds and Active Living. A Research Synthesis. Princeton, NJ: Active Living Research, a National Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; February 2010. Available from: www.activelivingresearch.org.

² Data from 2010 Census and 2014 American Communities Survey.

³ Burd-Sharps, Lewis, et al. Highway to Health, Life Expectancy in LA County. 2017.

⁴ World Health Statistics 2016, World Health Organization.

⁵ Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Parks and Public Health in Los Angeles County: A Cities and Communities Report. May 2016.

⁶ Brown, Paul M, et al. Cost of Chronic Disease in California: Estimates at the County Level. Journal of Public Health Management & Practices: January/February 2015 – Volume 21 – Issue 1.

December 22, 2017

Ms. Jane Beesley
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District
c/o Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Avenue, Room 230
Los Angeles, CA 90020

RE: Comments on Measure A Draft Grant Guidelines

Dear Ms. Beesley,

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership thanks the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) for the opportunity to provide comments on the Measure A Draft Grant Guidelines (Guidelines). We also appreciate the leadership of the Measure A Implementation Steering Committee (Steering Committee) and effort to sustain an inclusive discussion space for stakeholders to debate implementation approaches.

With recent of passage of Measure A, in addition to Measure M and Measure H, Los Angeles County (LA County or County) is in the midst of a historic period of opportunity to re-envision how we cohesively plan for sustainable communities. If investments through these measures are strategic and aligned, there is great potential to connect active transportation, park and open space accessibility, and community integration like never before seen in LA County. This opportunity to uplift residents is especially true among the many high need and underserved areas, which for too long have remained unheard and disconnected from resources—parks, open space, and opportunities to walk and bike safely—that are vital to their quality of life.

We are encouraged that equitable allocation is identified in the Los Angeles Countywide Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment (Park Needs Assessment) as a fundamental pillar of how planning and funding decisions are formulated. Through this lens of equity prioritization, we are sending this comment letter to emphasize a few points that we believe are critical to the ultimate outcomes and success of Measure A investments for our region.

Draft Grant Guidelines: Funding

1. Prioritize Enrollment and Eligibility Procedures (p. 6) that are supportive of nonprofit organizations (NPO) deeply rooted in community empowerment and with proven success of operating in the County. Local groups with commitments to community development likely have goals that align with Measure A and should be encouraged to make connections as to how planning related to parks and accessibility can further their missions. Furthermore, the requirements should be mindful of challenges faced by NPOs

with limited resources and staff capacity and to the best extent feasible reduce barriers for entry to participate in Measure A.

2. The Technical Assistance Program (TAP) is a critical component of the equitable implementation of Measure A. Ensure that the TAP is well-promoted, accessible and create a strategy to help prospective applicants to determine eligibility. As specific program elements continue to be developed for the TAP, there must be prioritization for flexible strategies that elevate capacity building for NPOs. Simply having knowledge of the TAP's availability could make the difference between a NPOs assessment of whether or not pursuing Measure A is feasible, so it is in the best interest of supporting community-driven projects to openly and widely encourage participation in the TAP. Overall, the TAP should be streamlined and not overly complicated, with the goal to create an education environment for applicants to learn and succeed for years to come.
3. The National Recreation and Parks Association and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership developed a comprehensive [Safe Routes to Parks Action Framework](#) that provides professionals with a “how-to” guide to implement safe routes to parks strategies¹. When successful, safe routes to parks projects enable access that is safe, equitable, and bound by community cohesion. Improving safe access to parks also maximizes usage of parks by nearby residents. To take advantage of this approach and available guidance resources, include language about safe routes to parks throughout the Guidelines. Specific areas of the Guidelines to address include:
 - a. Annual Allocations—identify safe routes to parks under the Project Types list for Category 1 (p. 15) and Category 2 (p. 17), and Category 4 (p. 22).
 - b. Competitive Grants—identify safe routes to parks under the Project Types list for General Competitive (Category 4) (p. 32), County Cultural Facilities (Category 4) (p. 38), and Recreation Access (Categories 3 & 4) (p. 43).
4. We support the approach in the Evaluation Criteria to award the highest point weight to projects that address very high and high levels of need. The Evaluation Criteria for the Competitive Grants can be enhanced by incorporating stronger emphasis on safety through improved accessibility conditions and encouraging the strategic leveraging of existing planning and policy. Specific areas of the Guidelines to address include:
 - a. Public Safety—expand upon the definition to encourage projects that decrease vehicular collisions and support improved safety conditions for pedestrians and

¹ For more information, please see the National Recreation and Parks Association report on understanding obstacles limiting walkability to parks and an overview of the essential elements of a safe route to park—[Safe Routes to Parks: Improving Access to Parks through Walkability](#).

cyclists to access parks and open space facilities for General Competitive (Category 3) (p. 30), General Competitive (Category 4) (p. 36), County Cultural Facilities (Category 4) (p. 41), and Recreation Access (Categories 3 & 4) (p. 45).

- b. Leveraging of existing planning and policy—all categories of the Competitive Grants should encourage and reward projects that leverage existing planning and policy documents beyond only the Park Needs Assessment. Successful park planning involves consideration of numerous factors, such as transportation and accessibility, safety conditions, public health, and adjacent community attributes, among others. At the regional, county, and local levels, there already exists a range of planning and policy documents to address active transportation, safety, and sustainability. It is the best interest of Measure A's intent to develop multi-beneficial projects to reward competitive grants that leverage and implement these existing plans and policies.
5. The proposed Community Engagement Requirements approach is strategic in its aim to streamline a process made complex by limited resources and a range of historical input throughout areas highlighted by the Park Needs Assessment. We recommend that overall the Guidelines place emphasis on the quality of community engagement being implemented and prioritize strong oversight to ensure that historically disenfranchised communities throughout the County are not overlooked. As such, participatory engagement—the process of identifying community needs, creating shared vision, and empowering community buy-in for project sustainability—must be prioritized throughout all stages of a project. Having these standards in place will hopefully lead efficient project delivery, and more importantly, projects that are equitably representative of communities throughout LA County.

Draft Grant Guidelines: Grantmaking Policy

1. A continued focus on supporting very high and high need areas should drive policy decisions to ensure that equity is at the forefront of all aspects of Measure A's implementation. This is especially crucial in the development of the Oversight and Innovation Policy and Measurement and Evaluation Policy. While consensus on implementation of a comprehensive program like Measure A is difficult to reach, periodic measurement of project outcomes are needed to ensure stakeholder commitments outlined in the County's Park Needs Assessment—which were the catalyst for Measure A's development—are being fulfilled.

Additional Comments

1. Increase the narrative throughout the Guidelines around the goal to achieve multi-beneficial outcomes in all aspects of Measure A. There is need to further highlight how

increased accessibility to parks and open space is only one component of strategic, equitable, and effective park and community planning. Measure A is a complex approach to reconfiguring a park planning system in the County that for decades has excluded a range of crucial stakeholders. To be successful, there must be prioritization around being inclusive of all stakeholders beyond only the immediate park planning sector to create holistic sustainable outcomes.

2. Building off of the previous comment, the Guidelines must better address and look to incorporate planning and implementation strategy around concurrent countywide Measures, such as, Measure M and Measure H. There is no mention of Measure M or Measure H in the Guidelines, both of which are equally important if the region is to be successful in creating communities that coordinate around active transportation, park and open space accessibility, and community services—and to maximize the impact of taxpayer dollars. Coordination on specific ongoing planning efforts would also be beneficial as, for example, the LA County Department of Public Health is developing a Vision Zero Action Plan for unincorporated LA County, and the LA County Chief Sustainability Office is developing Sustain LACo.

Furthermore, the lack of discussion at Steering Committee meetings regarding these concurrent funding programs is concerning. There must be better recognition of the need for alignment on these strategies in the future.

3. The success of the Park Funding 102 meetings demonstrates the appetite throughout the County for access to parks, and more crucially, community desire to be a part of the planning process. Consider hosting additional educational meetings in high need areas in the future to further deconstruct barriers of exclusivity in the planning process. In addition, consider how lessons learned at these meetings can be distilled into resources for community members to self-educate.

We appreciate the guidance of RPOSD throughout this process, in addition to the opportunity to participate in Steering Committee meetings and provide comments on the Measure A Draft Grant Guidelines. We look forward to the completion of strategic and equitable Guidelines that will ensure a more accessible park and open space future for LA County residents. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to Andrew Pasillas, at andrew@saferoutespartnership.org or by phone (562) 857-7590.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Pasillas, Southern California Regional Policy Manager
Safe Routes to School National Partnership

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 10, 2018
TO: Jane Beesley
FROM: Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer
RE: Comments on the draft Evaluation Criteria for Categories 3 & 4 General Competitive Grants

- 1) **The highest point value criteria should be those that reflect the priorities as stated in the measure.** A new section of scoring criteria called “Category Priorities” is suggested (see proposed rubric at end of memo).
 - a. Category 3: Highest criteria should be those that measure the improvement and protection of open space, watersheds and water resources.
 - b. Category 4: Highest criteria should be those that measure the improvement and protection of regional recreational facilities, trails and accessibility projects.
- 2) The specific criteria under Category 3’s “Regional Benefits” do not reflect any of the regional benefits identified as the purpose for the funding category, and **the Regional Benefits criteria need to be completely revised.** The underlying assumption (of the draft criteria) that a facility/amenity must be the only one of its kind within a x-mile radius to have a regional benefit is erroneous. Furthermore, that does not even make sense for open space acquisition and watershed protection projects.
- 3) **The Multi-Benefit criteria in Categories 3 and 4 should closely reflect the types of benefits identified in the measure itself,** and those which are relevant to open space, watershed and water resources projects (for Cat. 3) and those which are relevant to regional recreational facilities, trails and accessibility projects (for Cat. 4).
- 4) Level of Need should not be the highest point value of criteria. The draft guidelines already propose a significant set-aside for projects in VH and H Study Areas, so a project’s location should not be an evaluation criteria at all. **Investment in these areas is already ensured. Only the applicant’s plan for how the project will serve the populations of VH and H Study Areas should be scored.**
 - a. If sub-areas are referenced in the evaluation criteria, the minimum population for a sub-area to qualify should be raised to 25,000 people (up from 5,000).
- 5) A progressive policy for community outreach is already going to be required for all projects, and therefore should not be an evaluation criteria. **The criteria for Community Involvement should be eliminated entirely for Categories 3 and 4.**

- 6) **The Park Facility/Amenity conditions evaluation criteria should be eliminated from Categories 3 and 4, as this does not reflect the language of the measure for these categories.** The relative value of making improvements to existing facilities can be evaluated as part of other criteria, such as regional benefit, economic benefit, and/or urgency. This is also not applicable for open space acquisition projects.
- 7) **The Leveraging of Funds criteria in Category 3 should be revised to become an evaluation of a project’s total economic aspects,** which is not limited to matching funds. Other things to consider include cost-effectiveness, relative value, and where applicable, employment impacts. Similar criteria should be added to Category 4.
- 8) **A new criteria for “Urgency” should be added to Categories 3 and 4.** This would evaluate a project’s timeliness, and is particularly important for projects that include open space acquisition.
- 9) **The Creativity, Place-Making and Design criteria for Category 3 should be eliminated.** This can be considered with a new multiple-benefit criterion for “Innovation”. This criterion is not even applicable for open space acquisition projects.

Suggested Evaluation Criteria:

Category 3, Natural Lands, Open Spaces and Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Watersheds Protection:

40 Category Priorities (5 criteria worth 0-8 pts each)

- a. Public Access and Regional Benefit
- b. Ecosystem Protection and Watershed Health
- c. Connectivity and Accessibility
- d. Water Quality, Supply and Conservation
- e. Climate Resiliency and GHG Reductions

40 Multiple Benefits (5 criteria worth 0-8 pts each)

- a. Habitat and Biodiversity Protection
- b. Recreation (*note, do not limit to only “active” recreation*)
- c. Interpretation and Education
- d. Innovation
- e. Consistency with Regional Plans

10 Service and benefits to populations of VH and H areas

5 Economic Benefits

5 Urgency

100 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE

Suggested Evaluation Criteria:

Category 4, Regional Recreational Facilities, Multi-use Trails and Accessibility Program:

40 Category Priorities (4 criteria worth 0-10 pts each)

- a. Public Access and Regional Benefit
- b. Recreation (*note, do not limit to only “active” recreation*)
- c. Connectivity
- d. Accessibility

40 Multiple Benefits (8 criteria worth 0-5 pts each)

- a. Habitat and Biodiversity Protection
- b. Ecosystem Protection and Watershed Health
- c. Interpretation and Education
- d. Climate Resiliency and GHG Reductions
- e. Water Quality, Supply and Conservation
- f. Public Safety
- g. Innovation
- h. Consistency with Regional Plans

10 Service and benefits to populations of VH and H areas

5 Economic Benefits

5 Urgency

100 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE

2. Policies

2.1 OVERVIEW

In consultation with the Measure A Implementation Steering Committee, RPOSD has developed a set of policies to guide administration of Measure A funds.

2.2 GRANTMAKING POLICY

RPOSD recognizes the importance of lowering barriers to accessing and administering Measure A funds in order to meet the park need of all residents of Los Angeles County. Measure A already includes formula-based funding allocation models, particularly in Categories 1 and 2, with Category 2 focused on high and very high need communities. This will help to ensure that a portion of funds are utilized in the areas with the highest need. RPOSD has the following grantmaking policies in place for accessing and administering Measure A Funds:

- **Targeting Funds** – A portion of competitive grant funds will be designated for projects in High or Very High Need Study Areas, or serving residents of High or Very High Need Study Areas. The portion of funds to be targeted is initially set at 30%. This percent will be evaluated periodically and may increase or decrease in future years. At a minimum, the following grant programs will have targeted funds:

- Category 3 – General Grants
- Category 4 – General Grants

Additional competitive grant programs may include targeted funds in future years.

- **Project Types** – Every competitive grant program will fund project types that are in and/or serve High and Very High Need Study Areas. Descriptions of each competitive grant program will provide examples of project types that could occur in and/or serve High and Very High Need communities.
- **Evaluation Criteria** – All competitive grant programs will include a “Level of Park Need” evaluation criteria. This criterion will consider whether or not a project is in a High or Very High Need Study Area, if it serves a High or Very High Need Study Area, and if it is located in a High or Very High Need sub-area.
- **Long-Range Planning** – Measure A funding will be consistent with each Study Area’s long-range park planning documents, such as Parks Master Plan, community plan or other adopted planning document.
- **Community Engagement** – RPOSD will require appropriate community involvement and engagement for all projects funded by Measure A.

but the programs will not be limited to these project types.

Level of Need based on a map should not be an evaluation criteria. It is overly simplistic to assume that a project's location ensures that it serves a need. This criteria should be modified to evaluate an applicant's plan to provide public access that serves and benefits residents of H and VH study areas.

3. Funding Guidelines

3.1 OVERVIEW

The Measure A grant program is made up of various funding categories, including both non-competitive and competitive grants, Maintenance & Servicing (M&S) funds, and Planning & Design Funds. Non-competitive grants include annual allocations to local agencies countywide, while competitive grants are made up of five different grant categories, each with different funding amounts, requirements, and evaluation criteria for projects or programs. This chapter contains details, guidelines, and requirements on Measure A's funding categories.

This chapter does not contain information about Program Innovation & Oversight funding, which includes the Technical Assistance Program (TAP). For more information about the TAP, see Chapter 5.

3.1.1 CALENDAR FOR CURRENT FUNDING CYCLE

3.1.1.1 ANNUAL ALLOCATIONS

Annual allocations will be available to those qualified agencies that have completed enrollment beginning in July 2018. Agencies can submit applications for their annual allocation funds at any time in the calendar year, except during specified blackout periods (refer to Chapter 1, Introduction, for additional detail).

Although there may be exceptions, processing times for annual allocations will be as follows:

- 6 to 8 weeks from submission of completed enrollment documents to notification of eligibility
- 6 to 8 weeks from submission of completed application to notice of grant award

3.1.1.2 COMPETITIVE GRANTS CALENDAR

Competitive grants will be available beginning in 2019. The following tables indicate the timetable for each competitive grant program.

Regarding the overall competitive grants calendar, the 4-year cycle does not work for land acquisition projects--no willing seller is going to wait for 3 years. There is absolutely no reason that open space projects can't be bonded. The District selects the project and then issues the bond, proceeds of which are immediately used (no 3-year arbitrage issue) to purchase the property. The project is then completed. The case for bonding open space projects is especially strong because the useful life of this kind of capital asset--generations into the future--vastly exceeds the useful life of many recreation and park type projects; e.g., what is the useful life of plastic play equipment in local parks? In the case for open space acquisition, spreading the value over many years makes sense--future generations will benefit and pay, whereas the argument for play equipment isn't so strong.

Requirements for enrollment are detailed below based on whether the requirements apply to all agencies or organizations or a specific type of agency or organization.

How will an agency know if grants are not in good standing?

3.2.2.1 ALL AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

All agencies and organizations are required to satisfy the following as part of the enrollment process:

- **Verify Good Standing on Open RPOSD Grants.** If agencies/organizations have open grants with RPOSD, these grants must be in “good standing” in order for agencies to establish eligibility. Good standing means the grant project is in progress and on track to be completed on schedule and within budget.
- **Review and Accept RPOSD Contract Terms.** Applicants must review RPOSD contract terms and conditions through the online portal and determine their ability to meet the terms. Should an applicant object to any of the contract terms or conditions, they shall document the portion(s) of the contract that are unacceptable, identify why they are unacceptable, and submit revised contract language. If the District and applicant cannot come to an agreement on the contract terms, it may be determined that the applicant is ineligible to apply for grant funds.
- **Attend an Enrollment Meeting.** RPOSD will facilitate in-person meetings and online webinars to introduce applicants to the administrative processes required to secure Measure A funds. Enrollment meetings will be held annually at a centrally located venue in each of the five Supervisorial Districts and will also be offered as an online webinar, accessible throughout the year. Attendance will be automatically verified by RPOSD upon completion of the meeting.
- **Request Technical Assistance.** Once eligibility is established, applicants may indicate whether they desire technical assistance to complete grant applications or develop projects. RPOSD staff will work closely with those applicants that request technical assistance. See Chapter 5 to learn more about the Technical Assistance Program (TAP).

3.2.2.2 PUBLIC AGENCIES

Public agencies are required to satisfy the following as part of the enrollment process:

- **Verify Jurisdiction Support.** Public agencies must demonstrate proof of support to receive and administer Measure A grant funds from an authorized representative. Appropriate support may come from the head of the applying department (e.g., Parks and Recreation department head, City Council, Board of Directors, etc.), or other appropriate by applicant.
- **Review and Update Park Needs Assessment Inventory Data.** Public agencies must verify the accuracy of the agency’s inventory data in the Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (PNA) inventory database. If necessary, the applicant shall update this inventory with revised data (i.e., new parks and/or facilities, closures, etc.), and submit the updates to RPOSD. All Study Areas are responsible for regularly updating inventory data tied to the PNA via RPOSD’s enrollment website.
- **Confirm of Intent to Apply for Annual Allocations.** Public agencies must confirm their intent to apply for annual allocations during the current year. Applicants not planning to apply for annual allocation

Clarify, for independent park agencies like MRCA or the Habitat Authority, are they supposed to update info or does the underlying municipality for that study area do it?

3.3.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

3.3.1.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement is required by each Study Area including annual allocations, competitive grants (except engagement could occur before the grant award, after different levels of engagement approaches. All grant types Sharing engagement approach.

Refer to MRCA memo regarding scoring - the requirements for grants are already adequate to ensure the purposes listed, so it should not be a scoring criteria.

grant funds, I&S funds. This -3 describes the information

The purpose of the community engagement requirements is to: 1) ensure that communities throughout Los Angeles County (County) are aware of, and can help set spending priorities for Measure A-funded projects; and 2) for agencies to report how previous year's allocations and awards were spent. Note that competitive grant applications will be evaluated on the degree of and approaches to community involvement beyond the minimum community engagement requirements (see "Community Involvement" evaluation criterion). Applicants meeting only the minimum requirements will score lower than applicants who conduct more robust community engagement. Applicants should follow the guidelines below to fulfill the minimum community engagement requirements:

- Applicants should follow the flowcharts shown on Figure 3-3 to determine what minimum level of engagement is required to be completed.
- Engagement must be thoughtful and appropriate to the Study Area's community, including the following:
 - Provide advanced notice of at least two weeks for concurrent and participatory engagement through multiple platforms such as by notice, mailing, flyer, postcards, door hangers, radio or television ads, social media, etc.
 - Schedule and locate meetings/events at a time/location appropriate for adequate community attendance.
 - Reach out to community members living in High and Very High need Study Areas and/or subareas as well as non-English speaking populations, if applicable.
 - Provide interpretive services for languages other than English in aural, written, and/or speech forms, targeting languages that are commonly spoken in the community.
- Engagement that has occurred within 36 months is acceptable with verification.
- If engagement has not yet occurred, agencies must describe the comprehensive community engagement plan in their grant application and upon completion of engagement, verification must be provided to RPOSD.
- Acceptable verification for all levels of engagement includes: photos, sign-in sheets, signed resolutions (if applicable), social media reports, and narrative descriptions of the type of outreach conducted.

This requirement is not applicable to all projects.

Annual Allocations

For annual allocation funds, the level of community engagement requirements is dependent on the amount of annual allocation funds an agency is withdrawing for each Study Area that given grant year. The amount could include a single year's worth of annual allocation funds, a portion of a single year's worth of annual allocation funds, or the total or a portion of annual allocation funds accrued over multiple years (not to exceed five years, per RPOSD's requirements). The level of community engagement requirements are differentiated by three funding amount thresholds (see Figure 3-3):

- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 to \$500,000
- Over \$500,000

why is this in the community engagement section?

Advancement of Funds

Agencies may advance up to 30 percent of their annual allocation funds, not to exceed \$20,000. Any advanced funds would count toward an agency's total withdrawal amount of annual allocation funds.

Sharing/Transferring of Funds

A Study Area may share its Category 1 and/or Category 2 funds with another Study Area, provided that:

- The "receiving" Study Area is located directly adjacent to the "sending" Study Area; or
- RPOSD finds, through the grantmaking process, that the intended use of the funds by the "receiving" Study Area will benefit the residents of the "sending" Study Area.

In such cases, the amount of shared annual allocation funds should count toward both the "sending" and "receiving" Study Areas' total annual allocation funds withdrawn for the year.

Competitive Grants


For competitive grant funds, the level of community engagement requirements is dependent on the project's requested grant award size/applicable grant award size bracket of small, medium, large, or jumbo. Note that different grant categories range in grant award size amount. For example, Category 3's small grant award size bracket range differs from Category 5's small grant award size bracket range.

Agencies requesting larger sizes of grant awards are required to conduct more instances of community engagement throughout the grant project. For example, competitive grant applications requesting a grant award size within the jumbo award bracket are required to complete participatory engagement at two separate times before or after the grant award.

M&S Funds

Agencies requesting M&S funds of any amount are only required to conduct the Information Sharing approach.

Figure 3-3: Engagement Approaches and Requirements



CE should be an option for all projects.
Land acquisition projects may not provide meaningful PE opportunities.
In fact, any outreach for a land acquisition will be a difficult requirement because the specifics of a project are often confidential until the transaction is complete.

round of funding being evaluated. The grant review panel will be consistent within each grant cycle. However, the panel will likely change for different funding cycles to ensure the panel's expertise matches the subject of the grant cycle. The grant review panel will evaluate the grant applications against the established scoring criteria. Applications with the highest scores will receive funding. The number of grants awarded will be dependent upon the funding pool for the grant cycle and maximum grant amount.

3.3.3.2 GENERAL COMPETITIVE (CATEGORY 3)

Description

change "should improve and protect" to "should acquire, develop, restore, improve and/or protect"

Category 3 grant projects should improve and protect open space, watersheds, and water resources through planning, acquisition, development, improvement, and restoration, of multi-benefit park projects that promote, improve, or protect clean local water supplies, habitat improvements, park space, recreation, public access, watershed health, and open space, including improvements or restoration of areas that buffer our rivers, streams, and their tributaries along with the lakes and beaches throughout the County. Priority will be given to projects offering the greatest regional benefit, or serving the greatest regional need.

2018 Funding Amount

\$7,399,808 (Category 3 - 13% of Measure A funds; General Competitive - 60% of Category 3 funds)

Project Types

Below is a non-exhaustive list of projects that may be eligible for grant funds under Category 3.

Open Spaces

- Parks
- Fire prevention
- Lawn/turf repair
- New or improved access points to mountain, foothill, river, stream, and wetland areas
- Restoration of natural habitat
- Scenic vistas
- Wildlife corridors and habitats

Need to include: acquisition of land interest as project type

just say public parkland

Why is "Natural Lands" separate from "Open Spaces"?

Natural Lands

- Habitat gardens
- Land stewardship
- Nature centers
- Preservation of natural lands

- Revegetation of drought tolerant plants
- Tree planting

Water Conservation

- Drainage basins
- Irrigation projects
- Permeable walkways and play surfaces
- Rainwater harvesting
- Revegetation of banks and waterways
- Stormwater capture and other water recycling

Watershed Protection

- Beach and coastal watershed clean up
- Community trash clean up
- Drinking water improvements
- Lake or reservoir clean up
- Riparian corridor improvements
- River and stream clean up
- River and stream Parkway development

The "clean up" examples are not capital projects and may be ineligible.

Beaches

- Active recreation amenities
- New or improved fishing and boating facilities
- Pier/dock improvements
- Replacement of sand
- Restrooms/shower facilities
- Access facilities, roadways, parking lots, trailheads, etc.

Project Requirements

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements in order to apply for a grant award:

Project Eligibility

- The project plans for, acquires, develops, improves, or restores a multi-benefit park project.
- The project promotes, improves, or protects clean local water supplies, habitat improvements, park space, recreation, public access, watershed health, or open space.

- The project is a permanent capital project.
- The project's requested grant award size is a minimum of \$50,000 and maximum of \$3,700,000.

Project Feasibility

Land Access/Tenure

- Agency owns the land in question;
- Agency has entered into a lease or other use agreement for the land in question; or
- Agency has concrete plans as to how access or tenure will be acquired or arranged.

these options aren't applicable to a land acquisition project

Planning and Design

- Design documents of 30% or greater are complete; or
- Agency has sketch-level plans for project design and a planned approach as to how and when planning and design will be completed.

what does "concrete plans" mean?

Permitting and CEQA Compliance

- Project is exempt from regulatory permits and CEQA;
- Any necessary permitting and CEQA documents are completed and certified; or
- Agency has concrete plans as to how and when

This is unrealistic. Replace with "There are no known adverse site conditions but agency included a budget contingency to conduct further investigations."

Adverse Site Conditions (e.g., overhead etc.)

- There are no adverse site conditions that would affect project implementation;
- Adverse site conditions have been characterized and the agency has concrete plans for addressing them; or
- Adverse site conditions are known to exist but have not been characterized. Agency has plans as to how and when these conditions will be addressed, with appropriate budget contingencies in the project budget.

Project Cost and Funding

- Agency has a detailed budget consistent with the level of planning and design completed to date, as well as a plan for funding to cover the budgeted costs, with appropriate contingencies given the level of planning completed.

Project Schedule

- Agency has a detailed schedule from grant receipt to project completion that reflects the level of planning, design, permitting and community involvement that will be necessary for the project.

Operations and Maintenance

- The project has an appropriately detailed financial plan for the completed project.

This should be more flexible to allow for other types of maintenance arrangements. Add "The agency has a commitment from another entity and/or a draft or executed agreement with another entity for the future operations and maintenance of the site."

Community Engagement

The project must meet the minimum community engagement requirements described in Section 3.3.1.1.

Award Size

Requested grant awards must meet the minimum and maximum grant award size requirements. Grant applications will be categorized into different thresholds of award size brackets depending on the requested size of the grant award. Grant applications within the same award size bracket will be evaluated and compete against each other.

Minimum: \$50,000

Maximum: \$3,700,000

Brackets

Small: \$50,000 - \$499,999

Medium: \$500,000 - \$999,999

Large: \$1,000,000 - \$1,999,999

Jumbo: \$2,000,000 - \$3,700,000

Evaluation Criteria

Please see comments on evaluation criteria submitted under separate cover.

Proposed projects will be scored and ranked on the basis of the applicant's responses to the specific criteria and subcriteria below. Note that acquisition-only projects will be scored only against other acquisition-only projects. Evaluation includes all criteria shown below excluding "Park Facility/Amenity Conditions" and "Creativity, Place-Making, & Design." Projects will be scored out of 90 points total.

EVALUATION CRITERIA	POINTS
<p>Level of Need Level of need is based on the current Countywide PNA determination. Projects located within or serving Study Areas or subareas with High or Very High need will receive more points than projects that do not.</p> <p>Only one of the following four subcriteria may apply to each project.</p>	25
<p><i>(A) Project is located in a High or Very High need Study Area.</i></p>	25
<p><i>(B) Project is not located in a High or Very High need Study Area, but directly serves the residents of a High or Very High need Study Area.</i></p> <p><i>This subcriterion will be scored on a range of 6 to 15 points depending on how the project serves residents of the High or Very High need Study Area.</i></p>	6-15
<p><i>(C) Project does not meet subcriterion (A) or (B), but is located within a High or Very High need subarea within a Study Area that contains at least 5,000 residents living in High or Very High need subareas.</i></p>	10

<p><i>Project does not meet subcriterion (A), (B), or (C), but directly serves a High or Very High need subarea within a Study Area that contains at least 5,000 residents living in High or Very High need subareas.</i></p> <p><i>This subcriterion will be scored on a range of 1 to 4 points depending on how the project serves residents of the High or Very High need subarea.</i></p>	1-4
<p>Regional Benefits Projects that provide new or improved services to local communities or projects that provide services only to local communities.</p> <p>Please see comments on evaluation criteria submitted under separate cover.</p> <p>Projects may meet one or more of the criteria below to be awarded, totaling up to 20 points maximum.</p>	20 max.
<p><i>Project will add one or more facilities/amenities that do not currently exist, or improve one or more facilities/amenities that are one of its kind, within a 25-mile radius.</i></p>	0-15
<p><i>Project will add one or more facilities/amenities that do not currently exist, or improve one or more facilities/amenities that are one of its kind, within a 15-mile radius.</i></p>	10-14
<p><i>Project will add one or more facilities/amenities that do not currently exist, or improve one or more facilities/amenities that are one of its kind, within a 10-mile radius.</i></p>	0-9
<p><i>Project involves the collaboration of at least three or more adjacent Study Areas or cities.</i></p>	5
<p>Multi-Benefit Projects Projects that maximize or enhance recreation opportunities and one or more of the following benefits related to sustainability: protection or enhancement of the natural environment, stormwater capture, water and air quality improvements, greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, carbon sequestration, heat-island reductions; habitat protection and biodiversity, community health improvements, or any combination thereof.</p> <p>Projects may receive full or partial credit in each subcriterion below, totaling up to a maximum of 20 points.</p>	20 max.
<p>Habitat Protection and Biodiversity <i>Project includes features to preserve important habitat areas and biodiversity.</i></p>	0-5
<p>Healthy Ecosystem <i>Project includes the use of native California flora and fauna and provides measures to protect against disease or infestation.</i></p>	0-3
<p>Water Quality Improvements <i>Project includes features to improve water quality which go beyond those required by State and local codes.</i></p>	0-3
<p>Stormwater Capture and Attenuation <i>Project includes features to capture stormwater and attenuate potential flood conditions which go beyond those required by State and local codes.</i></p>	0-3

<p>Water Conservation <i>Project includes features to reduce or minimize the use of water for irrigation, recreation, and domestic use which go beyond those required by State and local codes.</i></p>	0-3
<p>Public Safety <i>Project includes features that improve safety conditions through the provision of safe equipment and facilities and the reduction or prevention of crime.</i></p>	0-3
<p>Climate Resiliency <i>Project includes features to accommodate and adapt to climate change.</i></p>	0-3
<p>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reductions <i>Project includes features to reduce existing GHG emissions that go beyond those required by current regulations.</i></p>	0-2
<p>Air Quality Improvements <i>Project includes features to reduce existing criterion air pollutant emissions that go beyond those required by current regulations.</i></p>	0-2
<p>Active Recreation and Fitness <i>Project includes components to promote active recreation, health, and fitness.</i></p>	0-2
<p>Food Access <i>Project includes components to enhance access to healthy food.</i></p>	0-2
<p>Carbon Sequestration <i>Project includes features to sequester carbon that go beyond typical plantings found in park projects.</i></p>	0-1
<p>Heat-Island Reduction <i>Project includes features to reduce heat-island effects, in ways that go beyond typical plantings found in park projects.</i></p>	0-1
<p>Community Involvement Applicants who have conducted or plan to conduct meaningful outreach to community members and interested stakeholders will receive points based on the degree of and approaches to community engagement conducted prior to grant application and/or planned for the period after the grant is awarded that goes beyond the project eligibility requirement for community engagement. Between 0 and 20 points will be awarded based on the evaluators' assessment of the submitted community involvement plan.</p>	20
<p><i>Project includes robust and innovative outreach strategies (beyond the project eligibility requirement for community engagement) that will engage the identified target audience.</i></p>	15-20
<p><i>Project includes sufficient outreach and includes outreach strategies (beyond the project eligibility requirement for community engagement) that will engage the identified target audience.</i></p>	6-14
<p><i>Project includes minimal and limited outreach strategies (beyond the project eligibility requirement for community engagement) that will engage the identified target audience.</i></p>	0-5
<p>Park Facility/Amenity Conditions Projects that propose to fix or replace an amenity that has been identified to be in "poor" or "fair" condition, as defined by the PNA, will receive points based on the existing condition of the amenity and/or the percentage of the amenities that are in "poor" condition within the Study Area in which the project is located.</p>	5 max.

Please see comments on evaluation criteria submitted under separate cover.

Projects may receive points from multiple applicable subcriteria below, totaling up to a maximum of 5 points.	
<i>Project fixes or replaces an amenity that has been identified by the PNA or another adopted community planning document to be in <u>poor</u> condition. More points will be given based on the scale, function, and importance of the amenity.</i>	0-5
<i>Project fixes or replaces an amenity that has been identified by the PNA or another adopted community planning document to be in <u>fair</u> condition. More points will be given based on the scale, function, and importance of the amenity.</i>	0-2
<i>Project is located in a Study Area with at least 50% of its amenities in poor condition.</i>	5
<i>Project is located in a Study Area with at least 50% of its amenities in poor condition.</i>	4
<i>Project is located in a Study Area with between 30% and 39% of its amenities in poor condition.</i>	3
<i>Project is located in a Study Area with between 20% and 29% of its amenities in poor condition.</i>	2
<i>Project is located in a Study Area with between 10% and 19% of its amenities in poor condition.</i>	1
Leveraging of Funds Measure A encourages projects that leverage public and private funding from several specific types of benefit programs. Please submit a budget indicating secured funding sources and amounts that will be leveraged for the project. Relevant funding sources specifically called out in Measure A are those that address the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water conservation and supply; water quality improvements; flood risk management; • Air quality improvements; climate pollution reduction or adaptation; carbon sequestration; heat-island reduction; habitat protection and biodiversity; • Public health; environmental justice; housing; and/or transportation access. 	5
<i>Project will receive at least 45% of the project's cost from the listed public and private funding sources.</i>	5
<i>Project will receive between 25% and 44% of the project's cost from the listed public and private funding sources.</i>	4
<i>Project will receive between 10% and 24% of the project's cost from the listed public and private funding sources.</i>	3
Creativity, Place-Making, and Design Projects will receive points for creativity, place-making, and high quality design. Points will be awarded based on the evaluators' assessment of the level of creativity and quality of the design.	5

<i>Project includes a high level of creativity and quality of design and place-making.</i>	4-5
<i>Project includes a moderate level of creativity and quality of design and place-making.</i>	0-3
Total Points	100

3.3.3.3 GENERAL COMPETITIVE (CATEGORY 4)

change "should improve and protect" to "should acquire, develop, restore, improve and/or protect"

Description

Category 4 grant projects should improve and protect regional recreational facilities, trails and accessibility projects. Greater priority will be given to trail and accessibility projects that connect river, mountain, and urban areas, especially to County Parks, State Parks, the National Forest, the National Recreation Area(s), and the National Monument(s), and that link other canyons and regional and local parks throughout the County.

2018 Funding Amount

\$6,166,507 (Category 4 - 13% of Measure A funds; General Competitive - 50% of Category 4 funds)

Project Types

Below is a non-exhaustive list of projects that may be eligible for grant funds under Category 4.

Regional Recreational Facilities

- Aquatic facilities
- Development of new regional park facilities
- Equestrian staging areas
- Improvements to existing regional park facilities
- Golf course facilities
- Multi-use sports facilities

Need to include as sample project types:
Acquisition of land interest, Repairs or improvements to existing facilities,

Multi-use Trails

- Addition of amenities along trail corridor
- Development of new multi-use trails
- Trail maintenance
- Trailhead amenities and improvements

Need to include as sample project types:
Acquisition of land interest, Improvement or refurbishment of existing trails,

Accessibility

- ADA restroom upgrades
- ADA walkway/sidewalk improvements
- ADA-compliant amenities
- Bike storage facilities at parks, trails, recreation centers,

Change to "ADA building and site upgrades" not just restrooms.

Need to include as sample project type:
Projects that provide increased access to regional facilities.

- Connections from Class I bike paths to recreation facilities
- General trail and walkway repairs or improvements
- Interactive wayfinding
- Parking facilities serving parks and recreational facilities
- Pathways and trails connecting transit stops to park and recreation facilities, open space, natural lands, or beaches
- Projects that utilize publicly owned rights-of-way and vacant spaces
- Safety improvements such as crosswalks and pedestrian signals that provide safer access (must be adjacent to facility)
- Trailhead improvements

Project Requirements

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements in order to apply for a grant award:

Project Eligibility

- The project acquires, develops, improves, and/or rehabilitates land for regional recreational facilities, multi-use trails, and/or accessibility.
- The project is a permanent capital project.
- The project's requested grant award size is a minimum of \$50,000 and maximum of \$3,100,000.

Project Feasibility

Land Access/Tenure

- Agency owns the land in question;
- Agency has entered into a lease or other use agreement for the land in question; or
- Agency has concrete plans as to how access or tenure will be acquired or arranged.

these options aren't applicable to a land acquisition project

Planning and Design

- Design documents of 30% or greater are complete; or
- Agency has sketch-level plans for project design and a planned approach as to how and when planning and design will be completed.

what does "concrete plans" mean?

Permitting and CEQA Compliance

- Project is exempt from regulatory permits and CEQA;
- Any necessary permitting and CEQA documents are completed and certified; or
- Agency has concrete plans as to how and when permitting and CEQA will be completed.

Adverse Site Conditions (e.g., overhead or underground utilities, toxic contamination, etc.)

- There are no adverse site conditions that would affect project implementation;
- Adverse site conditions have been characterized and the agency has concrete plans for addressing them; or

This is unrealistic. Replace with "There are no known adverse site conditions but agency included a budget contingency to conduct further investigations."

- Adverse site conditions are known to exist but have not been characterized. Agency has plans as to how and when these conditions will be addressed, with appropriate budget contingencies in the project budget.

Project Cost and Funding

- Agency has a detailed budget consistent with the level of planning and design completed to date, as well as a plan for funding to cover the budgeted costs, with appropriate contingencies given the level of planning completed.

Project Schedule

- Agency has a detailed schedule from grant receipt to project completion that reflects the level of planning, design, permitting and community involvement that will be necessary for the project.

Operations and Maintenance

- The project has an appropriately detailed financial plan for the completed project.

This should be more flexible to allow for other types of maintenance arrangements. Add "The agency has a commitment from another entity and/or a draft or executed agreement with another entity for the future operations and maintenance of the site."

Community Engagement

The project must meet the minimum community engagement requirements described in Section 3.3.1.1.

Award Size

Requested grant awards must meet the minimum and maximum grant award size requirements. Grant applications will be categorized into different thresholds of award size brackets depending on the requested size of the grant award. Grant applications within the same award size bracket will be evaluated and compete against each other.

Minimum: \$50,000
Maximum: \$3,100,000

Brackets

Small: \$50,000 - \$499,999
Medium: \$500,000 - \$999,999
Large: \$1,000,000 - \$1,999,999
Jumbo: \$2,000,000 - \$3,100,000

Evaluation Criteria

Proposed projects will be scored against the specific criteria and subcriteria below against other acquisition-only projects. Evaluation includes all criteria shown below excluding "Park Facility/Amenity Conditions" and "Creativity, Place-Making, & Design." Projects will be scored out of 90 points total.

Please see comments on evaluation criteria submitted under separate cover.

EVALUATION CRITERIA	POINTS
<p>Level of Need</p> <p>Level of need is based on the current Countywide PNA determination. Projects located within or serving Study Areas or subareas with High or Very High need will receive more points than projects that do not.</p> <p>Only one of the following four subcriteria may apply to each project.</p>	25
<p><i>(A) Project is located in a High or Very High need Study Area.</i></p>	25
<p><i>(B) Project is not located in a High or Very High need Study Area, but directly serves the residents of a High or Very High need Study Area.</i></p> <p><i>This subcriterion will be scored on a range of 6 to 15 points depending on how the project serves residents of the High or Very High need Study Area.</i></p>	6-15
<p><i>(C) Project does not meet subcriterion (A) or (B), but is located within a High or Very High need subarea within a Study Area</i></p> <p style="color: red; border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Please see comments on evaluation criteria submitted under separate cover.</p> <p><i>ly High need subareas.</i></p>	10
<p><i>Project does not meet subcriterion (A), (B), or (C), but directly serves a High or Very High need subarea within a Study Area that contains at least 5,000 residents living in High or Very High need subareas.</i></p> <p><i>This subcriterion will be scored on a range of 1 to 4 points depending on how the project serves residents of the High or Very High need subarea.</i></p>	1-4
<p>Multi-Benefit Projects</p> <p>Projects that maximize or enhance recreation opportunities and one or more of the following benefits related to sustainability: protection or enhancement of the natural environment, stormwater capture, water and air quality improvements, greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, carbon sequestration, heat-island reductions; habitat protection and biodiversity, community health improvements, or any combination thereof.</p> <p>Projects may receive full or partial credit in each subcriterion below, totaling up to a maximum of 20 points.</p>	20 max.
<p>Habitat Protection and Biodiversity</p> <p><i>Project includes features to preserve important habitat areas and biodiversity.</i></p>	0-5
<p>Healthy Ecosystem</p> <p><i>Project includes the use of native California flora and fauna and provides measures to protect against disease or infestation.</i></p>	0-3
<p>Water Quality Improvements</p> <p><i>Project includes features to improve water quality which go beyond those required by State and local codes.</i></p>	0-3
<p>Stormwater Capture and Attenuation</p> <p><i>Project includes features to capture stormwater and attenuate potential flood conditions which go beyond those required by State</i></p>	0-3

<i>and local codes.</i>	
Water Conservation <i>Project includes features to reduce or minimize the use of water for irrigation, recreation, and domestic use which go beyond those required by State and local codes.</i>	0-3
Public Safety <i>Project includes features that improve safety conditions through the provision of safe equipment and facilities and the reduction or prevention of crime.</i>	0-3
Climate Resiliency <i>Project includes features to accommodate and adapt to climate change.</i>	0-3
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reductions <i>Project includes features to reduce existing GHG emissions that go beyond those required by current regulations.</i>	0-2
Air Quality Improvements <i>Project includes features to reduce existing criterion air pollutant emissions that go beyond those required by current regulations.</i>	0-2
Active Recreation and Fitness <i>Project includes components to promote active recreation, health, and fitness.</i>	0-2
Food Access <i>Project includes components to enhance access to healthy food.</i>	0-2
Carbon Sequestration <i>Project includes features to sequester carbon that go beyond typical plantings found in park projects.</i>	0-1
Heat-Island Reduction <i>Project includes features to reduce heat-island effects, in ways that go beyond typical plantings found in park projects.</i>	0-1
Community Involvement Applicants who have conducted or plan to conduct meaningful outreach to community members and interested stakeholders will receive points based on the degree of and approaches to community engagement conducted prior to grant application and/or planned for the period after the grant is awarded that goes beyond the project eligibility requirement for community engagement. Between 0 and 20 points will be awarded based on the evaluators' assessment of the submitted community involvement plan.	20
<i>Project includes robust and innovative outreach strategies (beyond the project eligibility requirement for community engagement) that will engage the identified target audience.</i>	15-20
<i>Project includes sufficient outreach and includes outreach strategies (beyond the project eligibility requirement for community engagement) that will engage the identified target audience.</i>	6-14
<i>Project includes minimal and limited outreach strategies (beyond the project eligibility requirement for community engagement) that will engage the identified target audience.</i>	0-5

Please see comments on evaluation criteria submitted under separate cover.

<p>Connectivity</p> <p>Projects that connect river, mountain, and urban areas, especially to County Parks, State Parks, the National Forest, the National Recreation Area(s), and the National Monument(s), and that link other canyons and regional and local parks throughout the County.</p> <p>Between 0 and 15 points will be awarded based on the evaluators' assessment of how the project provides connectivity to other areas.</p>	15
<p><i>Project provides <u>new</u> physical connections that connect river, mountain, and urban areas, especially to County Parks, State Parks, the National Forest, the National Recreation Area(s), and the National Monument(s), and that link other canyons and regional and local parks throughout the County.</i></p>	0-15
<p><i>Project provides <u>improvements</u> to existing physical connections that connect river, mountain, and urban areas, especially to County Parks, State Parks, the National Forest, the National Recreation Area(s), and the National Monument(s), and that link other canyons and regional and local parks throughout the County.</i></p>	0-10
<p>Accessibility</p> <p>Projects that provide accessibility for many users, including hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, seniors, and persons with disabilities, especially in urban areas.</p>	15
<p><i>Project provides access to many users, including hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, seniors, and persons with disabilities. More points will be awarded based on the project's access to more types of users.</i></p>	0-15
<p><i>Project meets the subcriterion above <u>and</u> this access is provided within an urban area.</i></p>	5
<p>Facility/Amenity Conditions</p> <p>Projects that propose to fix or replace an amenity that has been identified to be in "poor" or "fair" condition, as defined by the PNA, will receive points based on the existing condition of the amenity and/or the percentage of the amenities that are in "poor" condition within the Study Area in which the project is located.</p> <p>Projects may receive points from multiple applicable subcriteria below, totaling up to a maximum of 5 points.</p>	5
<p><i>Project fixes or replaces an amenity that has been identified by the PNA or another adopted community planning document to be in <u>poor</u> condition. More points will be given based on the scale, function, and importance of the amenity.</i></p>	0-5
<p><i>Project fixes or replaces an amenity that has been identified by the PNA or another adopted community planning document to be in <u>fair</u> condition. More points will be awarded based on the scale, function, and importance of the amenity.</i></p>	0-2
<p><i>Project is located in a Study Area with at least 50% of its amenities in poor condition.</i></p>	5

Please see comments on evaluation criteria submitted under separate cover.

Change to "The program provider, or key staff, has a..."

- The program provider has a track record of running similar types of programs at other locations.
- The program provider has not run programs similar to the one proposed, but is either well-established in the service area or has established a partnership with an agency or community based organization (CBO) that is well-established in the service area.

Award Size

Requested grant awards must meet the minimum and maximum grant award size requirements. Grant applications will be categorized into different thresholds of award size brackets depending on the requested size of the grant award. Grant applications within the same award size bracket will be evaluated and compete against each other.

Minimum: \$50,000

Maximum: \$1,850,000

Brackets

Small: \$50,000 - \$499,999

Medium: \$500,000 - \$999,999

Large: \$1,000,000 - \$1,850,000

Evaluation Criteria

Proposed projects will be scored and ranked on the basis of the applicant's responses to the specific criteria and subcriteria below.

EVALUATION CRITERIA	POINTS
<p>Level of Need Level of need is based on the current Countywide PNA determination. Programs located within or serving Study Areas or subareas with High or Very High need will receive more points than projects that do not.</p> <p>Only one of the following four subcriteria may apply to each project.</p>	20
<p><i>(A) Program is located in a High or Very High need Study Area.</i></p>	20
<p><i>(B) Program is not located in a High or Very High need Study Area, but directly serves the residents of a High or Very High need Study Area.</i></p> <p><i>This subcriterion will be scored on a range of 6 to 15 points depending on how the project serves residents of the High or Very High need Study Area.</i></p>	6-15
<p><i>(C) Program does not meet subcriterion (A) or (B), but is located within a High or Very High need subarea within a Study Area that contains at least 5,000 residents living in High or Very High need subareas.</i></p>	10



REG PK & OPEN SPACE DIST
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City of El Segundo

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Office of the Mayor

January 31, 2018

Elected Officials:

Suzanne Fuentes,
Mayor
Drew Bayles,
Mayor Pro Tem
Michael Dugan,
Council Member
Carol Pirszuk,
Council Member
Dr. Don Brann,
Council Member
Tracy Weaver,
City Clerk
Crista Binder,
City Treasurer

Appointed Officials:

Greg Carpenter,
City Manager
Mark D. Hensley,
City Attorney

Department Directors:

Joseph Lillio,
Finance
Chris Donovan,
Fire Chief
Lynn Lindberg,
Human Resources
Charles Mallory,
Information Systems
Mark Herbert,
Acting Library Services
Sam Lee,
Planning and
Building Safety
Bill Whalen,
Police Chief
Ken Berkman,
Public Works
Meredith Pettit,
Recreation & Parks

www.elsegundo.org
www.elsegundobusiness.com
www.elsegundo100.org

Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor, 4th District
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 W. Temple Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Measure A--Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Protection Measure of 2016

Dear Supervisor Hahn:

As a member of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, the City of El Segundo, respectfully requests your support to ensure Measure A competitive grant funds match the intent of the voters and to fund as many projects as possible throughout Los Angeles County.

Measure A asked voters to continue their support for local parks, beaches, open space, and water resources by approving an annual parcel tax of 1.5 cents per square foot of development for recreational improvements in Los Angeles County.

The 45 member Steering Committee broadly represents community interests throughout the County. However, the Cities charged to implement the improvements are represented by only a few seats on the Committee. During the competitive grant discussions, the Steering Committee recommended a total of 30% of the competitive grant funds be set aside for High Need and Very High need areas. Currently, the grant application scoring criteria favors High and Very High Need Study Areas. This scoring criteria and funding set aside does not provide fair and equal opportunities for funding within each of our communities. Measure A's language does not call for weighting competitive grants in this manner. The voters approved Measure A to address needs within their own community.

Since there is high need in every community, this request asks you to consider changing the scoring criteria favoring high and very high need areas to application scoring based on the need and condition of the project itself and its impact to that community.

The opportunity to improve the entire county is diminished using High and Very High Need application scoring. Our agency is concerned that the intent of Measure A is being changed beyond the intent of the voters.

Sincerely,


Suzanne Fuentes
Mayor

Cc: Jane Beesley, Regional Parks and Open Space District

February 2, 2018

Ms. Jane I. Beesley
District Administrator
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District
1000 S. Fremont Ave, Unit #40
Building A-9 East, Ground Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803

Dear Ms. Beesley:

On behalf of the 700,000 AARP members and the 50+ population currently residing in Los Angeles County, we would like to ask the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District, in partnership with the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure of 2016 (Measure A) Steering Committee to consider including Age Friendly design criteria, when awarding competitive grants, to help make parks and open spaces more accessible and inclusive to people of all ages.

Some examples of Age Friendly design include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1) **Providing Activities and Programming for All Ages:** Parks should be designed to benefit everyone; therefore activities should be available for children, youth, parents and older adults. Programming can also be designed around various times of the day to allow for shared use of a park.
- 2) **Amenities and Physical Infrastructure that Supports Safety and Comfort for People of All Ages:** Comfortable, shaded seating areas should be available throughout a park. Walking paths are an important element for older adults, especially paths that provide easy-to-view distance markers. Lighting and other design elements that help enhance visibility are important to consider.
- 3) **Design for Passive and Active Park Users:** Parks should include a mixture of sports facilities, public art, running paths, low-impact machines, greenery, gardening, and quiet

nooks. Parks can also include intergenerational settings, so children, parents, and grandparents can enjoy a park together in various ways.

- 4) **Inclusive Community Engagement and Participation:** Parks should be designed to fit the needs of its community. Cities should engage and consult with a diverse audience when planning, or making any major updates to a community park to accurately meet the unique community needs.
- 5) **Accessibility To and From Park:** Parks should be accessible by various modes including, foot, bicycle, or transit. Pedestrian friendly infrastructure improvements, including safety of sidewalks and signage along park routes should be a priority.

AARP is the nation's largest non-profit, non-partisan membership organization of persons 50 and older, dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all as we age. Our mission includes advocacy for the creation of livable communities, places where people of all ages and abilities can live healthy, independent lives. A livable community promotes successful aging by not only promoting the physical independence, but also by enhancing the quality of life and active social engagement of residents with one another. Livable Communities also provide adequate transportation, affordable and appropriate housing, supportive community features and services, as well as access to parks and open spaces.

As you know, parks can contribute to positive effects on one's physical, physiological, and mental health. This is especially true for older adults, who often utilize parks and open spaces to help promote physical activity, engage in social activity, reduce stress, and support faster healing and recovery. Unfortunately however, people over the age of 65 are the most underserved population in terms of having access to parks. This demographic is also most at risk for being inactive and having a high risk of social isolation.

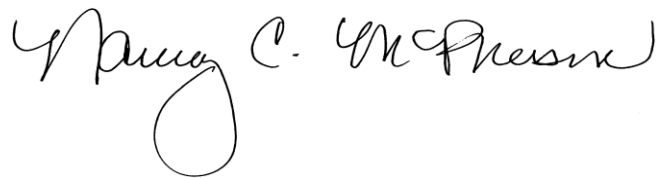
In the United States, we are also seeing our older adult population grow rapidly as people are staying healthy and active longer. As recently as 2010, people ages 65 and older represented 13 percent of the population. But by 2030, those older adults will represent 20 percent of the population, more than doubling in number from 35 million to over 72 million.

We are pleased that Los Angeles County and City joined AARP's Age Friendly Network in 2016, establishing the Purposeful Aging Los Angeles Initiative. This signifies the elected leaders' commitment to planning for an aging Los Angeles population. The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District is in a unique position to support this work in your grant awarding process. It is our hope that your selection process will include meaningful focus on the needs of older residents.

For the reasons stated above, AARP California strongly asks for your consideration of including an Age Friendly component to your grant awarding criteria. This will help begin to address the needs of the growing demographic of older adults, while also confronting the issue of equity of access to parks by people of all ages.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (626) 585-2622 or email at nmcpherson@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy C. McPherson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the end of the name.

Nancy McPherson
AARP California State Director

February 5, 2018

Jane Beesley
District Administrator
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District
510 S. Vermont Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Dear Jane,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Measure A Funding Guidelines (Guidelines), administered by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) draft funded through the Safe, Clean, Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure of 2016 (Measure A).

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) worked closely with the District in the development and passage of Measure A and we appreciate the thoroughness and transparency shown by the District throughout the entire process. We also appreciate the thoughtful way in which the District has distilled a complex variety of funding categories and grant programs described in Measure A into a comprehensive and clear set of guidelines. TPL's Los Angeles program is committed to creating and enhancing public parks in Los Angeles County's most under-served communities and protecting regional open spaces that encourage access to nature for all. We have reviewed the draft Measure A guidelines and have summarized our comments below.

Timeline: For competitive grant programs, we suggest annual grant cycles, spread no more than 18 months apart. Securing funding for significant park and open space projects often requires leveraging a variety of grant funds throughout the project development and implementation phases. If Measure A grant cycles are 2-4 years apart, project funding challenges will be exacerbated, adding uncertainty and stress to timing projects to match with a funding cycle.

3.2.1. Qualified Agencies/Organizations

Nonprofit organizations (p. 6): Non-profit organizations that don't own or manage land but who have agreements with public agencies or other organizations that do own or manage land should be eligible.

Schools (p.6): Suggest that schools be eligible so long as there is a commitment (in the form of a LOI) to make the facilities open to public access for at least part of the day by project completion. This requirement would allow access to these funds while incentivizing public use.

3.2.2. Enrollment and Eligibility Requirement

- Overall, this enrollment process seems cumbersome. Suggest streamlining and potentially removing the requirement that enrollment be completed annually.

3.2.2.1: All Agencies/Organizations

3.2.2.4: Schools (p.8)

- Suggest that the guidelines clarify minimum number of years a joint use agreement must be in place.
- Differential fees – would this prohibit sliding scale fees for low-income families?
- Suggest allowing a letter that outlines the intent to develop a Joint Use Agreement as an allowable with final Joint Use Agreement secured within one year of grant award.

3.3.1 General Information

3.3.1.1. Community Engagement Requirements (p. 10)

- Consider including a requirement to provide childcare during outreach events when applicable.
- Suggest that the language be amended so that it reads “[s]chedule and locate meetings/events at a time/location appropriate for *optimal* community attendance.”
- Overall, for acquisition projects community engagement requirements should be evaluated and adjusted to ensure they are appropriate. Scoring criteria for acquisition projects should be adjusted accordingly to keep acquisition and development projects on equal footing.

3.3.1.2. Competitive Grants (p.11)

Suggest using ONE standard measurement for small, medium, large, and jumbo grants across all categories.

3.3.2.1 Plans to Use Annual Allocations (p.13)

Save for Predetermined Amount of Time: Consider simply allowing agencies to simply save, and not specifically say what they are saving for. There may be cases when a community simply has not found the right project.

3.3.2.2 Category 1:

- Project types:
 - Suggest expanding project types to include public art, and public gathering places like plazas, picnic areas, amphitheaters.
 - Suggest adding green infrastructure as a specific project type.
- On p.16, we recommend that you clarify that applicants just need to meet one of the requirements under each header. For example: Planning and design: 30% design documents OR sketch level plans.

3.3.2.4: Category 2 (p.17)

- **Project types:** Since Category 2 funding is available on an annual basis base on the Per Capita and Structural Improvements Formula, we suggest that the District consider using a different word than “grants” and instead use “allocations”.

3.3.2.5

- Project types: Suggest adding watershed protection, species protection, coastal access, habitat protection, the protection of important inholdings or critical connections as project types.
- Project feasibility: suggest adding conservation easement as an option under Land Access/Tenure.

3.3.2.6 Allocation to County Department of Parks and Recreation (Category 4) (p.22)

- **Description:** Encourage the language in the “greater priority” sentence to include “other State Lands, Joint Power of Authorities, and local nonprofit land trust organizations”
- **Accessibility:** Suggest “connections between Class I bike paths and from Class I bike paths to recreation facilities”

3.3.3.2 General Competitive (Category 3) (p.25)

- **Project types:**
 - Suggest adding acquisitions to Watershed Protection category as a project type
 - Under *water conservation* suggest adding “green alleys”.
- **Project feasibility (p.27).** Suggest adding specific bullet that asks for a willing seller letter for land tenure for acquisition projects.
- **Acquisitions and criteria:** We see that acquisition-only projects will be scored only against other acquisition only projects. We encourage the Open Space District to evaluate appropriate outreach techniques including the appropriate timing for the outreach based on the type and location of acquisition project understanding that some sensitive negotiations may need a level of confidentiality. Additionally, please consider a range of land tenure requirements for acquisition projects including willing seller letter or other documentation that confirms the acquisition is viable.
- **Evaluation Criteria:**
 - **Regional Benefits:** Suggest that the “one of its kind” criteria for Regional Benefits be broadened so that the scoring instead looks at service area, or if the proposed project is similar to but complementary to what already exists in the service area.
 - **Multi-benefit projects (p.29):** Consider adding *create & enhance* in addition to *preserve* under the Habitat Protection and Biodiversity section.
 - **Healthy Ecosystem (p.29)** – What measures might protect against disease or infestation?
 - **Park facility/amenity conditions (p.30):** The scoring should include projects that were identified in the Park Needs Assessment and include others. Since park condition is a moving target – there will be facilities that need improvement that may not be identified in the PNA.
 - **Level of need:** We understand that the level of need is based on the PNA framework. If acquisitions are evaluated separately please also consider “threat of development” as a scoring criteria for acquisition projects.
 - **Leveraging of funds (p.31):** Why must projects leverage only the listed funds? There should be points for any leveraged funds.

3.3.3.3 General Competitive (Category 4) (p.32)

- **Description:** Add “acquisition” to the description. Multi-benefit projects (p.35) suggest grouping these more so that water benefits and climate benefits are grouped and not each individual item gets points separately.
- Facility/Amenity Conditions (p.37) - what if an amenity is in objectively poor condition but is not identified in a planning document?

3.3.3.4 County Cultural Facilities (Category 4) (p.38)

- **Project eligibility (p.39):** Suggest that projects may also be located on non-County owned land.
- Can this program make funds available to acquire cultural facilities not owned by the County and may be acquired by other entities (Conservancies, land trusts, etc.)?

3.3.3.5 Recreation Access (Categories 3&4) (p.43)

- Could this program include upgrades/improvements to facilities?

3.3.3.6 Youth & Veteran Job Training & Placement Opportunities Program (Category 5)(p.46)

- **Community Participation Requirement (p.49):** May need to craft a separate definition/strategy for community participation in this category so that it is more appropriate for training programs such as these. For example, the Information Sharing Strategy outlined may be appropriate but Participatory Engagement Strategy may not.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the draft Measure A funding guidelines. We look forward to working with the District in the continued development of this important program for communities throughout Los Angeles.

Best regards,



Tori Kjer
Los Angeles Program Director
The Trust for Public Land



CITY OF
T O R R A N C E

PATRICK J. FUREY
MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
HEIDI ANN ASHCRAFT
TIM GOODRICH
MIKE GRIFFITHS
MILTON S. HERRING, I
GEOFF RIZZO
KURT WEIDEMAN

February 8, 2018

Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor, Fourth District
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 W. Temple Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Measure A--Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Protection Measure of 2016

Dear Supervisor Hahn:

As a member of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, the City of Torrance, respectfully requests your support to ensure Measure A competitive grant funds match the intent of the voters and to fund as many projects as possible throughout Los Angeles County.

Measure A asked voters to continue their support for local parks, beaches, open space, and water resources by approving an annual parcel tax of 1.5 cents per square foot of development for recreational improvements in Los Angeles County.

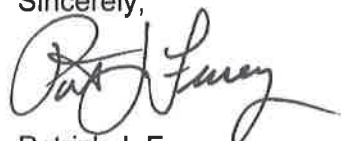
The 45 member Steering Committee broadly represents community interests throughout the County. However, the Cities charged to implement the improvements are represented by only a few seats on the Committee. During the competitive grant discussions, the Steering Committee recommended a total of 30% of the competitive grant funds be set aside for High Need and Very High need areas. Currently, the grant application scoring criteria favors High and Very High Need Study Areas. This scoring criteria and funding set aside does not provide fair and equal opportunities for funding within each of our communities. Measure A's language does not call for weighting competitive grants in this manner. The voters approved Measure A to address needs within their own community.

Since there is high need in every community, this request asks you to consider changing the scoring criteria favoring high and very high need areas to application scoring based on the need and condition of the project itself and its impact to that community.

3031 Torrance Boulevard • Torrance, California 90503 • 310/618-2801 • FAX 310/618-5841
Email: PFurey@TorranceCA.Gov

The opportunity to improve the entire county is diminished using High and Very High Need application scoring. Our agency is concerned that the intent of Measure A is being changed beyond the intent of the voters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick J. Furey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patrick J. Furey
Mayor, City of Torrance

Cc: Jane Beesley, Regional Parks and Open Space District

February 12, 2018

Attn: Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) and Measure A Steering Committee Members

Via email (jwuyek@placeworks.com)

Re: Draft Measure A Guidelines

Dear Members of the Measure A Steering Committee:

My name is Natalie Zappella and I am the Program Director of Sustainable Connected Communities at Enterprise Community Partners. We are working on programs that build affordable housing that is connected to opportunity— good jobs, safe parks, quality education and healthcare, and affordable public transit. We think of communities as complex ecosystems and when one or more of the elements are not functioning at an optimal level the whole community suffers. Since our challenges are interconnected, so our solutions must be, too. We believe that housing is of preeminent importance, yet it is not enough to address inequities that are deeply ingrained in our systems and communities in order to bring prosperity to our region and opportunity to all people, regardless of their race, class, or where they live.

I'd like to give you a sense of the extent of the housing crisis we are in. More than 1.3 million households in the LA region are rent burdened, quality rental homes are scarce and extremely expensive, and we are facing a shortage of supply, of both market rate and subsidized homes. Rents and real estate prices continue to rise while wages here remain stagnant. Announcements of new infrastructure development along the river and in our communities increases real estate prices as soon as the news hits the media. Analysis from California Housing Partnership concludes that renters in LA County need to earn \$8,330 a month in order to afford the median asking rent (\$2,449 per month), and that there has been a \$1,476 decrease in annual median renter income from 2000 to 2015, while the median rent has increased 32% in the county during the same time period. HUD's estimate of the median income in the city of Los Angeles is just over \$64,000. Evictions in the city of Los Angeles are soaring, increasing 39% over the past five years. More and more our families, teachers, health care workers, and retail workers are not able to maintain their rents and are forced to live in overcrowded homes just to make ends meet or are pushed into homelessness. In Los Angeles County, the 2017 homeless count increased by 23 percent just in a year. These disparities,

combined with recent local and state legislation for public infrastructure investments, adds to the growing pressures and fears of displacement and unwelcome relocation pressures for residents and small businesses. Because both the housing crisis and simultaneous infrastructure development are so widespread and interlinked, so too are the growing and serious displacement concerns among a wide range of households and businesses across the income spectrum.

We have come together with LA ROSAH and other partners, across issues and sectors, to fight for place-based **equity** so that everyone—no matter their race, income, or zip code—has access to a safe, clean, well-maintained home and safe, accessible parks in their neighborhood. **The County now has a landmark opportunity to begin to address housing and park inequities through the implementation of Measure A and Measure H., and as Sissy Trinh and Ramon Mendez indicated, we offer our assistance to you as you move forward to determine the final structure of Measure A.** We are preparing a more detailed comment letter for you all that will provide recommendations on how to move Measure A forward in a way that will promote equitable development based on best practices and examples already applied in grant guidelines from the state’s cap and trade programs and other best practices locally and nationally. A highlight of these recommendations include:

1) Set aside 50% of competitive funding for high and very high need study areas. In LA County, communities of color have not received the same level of park investment as wealthier, more affluent areas the result of which is clearly documented in the LA County Park Needs Assessment. The Regional Park and Open Space District has the authority to set the direct of all other park investment going forward and is well positioned to reverse injustice and remedy past and current harm. As precedent, the California Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program sets aside a minimum of 50% of their funding for projects benefiting “Disadvantaged Communities” as defined by Cal EPA in the CalEnviroScreen 3.0. CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool. (top 25% or one of the 22 tracts that score in the highest 5% of pollution burden). The California Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) goes beyond AHSC and takes a place-based approach that allows for 100% of the funding to provide direct, meaningful benefit the top 5% of disadvantaged communities in the state, as defined by Cal EPA in the CalEnviroScreen 3.0.

2) Incentivize Measure A competitive and non-competitive funding for the joint development of affordable housing projects (preservation or new construction) with parks and green space (both passive and active). As part of LA ROSAH, we have been exploring mutual benefits and creative capital solutions from the integration across parks and housing sectors that could potentially help bring a variety of benefits. Colocation of parks with housing

can provide long-term resident engagement and stewardship of local parks and open space and improved public health outcomes. When parks and affordable homes are planned to be co-located, acquisition capital for park land and green infrastructure could be used to fill important gaps in patient acquisition capital desperately needed to build more affordable homes to meet demands. Ground leases and other arrangements made between building owners and park partners can provide for more sustainable services and recreational programs that would fill gaps for long-term maintenance and support services at the parks.

3) Require applicants receiving competitive and non-competitive Measure A funding to implement strategies, policies and/or programs that will reduce the economic displacement of existing residents and small businesses so they can stay and benefit from the investment.

The Transformative Climate Communities program, a new cap and trade program currently in its first round, program provides a good start in how to do this using a 3-pronged approach that we recommend you include. First, it requires direct, meaningful involvement of the residents and community-based organizations to drive the strategic investments of the program that will reduce GHGs and advance equity, resilience, and economic opportunity. It also requires applicants to include policies and programs to avoid displacement of existing residents and small businesses so they can stay and benefit from the investment. The program provides a table with examples of policies and strategies to avoid displacement, and there is a growing body of work and research on gentrification and displacement to draw upon. Finally, TCC requires development of long-term, multi-sector partnerships. TCC is developed to include these three elements a) strong local engagement, b) displacement avoidance strategies, and c) multi-sector partnerships because they are all critical to realizing the vision for equitable, transformative neighborhood change. In order to make this type of requirement feasible, we recommend you allow the technical assistance dollars in Measure A to help support applicants in meeting the anti-displacement requirement. We also highly recommend that you include anti-displacement programming, tenant engagement and education as eligible costs in the program and planning funding supported in Measure A.

4) Monitor and evaluate the impact of Measure A funding on displacement. Establish indicators on displacement of residents and small businesses and require reporting on those indicators from agencies and organizations receiving Measure A Funds. This data collection would be helpful to the County in meeting equity metric goals and in planning for future land use plans and the allocation of scarce resources.

We present these above as examples of what exists to date, but want to be careful to not position these examples as the only answer, as we and other partners continue to work towards comprehensive anti-displacement strategies.

Finally, we'd like to call your attention to the report developed out of USC PERE, [Measures Matter: Ensuring Equitable Implementation of Los Angeles County Measures M & A](#), which we and many others contributed to. The report provides a very helpful framework for equitable development in our region, and is an important resource we hope this Steering Committee takes very seriously as it progresses in setting up the guidelines for Measure A. The report includes a useful definition of equity and also provides 8 principles that are key to equitable development. The final report is now on the web, along with data tools and strategic implementation timelines.

In closing, Measure A is the right step in helping fund parks improvements projects that we need to make Los Angeles a more inclusive and livable place. The opportunity is now to set Measure A up to make Los Angeles a more livable city for all neighborhoods. We look forward to continuing to engage with you and collaborate in the development and implementation of this very exciting opportunity.

Thank you.

Natalie Zappella
Program Director, Sustainable Connected Communities
Enterprise Community Partners

February 12, 2018

Attn: Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) and Measure A Steering Committee Members

Via email (jwuyek@placeworks.com)

Re: Draft Measure A Guidelines

Dear Members of the Measure A Steering Committee:

Good morning committee members. My name is Sissy Trinh and I am the Executive Director of the Southeast Asian Community Alliance, a community group organizing low-income youth in Chinatown, Solano Canyon, and Lincoln Heights. Alpine Recreation Center is a ½ acre neighborhood park that also happens to be one of the City's busiest parks. This is because Chinatown is one of the City's poorest neighborhoods, where many families double and triple up in order to afford rent. Alpine park provides both physical open space and a mental reprieve from overcrowded housing conditions. It serves as the community's defacto senior center, day care center, and youth gathering space. Parks serve as so much more than a patch of green space for low-income communities of color like ours. As such, we are advocating to ensure that equity is included as a key metric for where and how Measure A funds are utilized. We support at least a 30% set aside for high and very high need communities such as Chinatown.

However we must also take into consideration the unintended consequences of new park investments in low-income communities. We have been seeing an increase in harassment and illegal evictions of low-income tenants living next to the LA State Historic Park and along the LA River while landlords use the park and river investments in their marketing materials for higher income prospective tenants. For many of the families we work with, gentrification is also leading to an increased risk of homelessness and many low-income families are now being put in the position of fighting against parks and healthier communities for fear of losing their homes.

Sadly, this green gentrification is not a phenomenon unique to the LA State Historic Park, but a nationally recognized trend where transformative infrastructure and greening of urban areas inevitably leads to increases in property values, gentrification, and displacement. Notable examples include the New York Highline, the 606 in Chicago, and the Atlanta Beltline.

In response to the green gentrification we've been seeing around the State Historic Park and the LA River, SEACA helped found LA ROSAH, the LA Regional Open Space and Affordable Housing Collaborative. LA ROSAH came together look at new ways to tackle this important

issue. Among the strategies we're exploring include the integrated development of parks and affordable housing and leveraging public infrastructure financing to incentivize local municipalities to adopt tenant protection and other anti-displacement measures.

While we believe that parks are an integral part of improving quality of life, public health, and climate resiliency in the region, those goals cannot come at the expense of housing stability for low-income families. So, we ask that the steering committee to work with us to adopt a displacement avoidance strategy as part of its expenditure plan.

Thank you.

Sissy Trinh
Southeast Asian Community Alliance (SEACA)

14 February 2018

To: Jane I. Beesley, *Regional Park and Open Space District* JBeesley@parks.lacounty.gov
Placeworks
David Early dearly@placeworks.com
C.C. LaGrange clagrange@placeworks.com
Jessica Wuyek jwuyek@placeworks.com

From: Measure A Implementation Steering Committee Members:
Manal J. Aboelata, *Managing Director, Prevention Institute*;
Tamika L. Butler, *Executive Director, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust*;
Sandra McNeill, *Supervisory District 2 Appointee*;
Yvette Lopez-Ledesma, *Deputy Director, Pacoima Beautiful*;
Tori Kjer, *Los Angeles Program Director, The Trust for Public Land*
Scott Chan, *Program Director, Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement*
Hugo Garcia, *Supervisory District 1 Appointee*

Cc: Reuben R. De Leon, *Senior Program Officer, First 5 LA*

Re: Follow up from January 25, 2018 Steering Committee Meeting

In follow up to the January 25, 2018 Measure A Steering Committee meeting, we wanted to: a) make a request for a subject-matter expert presentation by USC-PERE's Dr. Manuel Pastor, to the full steering committee at a future meeting, b) share valuable resources on community engagement best practices; and c) provide one link to an Executive Order focused on language translation in hopes of advancing the Steering Committee's collective capacity to effectively and efficiently advance key aims of the measure.

A) Request for a Subject Matter Expert Presentation to the Full Steering Committee

As you are probably aware, USC-PERE recently released, [Measures Matter: Ensuring Equitable Implementation of Los Angeles County Measures M & A](#). Their work reflects critical research, insights and recommendations that apply directly to the Measure A steering committee's deliberation and recommendations. We are requesting that Dr. Manuel Pastor, PERE Center Director be invited to present his research and findings to the full steering committee at an upcoming meeting, within a month, ideally. His research is of great interest and can assist the steering committee in building a shared language and sense of direction to enable some of the critical decision points the steering committee is facing to be made more expeditiously, and grounded in a more common understanding of opportunities for impact. Despite ambitious plans for several of the immediate, upcoming meetings, inviting Dr. Pastor in sooner rather than later can benefit the steering committee process down the road.

B) Valuable resources and reference materials on Community Engagement Best Practices

At our last meeting, we discussed community engagement, both in terms of structure and substance for Measure A. Below (and attached) please find reference materials being used in other municipalities to set forth standards, principles, models and plans for community engagement. We request that the Placeworks team review and synthesize the attached for the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee and Measure A's implementing agency, RPOSD, would benefit from an up-to-date synthesis of practices occurring in other municipalities who are seeking to elevate and standardize the practice of Community Engagement. With a shared understanding of some of the potential and possibilities for community engagement, the Steering Committee will be better equipped to build upon best practices in community engagement that go beyond the knowledgeable experts in the room. Placeworks can help the steering committee by: a) providing links to the materials, b) creating a summary document that synthesizes the approaches, methods and measurable outcomes for community engagement applicable to Measure A; and, c) propose options and adjustments to the current DRAFT community engagement plan, that reflect the unique and diverse features of LA County. It would be most helpful if Placeworks would also make recommendations and modifications to the Grant Scoring Criteria, Grant Narrative and Technical Assistance program to reflect best practices in community outreach and engagement. The practice of community engagement within municipalities, including park and recreation agencies, has grown and advanced over the last handful of years and it's essential that that LA County's Steering Committee has the benefit of drawing upon lessons learned and the best available information on the state of practice.

Sample Community Engagement Guidelines:

- Seattle:
<https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/Business/RFPs/Attachment5%20InclusiveOutreachandPublicEngagement.pdf>
- Portland: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/article/312804>
- Minneapolis:
https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/_asset/20rp8c/community_engagement_policy.pdf
- AB 31: http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1008/files/spp_application_guide_2009.pdf
(“community based planning” guidelines and scoring criteria p.33-37)
- Transformative Climate Communities (TCC):
http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/tcc/docs/20171024-TCC_FINAL_GUIDELINES.pdf
(community engagement guidelines p.13-15; scoring criteria p.27-28)

C) Seattle, King County's Executive Order for Written Language Translation

Please see King County, Seattle's Executive Order for Written Language Translation. It provides guidance on translation, distinguishes it from interpretation, and sets minimum requirements for determining what materials need to be translated. Please note that it would be ideal if Placeworks' team could continue scanning for other resources and best practices that would be applicable to LA County's diverse language representation. Places like New York City that are on par with LA in terms of linguistic diversity may be good sources for policies and best practices and standards that could be incorporated. As noted in the last meeting, the Federal standards may not be well-suited to LA for a variety of reasons. Again, the Steering Committee can draw upon best practices and models from other linguistically diverse regions and apply strategies and recommendations that will make Measure A's implementation guidelines strong.

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/operations/policies/documents/inf142aco.ashx?la=en>

Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to respond to the above mentioned requests and recommendations. We appreciate your efforts to position the LA County Measure A Steering Committee for a robust and successful process that draws upon subject matter expertise, lessons learned and best practices.



February 20, 2018

Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD)
Measure A Steering Committee Members

Dear Members of the Measure A Steering Committee:

To begin, we want to express our gratitude to the Measure A Steering Committee for the lively discourse exchanged throughout the guidelines process. In response to the existing ideas, we generally applaud the steering committee for pushing the conversation in terms of how to best implement policies that benefit all populations as well as emphasize which communities we could better provide for.

As a proven and powerful national nonprofit, Enterprise improves communities and people's lives by making well-designed homes affordable. We bring together nationwide know-how, partners, policy leadership and investment to multiply the impact of local affordable housing development. Since 1997 in Southern California, we have invested more than \$1.2 billion in the region, creating and preserving more than 21,000 affordable homes, delivering impactful technical assistance and capacity building to both our public partners and developers, and working with key stakeholders to achieve the systems change that is needed to address the severe housing crisis. Furthermore, we also helped found LA Regional Open Space and Affordable Housing Collaborative (LA ROSAH), integrating housing, parks, and green infrastructure while looking at new ways to tackle gentrification and displacement, with development and financing strategies and leveraging public infrastructure financing to incentivize local municipalities to adopt tenant protection and other anti-displacement measures.

That said, Measures A, M, and H have given us the unprecedented opportunity to transform the county into an inclusive and livable place with parks and transit while addressing our biggest challenge of homelessness, which increased by 23% last year. Moreover, we need to be mindful of the other challenges around the county: more than 1.3 million households in the LA region are rent burdened, and we are facing a shortage of both market rate and subsidized housing supplies. Combined with rising rents and low wages, families are currently being displaced through evictions – both legal and illegal – and condominium conversions. Unsurprisingly, evictions in the City of Los Angeles alone have increased 39% over the last 5 years.

With this in mind, our letter of our recommendation focuses on 4 key areas that we are more than happy to work with you on to implement a robust and equitable program. The following are our recommended modifications to the Measure A guidelines.

Funding

- **Set aside 50% of competitive funding for high and very high need study areas.** In LA County, communities of color have not received the same level of park investment compared to more affluent, white areas, which is clearly documented in the LA County Park Needs Assessment. The Regional Park and Open Space District has the authority to

set the direct of all other park investment going forward and is well positioned to reverse injustice by prioritizing investment in “disadvantaged communities.” Two State examples are available for you to readily adopt, including:

1. California’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program sets aside a minimum of 50% of their funding for projects benefiting “Disadvantaged Communities” as defined by Cal EPA. in the CalEnviroScreen 3.0. CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool. (top 25% or one of the 22 tracts that score in the highest 5% of pollution burden).
2. California’s Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) goes beyond AHSC and takes a place-based approach that allows for 100% of the funding to provide direct, meaningful benefit to the top 5% of disadvantaged communities in the state, as defined by Cal EPA in the CalEnviroScreen 3.0.

- **Allocate additional funding for technical assistance.** The County should provide technical assistance dollars funded by Measure A or other resources to provide education, training, and implementation of multisector applications that prioritize meaningful partnerships that promote deep community engagement resulting in thoughtful, environmentally beneficial projects that directly address anti-displacement. This funding is particularly important for under-resourced, smaller jurisdictions and community organizations.

Housing

- **Incentivize Measure A competitive and non-competitive funding for the joint development of affordable housing projects (preservation or new construction) with parks.** As part of LA ROSAH, we have been exploring creative capital solutions by integrating parks and housing development that could potentially help bring a variety of benefits:
 1. Parks capital could provide acquisition of land for parks, green infrastructure and affordable housing, which would fill a critical funding gap of limited, patient capital for land acquisition for affordable housing development.
 2. Measure A provides the opportunity to identify sites that may have been unsuitable for housing or parks alone, but can leverage public and private resources for the development of both.
 3. The co-location of parks and affordable housing can provide many benefits:
 - Residents benefit from the positive health outcomes when a family has an affordable apartment and access to active parks for recreation.
 - Ground leases or other financial arrangements between affordable housing and parks partners may provide resources to fill gaps for the parks’ long-term operations and fund resident support services while incentivizing resident engagement and stewardship of the local parks.
 - The opportunities to integrate Low Impact Development (LID) standards when developing affordable housing with green space encourages a multisector approach to help promote environmental benefits and meet climate resilience goals.

Therefore, expanding the Eligible Applicant definition to include non-profit organizations that are Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), or have a community-based approaches in their mission statement can forge strategic partnerships between these sectors.

Anti-Displacement Strategy

- **Require applicants receiving competitive and non-competitive Measure A funding to implement strategies, policies and/or programs that will reduce the economic displacement of existing residents and small businesses so they can stay and benefit from the investment.** The TCC program provides a good start in how to begin addressing displacement by using a 3-pronged approach we recommend you adopt in your program, including strong local engagement, displacement avoidance strategies, and multi-sector partnerships, all critical to realizing the vision for equitable, transformative neighborhood change.
 1. Direct, meaningful involvement of existing residents and community-based organizations can drive the strategic investments of the program that advance equity, resilience, and economic opportunity.
 2. The requirement that applicants include and adopt policies and programs to avoid displacement of existing residents and small businesses ensures they can stay and benefit from the investment. You can adopt the TCC samples and augment them with the growing body of research and emerging practices to address gentrification and displacement. We are happy to work with you on this topic.
 3. Finally, TCC requires development of long-term, multi-sector partnerships that leverage private and public funds to sustain community revitalization and equitable development, while helping to meet the program goals over the long-run. A multisector approach also can promote affordable housing, parks, and environmentally beneficial projects.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Intensively observe and analyze the impacts of Measure A funding on displacement.** The County should establish indicators (or score cards) to track any displacement of residents and small businesses and require agencies and organizations receiving Measure A funds to report on these indicators over a period to measure the equitable impact of its investments.

Thank you for your consideration of our suggestions. We offer them in the spirit of cooperation of the Measure A Steering Committee's work as we excitingly engage in other projects and initiatives. As always, we look forward to engaging with you and the various stakeholders of the committee as the guidelines mature and reach a finalized form such that LA's future developments are mindful of our vulnerable communities.

Sincerely,

Ramon Mendez
Solutions and Strategic Priorities Director
Enterprise Community Partners

Mr. Rigoberto Sanchez
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District
1000 S. Fremont Avenue, #40
Building A-9 East,
Alhambra, California 91803

Dear Rigo,

We appreciate being involved in this discussion regarding criteria for category five in Measure A. The inclusion of job training in this measure is yet another indication of the ROSPD's commitment to equity and diversity and we applaud the thoughtful manner in which it is being approached. I offer these comments, most of which I made during the meeting, on behalf of Community Nature Connection. All are made based on the belief that this grant program will be most successful if it results in residents from high needs areas becoming eligible for a variety of positions in park and recreation agencies, or being placed in jobs with park agencies.

The draft criterion divides scoring into three categories totaling 70 points. Those three categories are level of need, program benefits and community participation.

We suggest increasing the point value of level of need to 30 for a program that serves 75% or higher high need communities as spelled out in the measure. 20 points for 50%-75% and 10 for 25% - 49%.

We suggest that you eliminate the third category of community participation. The stated purpose of the category is to recruit participants from high needs areas, but points for this are already awarded under the level of need category. By eliminating category three you can increase the importance of level of need and program benefits. I am confused as to what role community participation would play other than as recruitment.

Currently program benefits category, which includes everything from the capacity of the grantee to operate a program to the quality and success of the job training program, is given only 30 points--less than half of the total evaluation. This should be increased to 40 points.

R. Sanchez

RSPOD

Re: Measure A, Criteria 5

Page 2

The current program benefits criterion does not include any evaluation of a program's actual training content - what the participants will be trained to know or do. This should be an added 5 points.

As written the applicant does not have to show any evidence that the training program was developed with participation of park agencies and non profits that operate parks. Participants will have a higher likelihood of employment at a park agency if their skills and knowledge are concrete and reflect the needs of those agencies and organizations. Training proposals that do not reflect the broad needs of park agencies should not score as highly as those that do. Therefore a category that related to matching the proposed training to actual jobs in the park and recreation field should be added and allocated 5 points.

There is currently a category called recruitment and retention. While recruitment is already covered in the level of need section, retention is a strong indicator of whether a training program truly results in real jobs beyond a trainee/apprenticeship program. The 5 points currently allocated should remain for retention.

Lastly, we raise a question regarding the definition of "park projects" as spelled out in the description for the education and skills training category. It is our hope that park projects will be defined by ROSPD in the broadest manner possible; allowing training programs to include skills needed for both physical projects, i.e. trail building, as well as skills needed for programs to provide park visitors with interpretation, visitor services, environmental education, etc. Again, graduates will be more likely to be hired in parks if they learn a broader range of skills and knowledge in the training program. We note that the certification and job placement program says "jobs and careers in the Park and Recreation field" and think the training programs should support that job placement.

Thank you for your time. I am available should you have questions regarding these comments.

Amy Lethbridge, Ph.D.
Executive Director

28 February 2018

To: Jane I. Beesley, Regional Park and Open Space District JBeesley@parks.lacounty.gov

Placeworks

David Early dearly@placeworks.com

C.C. LaGrange clagrange@placeworks.com

Jessica Wuyek jwuyek@placeworks.com

From: Manal J. Aboelata, Managing Director, Prevention Institute, Measure A Implementation Steering Committee Member

Re: Feedback on the Measure A Grant Scoring Criteria

First, we would like to thank the Regional Park and Open Space District and Placeworks for presenting the Measure A Steering Committee with draft grant scoring and evaluation criteria for its consideration and review. In reviewing several documents related to competitive grant categories 3 & 4, including but not limited to the following: Measure A Ballot Language, *Section Three: Category 3 & 4 Competitive Grant Policies*, *General Competitive Grants: Category 3*, *General Competitive Grants: Category 4*, *Recreation Access Grants: Categories 3 & 4*, and *Evaluation Criteria for Categories 3 & 4*, we would like to offer several observations and recommendations that we hope to see addressed in subsequent iterations of the scoring and evaluation criteria. We thought it would be most helpful to the Steering Committee and Placeworks to have the opportunity to address the below comments in preparation for that discussion.

Level of Need- 30%

Level of Need should be no less than 30% of the total points in the final evaluation scoring criteria. Level of need was 30% of the proposed total in the draft criteria that were presented to the Steering Committee and we propose that this be retained or increased.

The definition of need should be based on High Need and Very High Need as demonstrated in the current Park Needs Assessment (PNA). We recommend that full points for addressing need should not automatically be available to those working at the sub-area level. If RPOSD and Placeworks can demonstrate for the steering committee (SC) concrete examples or scenarios where a strong proposal meeting need in a sub area should be considered on par with those addressing the needs as defined by the PNA that would be helpful for the SC's deliberation. Proposals originating from outside of a high need or very high need areas should be held to a high standard requiring them to develop project plans and demonstrate evidence that their proposals will meet the needs of people in high need / very high need areas. To receive points for meeting need, it is not sufficient that a project simply be available for the following reasons:

- Availability of and proximity to parks and open space is associated with public health benefits, including opportunities for increased physical activity, improved air quality, and better mental health.
- The *Parks and Public Health in Los Angeles County Report* found that cities and communities with less park space per capita on average had higher rates of premature mortality from diabetes and cardiovascular disease, higher prevalence of childhood obesity, and greater economic hardship.

- The LA County Report also found that African Americans and Latinos were more likely than Asians and Whites to live in cities and communities with less park space per capita. These findings underscore current socioeconomic and racial inequities in park space, and the need to prioritize resources to create safe parks in high need / very high need areas to maximize health benefits, for which LA County is also responsible.

RPOSD and the Steering Committee have a significant opportunity to deliver high quality projects which can accrue benefits for the whole County by addressing persistent health and park need inequities.

Summary Recommendations:

- Increase maximum points given to Level of Need; don't go below 30%.
- Strike Sub criteria (C) and (D) that reference subareas
 - o Or demonstrate subarea need through project plan and narrative
 - o Clarify how narrative will be evaluated; identify objective criteria, strategies or best practices for projects to meet need despite not being located in a high need / very high need area.
- Explore how project evaluation year over year can be used to ensure progress toward meeting need.
 - o What are the benefits / risks of waiting 5 years?
 - o Should there be a quality-improvement mechanism? If no demonstration that gaps in needs of low income people and people of color are being closed, what actions will be taken to course correct?

Regional Benefit & Regional Need (1-5%)

The ballot text of Measure A under category 3 states, "The District shall prioritize projects that offer the greatest regional benefits, or serve the greatest regional need." Greater clarity is needed in defining and scoring "regional benefit" and "regional need". In other words, these are potentially very subjective terms and could be meaningless without clear guidance to applicants. The radius approach is challenging to implement and has the potential to prioritize uniqueness of feature over population served, which seems incongruous with the intent of the Measure and the Park Needs Assessment methodology. Please further explore ways to define regional need and regional benefit in relation to people who live in very high need and high need areas of the County and offer alternative scenarios for how to attribute points to projects that provide regional benefit *and* meet regional need. Based on our review of materials, we see some ambiguity and the potential for projects of regional significance to score well without being explicitly geared toward meeting regional need, namely, addressing the needs of people. In alignment with the Park Needs Assessment methodology, the definition and scoring of "regional benefit" must include population measures, including numbers of people served and/or the population density of the area where the project is located.

Summary Recommendations:

- Clarify definition of Regional Benefit to highlight connection with regional need and associate regional need with closing gaps in parks and open space access *and proximity* for low income people and people of color. This is where we can accrue greater benefit to the County as a whole.
- Eliminate radius approach (or radius approach alone) because it incentivizes unique features without taking into consideration the demographic profile served by that feature.

- Define Regional Benefit using population measures, including numbers of people served and/or the population density of the area where the project is located.
- Define Regional Need as addressing needs in the High or Very High need study areas.
- Consider the feasibility of including sub criterion that awards points for projects that involve coordination among at least 3 or more adjacent High or Very High Need Study Areas or cities
- Please also help the Steering Committee to more deeply consider the potential additional impacts of projects of regional significance to other related priority concerns in LA County, namely displacement. We can envision a scenario where a large regional project in a large city would be able to claim regional benefit to acquire or develop a large parcel and that that project could accelerate forces of residential and small business displacement. While we recognize that RPOSD cannot “do it all” with respect to displacement and gentrification, we feel strongly that LA County has set forth a clear priority around addressing homelessness for all Departments, including special districts and therefore, each contribution can be meaningful. One possibility is to require projects claiming regional significance to leverage funds for anti-displacement measures from other sources or to develop a clear anti-displacement mitigation plans.

Multi-Benefit Projects (50-60%)

In the current funding and political climate, it is essential that today’s parks and open-spaces generate multiple benefits. For LA County, and based on the ballot measure language and polling data, we propose that the priority dimensions of multi-benefit include three equally weighted buckets for as follows: 1) Community Safety, Gang Reduction and Violence Prevention; 2) Recreation, Physical Activity & Health; and 3) Environmental Benefits. Projects would have the opportunity to address all three domains to score maximum points.

1) Community Safety, Gang Reduction and Violence Prevention (20%)

Given the ballot measure’s short language emphasis on safe parks and gang reduction, projects should be expected to advance community safety, reduce gangs and prevent violence. Polling data similarly indicate that likely voters were strongly in favor of park funds being used to advance community safety and gang reduction. It is critical that gang reduction not become simply a messaging tool but be operationalized. Fortunately, LA County is home to some of the most recent, evidence-based innovations at the intersection of parks and open space and community safety and gang reduction (see attached, for additional resources). The California Violence Prevention and Intervention Program (See: http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_cpgpcalvipgrant.php) has also recently released a grant RFP which demonstrates how a scoring methodology designed to provide “extra points” for projects in cities in California that are disproportionately impacted by violence. Their methodology may be useful to explore and embed in Measure A “level of need” scoring criteria. We recommend assigning points to invite, incentivize and reward applications that use best practices to address community safety and gang reduction, especially in very high need and high need areas of the county. In this vein, it is important to note that public safety and crime prevention are not the same as addressing community safety and gang reduction best practices. Evaluations from LA City’s Friday Night Lights program and LA County’s Parks After Darks (See Measure A and Safety Working Document, attached) as well as expert input from the field suggest that strategies such as, engaging with former and current gang members to ensure park safety, community-based programming at gang affected parks, and the existence of community based infrastructure for gang intervention such as inclusion of street outreach workers, youth diversion programs represent some best practices and could be embedded as objective scoring criteria.

Recommendations:

- We would like to see community safety and gang reduction as a stand-alone category on the scoring tool, under the multi-benefit category with points awarded for:
 - o 1) evidence of partnership with organizations that are expert in community safety and gang reduction in multiple phases of project delivery
 - o 2) park design that uses best practices to enhance safety, e.g. by reducing isolated places, clustering activity areas to increase informal surveillance, increasing sight lines, and providing adequate lighting;
 - o 3) robust community outreach processes that includes engagement with community members in high violence communities, including youth who are at risk, gang affiliated or formerly gang affiliated, to help address issues of safety during the park design process; and
 - o 4) Narrative language that describes how the city will provide community-based programming at proposed project locations, aligned with best practice strategies.
 - o 5) Adoption of park policies and programs that prevent criminalization of youth of color in park areas, including a commitment that funding cannot go towards increasing law enforcement personnel and presence.
- Addressing Homelessness

2) Health, Physical Activity and Recreation, (20%)

Evaluation scoring criteria for community health, physical activity should reflect the Measure language and board motion’s emphasis of the potential for parks and open space to achieve the County’s public health aims. The draft scoring criteria suggested such low point values for “health” we are concerned that an otherwise excellent project can score well without making any meaningful contributions to human health. Here, we offer some examples of sample strategies and criteria that might be used to delineate the expectation that high quality projects in Categories 3 & 4 seek to advance health:

Recommendations: Potential Scoring Criteria

We would like to see Health, Physical Activity Recreation, as a category in the multi-benefit category on the scoring tool, with points awarded for the following:

- Provides infrastructure and equipment for physical activity for a variety of ages
- Provides infrastructure and equipment that cater to physical activity and recreation needs of youth, seniors, and people with special needs
- Increases ability of residents to get to the park/open space by walking and bicycling, as in Safe Routes to Parks and Open Space, use of way finding signs
- Provides access to healthy foods *if healthy food options can be defined by / recommended in the request for proposal*; we want to minimize the risk of supporting weak “healthy vending” changes to the food environment, but healthy, affordable fresh foods and innovative practices related to healthy street vending might be very appealing.

3) Environmental Benefits (20%)

Many of the environmental benefits listed are closely linked. We recommend streamlining the criteria and creating an Environmental Benefits category within the Multi-Benefits category.

Recommendations:

- We would like to see Environmental Benefits as a category on the scoring tool, with points awarded for: Habitat Protection and Biodiversity, Healthy Ecosystem, Water Quality Improvements, Storm water Capture and Attenuation, Water Conservation, Climate Resiliency, Greenhouse Gas Reductions, Air Quality Improvements, Carbon Sequestration and Heat-Island Reduction.
- **Storm water Capture and Leveraging:** LA County will be placing a storm water measure on the ballot, most likely in July 2018. This should be noted and again, scoring criteria should encourage multi-benefit with storm water capture and management, and done so in a way that defines need according to the high priority park need area of the County.

Community Engagement (10-15%)

Based on ongoing discussions among the Steering Committee, Community Engagement and Community Participation – particularly of residents in high need and very high need park areas that do not normally participate in public processes – is important to members of the Steering Committee. Community Engagement should be demonstrated in all projects and demonstrated ability of applicants to carry out effective community engagement should be rewarded with points in the evaluation scoring criteria.

- Criterion 1: Number of outreach methods used. Outreach methods include but are not limited to: door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, mailers, distribution of flyers or other printed materials, outreach to existing community groups and networks, local media and/or ethnic media, surveys/focus groups, email marketing/website/social media. Score from high to low:
 - 5+ methods
 - 4 methods
 - 3 methods (= minimum requirement)
- Criterion 2: Participation from a broad representation of residents and stakeholders; score from high to low:
 - Broad representation
 - Narrow representation
- Criterion 3: Number of participatory engagement activities and convenience for residents. Participatory engagement activities include but are not limited to public workshops/meetings, design charrettes, collective design/visioning, community mapping, model making, public art, surveys/focus groups. Score from high to low:
 - 5+ activities, 3 activities held evening/weekend
 - 4 activities, 2 activities held evening/weekend
 - 3 activities (= minimum requirement), 1 activity held evening/weekend
 - 3 activities (= minimum requirement), 0 activities held evening/weekend
- Criterion 4: Creative Place making and Shared Decision-Making (the following goals were adapted from AB 31 – see AB 31 for specific scoring rubric):
 - Goal 1: The residents worked together to identify and prioritize recreation features that best meet their needs and reached a general agreement on the type and design of the recreation feature(s).
 - Goal 2: The residents engaged in a process to reach a general agreement on the location of the recreation features(s) within the project.

- Goal 3: The residents engaged in a process to provide other project design ideas, including solutions for safe public use and park beautification such as landscaping and public art.

Recommendations: Some of the key dimensions of Community Engagement that can be reviewed and scored include:

- Active engagement, taking part in discussions, research, decision making, leadership roles, etc. during proposal design/pre-grant
- Active engagement during project implementation
- More points for concurrent/participatory engagement
- Partnerships with a variety of stakeholders (residents, business owners, CBOs, etc.)
- Gives stakeholders a clear and genuine role in decision making
- Evaluation plan to measure robustness of community engagement
- *See AB 31 Statewide Park Program and Transformative Climate Communities Scoring Rubric/community engagement plan*

Universal Accessibility and Facility/Amenity Conditions (1-5%)

We want to propose grouping Universal Accessibility and Facility/Amenity Conditions into one category and do away with the percentages entirely. This will incentivize park projects that include universally accessible amenities to bring all parks up to the same high quality standards. The repair/fix criteria create a risk of prioritizing large, existing projects that have already seen a lot of investment. This isn't an attempt to avoid repair/fix, but just noting that there is separate funding allocated to maintenance and servicing.

Recommendations:

- Points should be awarded to the following accessibility criteria: water fountains, shade structures, adequate lighting, seating, restrooms
- Keep the first two criteria to fix or replace amenities found to be in poor or fair condition
- Eliminate the rest of the percentages breakdowns

Leveraging of Funds (Proposed: Inversely proportional to Level of Need, or 1-5%)

Leveraging of funds is a critical issue. We agree that maximizing the potential of Measure A dollars requires groups to leverage funds. However, we also know that given structural inequities and pre-existing disparities in local tax bases and distribution of resources (historic and present day, across multiple dimensions), the requirement for leveraging funds can de facto block low income cities and partners working in the highest need areas from competing for funds.

We would like to see Placeworks offer up some creative solutions that recognize and reflect that everyone is not starting from the same place *and* that those who are better positioned to leverage should be encouraged to do so. We don't have easy answers to this and suspect there is no 'perfect' solution, but we do believe we should try to grapple with this issue. One idea is to use the Countywide Park Needs Assessment to create tiers. Those in the highest need category would not be penalized for not being able to leverage funds, but perhaps provided with additional technical assistance for doing so at a later stage. On the other hand, well-established groups in relatively park-rich communities who have a track record of drawing down state funds, for example, should remain encouraged and expected to leverage funds or be required to provide mentorship and support to groups in high needs areas.

Additional Thoughts / Recommendations:

- Give points to projects that integrate Measure A and Measure M efforts (and other funds/efforts) to create healthy, sustainable places
- Address concern here is that points for leveraging funds will disproportionately benefit higher income cities
- What can RPOSD or other TA providers do help applicants identify matching/leverage funds via TA? Integrate TA and leveraging to give lower-capacity cities/orgs opportunities to leverage.

Creative Place making and Quality Design to meet the needs of Local Residents (1-5%)

Creative place making needs to be contextualized and oriented toward meeting the needs of local residents, and elevating neighborhood history and culture, for instance, enlisting local arts and culture organizations.

Addressing LA County Priority Issue of Gentrification and Displacement (5% or less)

While the issues of gentrification and displacement are not equally felt across the Open Space District, areas that are high need and very high need may be at particular risk for displacement pressures. We recognize that parks and open space can't solve "every issue" however, as stated earlier, given the housing affordability crisis in LA County, the recognized need to eliminate inequities in park access and the association between healthy community improvements, increasing land values and other real-estate pressures, we would like to propose that the Steering Committee give serious consideration to developing project scoring criteria or enhance the review process in some way to encourage and incentivize practical strategies for improving park access while addressing issues of gentrification and displacement. If Measure A fails to do so, it runs the risk of simply relocating park need rather than ameliorating it. Here are some concrete thoughts:

- For planning projects, plans should address park needs and displacement avoidance strategies
- For acquisition and development, maximum points should be given to co-located affordable housing and parks/open space projects
- For connectivity / trail projects, maximum points should be given to those that link existing parks and open space to affordable housing
- Maximum points should be given to affordable housing developers and land trusts that build parks / open space onsite or nearby.
- Grant narrative includes description of displacement vulnerability
- Priority given to projects that advance solutions to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with park creation pursuant to the project is an increase in the cost of housing.
- *Note: Bullet 2 above is from Prop 68 (which hasn't passed yet).*
- *What is feasible to require applicants to do to avoid displacement? Should applicants have a displacement policy in place or does this disadvantage low income cities? Is there an initial step that is feasible for applicants that could be required or receive points?*

We recognize that developing a comprehensive and evidence-based scoring criteria is a complex endeavor and that there are many dimensions that must simultaneously be addressed and thank you, in advance, for considering this critical feedback.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jane Beesley, Regional Park and Open Space District
(JBeesley@parks.lacounty.gov)

FROM: Tamika Butler, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (tbutler@lanlt.org)

CC: Mark Glassock (mglassock@lanlt.org)
Elsa Tung (etung@lanlt.org)

DATE: 3/5/2018

RE: **Recommendations for Nonprofit M&S Allocation**

The provision of Measure A funds for nonprofit maintenance and service is an absolutely critical element in the development of private-public partnerships to support increased access to parklands. There are a number of public agencies that will not be able utilize their non-competitive allocations without a solid and resourced corps of non-profit partners equipped to support maintenance and operations. The Neighborhood Land Trust strongly believes that these funds specifically enable the development of new partnerships that could make Measure A capital project investments more sustainable and more impactful. To enable this, the Neighborhood Land Trust respectfully submits the following direct edits to existing policy language on the Nonprofit M&S Allocation:

2.2 Nonprofit M&S Allocation

Measure A allocates 4.5% of available maintenance and servicing funds for eligible nonprofit organizations that own, operate, or both, parklands consistent with the measure. These funds shall be allocated as follows:

1. ~~Eligible Nonprofit~~ organizations that own and/or operate parklands consistent with the measure may complete a one-time application to be eligible apply for Maintenance and Servicing funds. Eligibility status lasts for a period of four years, after which it must be renewed.
- 1-2. After eligibility has been established, nonprofit organizations may submit requests for Maintenance and Servicing funds for a duration of up to two years annually, following the established procedures and requirements for Maintenance and Servicing Funds, including any subsequent updates.
- 2-3. Funds shall be prioritized for maintenance projects located in high or very high need study areas. Non-profits that demonstrate that maintenance and service funding could not be provided by another available source will be prioritized for Measure A M&S funding. distributed proportionally, subject to District approval, based on the amount of funding available for distribution, the funding amount requested, and the number of applicants who meet the eligibility and submission requirements.
- 3-4. Applicants may or may not receive the full amount requested.
5. Eligible expenses for Nonprofit Maintenance and Servicing funds include direct costs, soft costs, and contracted services consistent with Measure A procurement guidelines

and may cover routine, planned operations of parklands as well as deferred maintenance and improvements.

6. Eligible expenses for Nonprofit Maintenance and Servicing funds also include land holding costs including property insurance and environmental compliance.

7. Funds can be advanced to the non-profit organization in a manner consistent with the measure.

4.8. Unallocated Nonprofit Maintenance and Servicing funds will be rolled over from each fiscal year and restricted for the funding or technical assistance of eligible nonprofit organizations that own, operate, or both, parklands consistent with the measure.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jane Beesley, Regional Park and Open Space District (JBeesley@parks.lacounty.gov)
David Early, PlaceWorks (dearly@placeworks.com)
C.C. LaGrange, PlaceWorks (clagrange@placeworks.com)
Jessica Wuyek, PlaceWorks (jwuyek@placeworks.com)

FROM: Tamika Butler, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (tbutler@lanlt.org)

CC: Mark Glassock (mglassock@lanlt.org)
Elsa Tung (etung@lanlt.org)

DATE: 3/7/2018

RE: Recommendations for Community Engagement Requirements (Chapter 3.3.1.1) and Technical Assistance (Chapter 4)

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust creates, organizes, and advocates for urban parks and gardens in low-income, park-poor communities of color. We are grateful to be a close nonprofit partner to the County on multiple fronts, including as a Measure A Implementation Steering Committee member.

We thank the Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) and PlaceWorks for presenting the steering committee with draft guidelines on community engagement and technical assistance. In making the edits and recommendations below, we want to underscore that Measure A passed only after the County performed a robust Park Needs Assessment to understand different communities' need for parks, the great disparities that exist across the county, and the cost of meeting park needs. It is critical that we, as the stewards of Measure A implementation, formulate guidelines that deliver on what the voters were promised.

In addition, the practice of community engagement and the provision of technical assistance has grown and advanced over the last several years, and we believe it is essential that Measure A draw upon lessons learned and the best available information on the state of practice in California and around the country.

The first half of this memo includes recommended edits to the community engagement requirements on pages 10-12 of the Chapter 3 "Funding Guidelines" draft dated November 30, 2017. The second half of this memo includes recommended edits to the Chapter 4 "Technical Assistance" guidelines reviewed at the January 25, 2018 steering committee meeting. Most edits are in the form of direct edits in red, and where direct edits are not provided, concrete recommendations are provided in gray boxes.

Chapter 3.3.1.1 Community Engagement Requirements

3.3.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

3.3.1.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement is required by each Study Area in order to request and receive grant funds, including annual allocations, competitive grants (except for programmatic grants), and M&S funds. This engagement could occur before the grant award, after the grant award, or both. Figure 3-3 describes the different levels of engagement approaches. All grant types are required to conduct the Information Sharing engagement approach.

~~The purpose of the community engagement requirements is to: 1) ensure that communities throughout Los Angeles County (County) are aware of, and can help set spending priorities for Measure A-funded projects; and 2) for agencies to report how previous year's allocations and awards were spent.~~

Recommendation: Rewrite the purpose of community engagement to:

- Acknowledge the barriers that low-income people and people of color experience in accessing government or participating in public process ¹
- Recognize diversity as both a strength and opportunity ¹
- Affirm that a healthy democracy requires outreach and community engagement that takes into account our communities' racial, cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic complexity ¹
- Clearly state the need to build strong, sustainable, and authentic community partnerships that: center the perspectives of vulnerable communities; support inclusive community-based participation, power, and leadership; and result in shared decision-making. ^{1,2}

[Sources: (1) Seattle Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement Guide (2012); (2) USC "Measures Matter" (2018)]

Note that competitive grant applications will be evaluated on the degree of and approaches to community involvement beyond the minimum community engagement requirements (see "Community Involvement" evaluation criterion). Applicants meeting only the minimum requirements will score lower than applicants who conduct more robust community engagement. Applicants should follow the guidelines below to fulfill the minimum community engagement requirements:

Recommendation: Redefine "Participatory Engagement."

See edits to "Figure 3-3" below for recommended new definition and requirements.

- Applicants should follow the flowcharts shown on Figure 3-3 to determine what minimum level of engagement is required to be completed.
- Engagement must be thoughtful and appropriate to the Study Area's community, including the following:
 - Provide advanced notice of at least two weeks for concurrent and participatory engagement through multiple platforms such as by notice, mailing, flyer, postcards, door hangers, radio or television ads, social media, etc.
 - Schedule and locate meetings/events at a time/location appropriate for adequate community attendance.
 - Reach out to community members living in High and Very High need Study Areas and/or subareas as well as non-English speaking populations, if applicable.
 - Provide interpretive services for languages other than English in aural, written, and/or speech forms, targeting languages that are commonly spoken in the community.

- Engagement that has occurred within 36 months is acceptable with verification.
- If engagement has not yet occurred, agencies must describe the comprehensive community outreach and engagement plan in their grant application and upon completion of engagement, verification must be provided to RPOSD. Applicants must demonstrate how their outreach and engagement plan will be directed to the residents of the community.
- Acceptable verification for all levels of engagement includes but is not limited to: narrative descriptions of the type of outreach and engagement activities conducted, photos of activities/materials produced during meeting(s), sign-in sheets, signed resolutions (if applicable), social media reports, and sample flyers and printed materials, lists of streets that were canvassed, lists of community landmarks where materials were posted, and social media reports.

Annual Allocations

For annual allocation funds, the level of community engagement requirements is dependent on ~~the amount of annual allocation funds an agency is withdrawing for each Study Area that given grant year. The amount could include a single year's worth of annual allocation funds, a portion of a single year's worth of annual allocation funds, or the total or a portion of annual allocation funds accrued over multiple years (not to exceed five years, per RPOSD's requirements).~~ the full scope and budget of each project [rather than the Measure A award size]. The level of community engagement requirements are differentiated by three funding amount thresholds (see Figure 3-3):

- Under \$100,000 [if the entire project budget is under \$100,000]
- \$100,000 to \$500,000 [if entire project budget is \$100,000 to \$500,000]
- Over \$500,000 [if entire project budget is over \$500,000]

Advancement of Funds

Agencies may advance up to 30 percent of their annual allocation funds, not to exceed \$20,000. Any advanced funds would count toward an agency's total withdrawal amount of annual allocation funds.

Sharing/Transferring of Funds

A Study Area may share its Category 1 and/or Category 2 funds with another Study Area, provided that:

- The "receiving" Study Area is located directly adjacent to the "sending" Study Area; or
- RPOSD finds, through the grantmaking process, that the intended use of the funds by the "receiving" Study Area will benefit the residents of the "sending" Study Area.

In such cases, the amount of shared annual allocation funds should count toward both the "sending" and "receiving" Study Areas' total annual allocation funds withdrawn for the year.

Competitive Grants

For competitive grant funds, the level of community engagement requirements is dependent on the project's ~~requested grant award size/applicable grant award size~~ full scope and budget, with brackets of small, medium, large, or jumbo. Note that different grant categories range in ~~grant award size amount~~ project budget thresholds. For example, Category 3's small ~~grant award size bracket~~ project budget range differs from Category 5's small ~~grant award size bracket~~ project budget range.

Agencies ~~requesting larger sizes of grant awards~~ requesting grant awards for projects with larger budgets are required to conduct more instances of community engagement throughout the grant project. For example, competitive grant applications ~~requesting a grant award size with project budgets~~ within the jumbo ~~award~~ bracket are required to complete participatory engagement at ~~two~~ three separate times before or after the grant award.

M&S Funds

Agencies requesting M&S funds of any amount are only required to conduct the Information Sharing approach.

Figure 3-3: Engagement Approaches and Requirements

~~Participatory Engagement: This approach includes meetings, workshops, and other events that solely discuss priority spending of Measure A funds. These events focus entirely on parks and recreation priorities and how Measure A funds should be directed to those priorities. Meetings must intentionally engage the community and solicit meaningful feedback. Participatory engagement methods should be appropriate in scale and type to the particular community.~~

Recommendation: Redefine “Participatory Engagement”

Participatory engagement seeks to build strong, sustainable, authentic partnerships with impacted communities to enable communities to identify their needs and priorities and make project decisions to address their needs and priorities. Projects must be driven by the needs and priorities of the community.

Participatory engagement requires robust and culturally competent and linguistically appropriate outreach and engagement activities to ensure broad and accurate representation and participation from the impacted communities.

Outreach Methods

Agencies and applicants are required to use a minimum of three different types of community outreach methods, which should be appropriate in scale and type to the particular community. Community outreach methods include but are not limited to: door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, mailers, distribution of flyers or other printed materials, outreach to existing community groups and networks, local media and/or ethnic media, surveys/focus groups, email marketing/website/social media.

Printed outreach materials must be available in any language that is the primary language of five percent or more of the community’s population, per guidance from the California Bilingual Services Act. Printed outreach materials must be reasonably legible and posted publicly at culturally relevant and high foot-traffic sites.

To complete the required community outreach, agencies and applicants are encouraged to partner with the Technical Assistance Program’s professional service providers.

Participatory Engagement Activities

Agencies and applicants are required to complete a minimum of three different types of participatory engagement activities, which should be appropriate in scale and type to the particular community. Participatory engagement activities include but are not limited to: public workshops/meetings, design charrettes, collective design/visioning, community mapping, model making, public art, and surveys/focus groups.

Meetings and events must be scheduled and located at a time and location appropriate for broad and representative community participation, including on evenings and weekends.

Printed materials must be available in any language that is the primary language of five percent or more of the community’s population, per guidance from the California Bilingual Services Act. Oral interpretation at public workshops and meetings is required for any language that is the primary language of five percent or more of the community’s population, per guidance from the California Bilingual Services Act.

To complete the required participatory engagement activities, agencies and applicants are encouraged to sub-contract with the Technical Assistance Program’s professional service providers.

Chapter 3.3.3.2 General Competitive (Category 3) Evaluation Criteria (p.30)

Chapter 3.3.3.3 General Competitive (Category 4) Evaluation Criteria (p.36)

<p>Community Involvement</p> <p>Applicants who have conducted or plan to conduct meaningful outreach to community members and interested stakeholders will receive points based on the degree of and approaches to community engagement conducted prior to grant application and/or planned for the period after the grant is awarded that goes beyond the project eligibility requirement for community engagement.</p> <p>Between 0 and 20 points will be awarded based on the evaluators’ assessment of the submitted community involvement plan.</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>Project includes robust and innovative outreach strategies (beyond the project eligibility requirement for community engagement) that will engage the identified target audience.</p>	<p>15-20</p>
<p>Project includes sufficient outreach and includes outreach strategies (beyond the project eligibility requirement for community engagement) that will engage the identified target audience.</p>	<p>6-14</p>
<p>Project includes minimal and limited outreach strategies (beyond the project eligibility requirement for community engagement) that will engage the identified target audience.</p>	<p>0-5</p>

Recommendation: Model community engagement scoring criteria after the AB 31 Statewide Park Program ([guidelines p.33-37](#)) and give community engagement a scoring weight of medium to high.

Criterion 1: Number of outreach methods used. Outreach methods include but are not limited to: door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, mailers, distribution of flyers or other printed materials, outreach to existing community groups and networks, local media and/or ethnic media, surveys/focus groups, email marketing/website/social media.

- Score from high to low:
5+ methods
4 methods
3 methods (= minimum requirement)

Criterion 2: Participation from a broad representation of residents and stakeholders

- Score from high to low:
Broad representation
Narrow representation

Criterion 3: Number of participatory engagement activities and convenience for residents.

Participatory engagement activities include but are not limited to public workshops/meetings, design charrettes, collective design/visioning, community mapping, model making, public art, surveys/focus groups.

- Score from high to low:
5+ activities, 3 activities held evening/weekend
4 activities, 2 activities held evening/weekend
3 activities (= minimum requirement), 1 activity held evening/weekend
3 activities (= minimum requirement), 0 activities held evening/weekend

Criterion 4: Creative Placemaking and Shared Decision-Making (the following goals were adapted from AB 31):

- Goal 1: The residents worked together to identify and prioritize recreation features that best meet their needs and reached a general agreement on the type and design of the recreation feature(s).
- Goal 2: The residents engaged in a process to reach a general agreement on the location of the recreation features(s) within the project.
- Goal 3: The residents engaged in a process to provide other project design ideas, including solutions for safe public use and park beautification such as landscaping and public art.

[Criterion 4: Corresponding score card from AB 31 Statewide Park Program]:

<u>The APPLICANT'S response described how:</u>	
Goal 1	
3 points	The RESIDENTS identified their preferred RECREATION FEATURES (not limited to a few predetermined options presented by the APPLICANT), and then selected RECREATION FEATURES for the proposed PROJECT.
1 point	The RESIDENTS provided DESIGN ideas for their selected RECREATION FEATURES.
1 point	The APPLICANT'S response also lists the RESIDENTS' ideas that will be included in the DESIGN of the RECREATION FEATURES.
Goal 2	
1 point	The RESIDENTS expressed their preferences for the location of the RECREATION FEATURES within the PARK.
1 point	The APPLICANT'S response also lists the RESIDENTS' reasons that will be used for the location of the RECREATION FEATURES within the PARK.
Goal 3	
1 point	The RESIDENTS provided PARK DESIGN ideas for safe public use.
1 point	The RESIDENTS provided PARK beautification ideas.
1 point	The APPLICANT'S response also lists the RESIDENTS' PARK DESIGN ideas for safe public use and beautification that will be included in the proposed PROJECT.
0 points	The APPLICANT'S response did not address any of the eight elements of goals 1-3.

Criterion 5: Extra points: Community engagement plan or narrative description involves outreach to gang members and/or violence prevention/reduction CBOs

Chapter 4: Technical Assistance

4. Technical Assistance

4.1 OVERVIEW

Measure A's Technical Assistance Program (TAP) seeks to support a truly equitable grant application process by reducing barriers to applying for and administering grant funds. TAP will assist individual Study Areas, and by doing so, contribute to the success of Measure A in addressing park need across Los Angeles County.

Recommendations for the overview statement:

- Acknowledge “how we got here” in terms of present-day park disparities across LA County, as shown in the Park Needs Assessment. We got here through historical, systemic race- and class-based inequalities and inequitable investments. Measure A is an opportunity to repair historical and present disadvantage. See USC’s “Measures Matter” for historical context.
- Clearly state that proactive, robust, and continuous technical assistance is one of the key ways to reduce park inequities by helping make projects happen in High/Very High Need areas.
- Target technical assistance to High/Very High Need study areas

TAP provides a strong suite of tools and strategies to help Measure A applicants to navigate all stages of the grant project continuum and build professional relationships with consultants, mentors, other professionals, and RPOSD staff. The grant project continuum includes project formulation to grant application and administration through successful project implementation and maintenance, and ultimately the potential to build organizational capacity of potential applicants throughout the County.

4.2 PROGRAM GOALS

The following are the primary goals of TAP:

1. Ensure that all Study Areas throughout the County, especially High and Very High Need Study Areas, are both well-informed regarding available Measure A annual allocations and competitive grant opportunities, and well-aware that TAP is available as a resource and the steps required to receive these resources.
2. Maximize participation in Measure A from High and Very High Need Study Areas by targeting TAP resources to these areas and providing support throughout the lifecycle of the grant to help with applying for funding, administering grants, and completing and maintaining projects.
3. Create and support relationships between agencies/organizations and professionals/mentors throughout the County.
4. Support organizational capacity-building among Measure A applicants to increase the capacity to administer grant projects.
5. Place emphasis on delivering completed projects to park users efficiently and effectively.

4.3 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

FIGURE 4-1. TAP SCHEDULE ALONG THE GRANT PROJECT CONTINUUM

As shown in Figure 4-1 above, different TAP elements will be available at appropriate stages throughout the grant project continuum. For example, Professional Services and Training and Education focused on grant writing will be available a couple months prior to the grant application due date. Resource Toolkits, the Technical Assistance Directory, and Ongoing Technical Assistance Support from RPOSD will be offered throughout the grant process.

4.4 PROGRAM EXPENDITURE PLAN AND PHASING

TAP funding makes up approximately 39 percent of Measure A’s Program Innovation & Oversight funding, which is 7.2 percent of the overall Measure A annual expenditure plan (see Figure 4-2). Planning and Design funds, one of the elements part of TAP, will be funded using 17 percent and 20 percent of Category 3 and Category 4 funds, respectively. Since TAP is the first of its kind for RPOSD,

ample time and preparation are required to facilitate an effective and efficient program. TAP will follow a phased schedule in its implementation (see Figures 4-3 and 4-4).

FIGURE 4-2. MEASURE A EXPENDITURE PLAN

FIGURE 4-3. TAP FUNDING SCHEDULE

FIGURE 4-4. TAP PHASING

The first two years of TAP (Years 1 and 2, or 2018 and 2019) will make up the pilot phase of the program, with more limited TAP elements and investment/funds available. The pilot phase will allow RPOSD to gain an understanding of which TAP elements or services are most needed by County agencies and organizations, allow time for RPOSD to develop resources, such as toolkits, that are tailored to applicant needs, and develop administrative processes that ensure easy access to TAP by all applicants.

Year 1 of the program's pilot phase will provide the basic resources related to preparing for the application of Measure A funds. The following TAP elements will be available during Year 1:

- Resource toolkits on RPOSD's website - see Section 4.6.1 for more details
- Training and Education workshops on the following topics:
 - Introduction to Measure A /Grant Application Process
 - Community Outreach and Engagement

For Year 2 of the program's pilot phase, RPOSD will provide the full range of Training and Education workshops (see Section 4.6.3 for a more exhaustive list), launch the Technical Assistance Directory, and initiate the Planning and Design funds program.

4.4.2 FULL PROGRAM PHASE - YEAR 3 TO YEAR 10

The majority of funding dedicated to TAP will be available during the full program phase (Years 3 to 10, or 2020 to 2027) of the Measure A grant program. Through dedicating the majority of the program's resources and funds into this eight-year period, TAP's goal is to help agencies and organizations gain the adequate knowledge, experience, and resources in technical assistance and increased independence in grant processes. It is assumed that during this time period, the full TAP detailed in this chapter will be available, including professional services, which will be unavailable during the program's pilot phase.

4.4.3 MATURITY PHASE - AFTER YEAR 10

RPOSD assumes that **technical assistance will continue to be necessary** after the program's tenth year **and will continuously evaluate park need outcomes to decide how to direct future technical assistance investments.** ~~or starting 2028, agencies and organizations will be better equipped in navigating the grant process and achieve independence from TAP to support their own technical assistance needs. As such, it is assumed that investment into TAP will gradually taper after each following year. See Section 4.7 on Monitoring and Assessment for more information about how the program will transition in funding and resources after Year 10.~~

4.5 ENROLLMENT

Agencies and organizations that enroll with RPOSD via their website (or “enrollees”) will be asked to report their need for technical assistance and indicate which TAP elements they are interested in during the enrollment process. Applicants will be asked to complete a technical assistance questionnaire about their organizational capacity, grant funding history, and previous planning and design efforts. More information about the enrollment process can be found in Section 3.2 of Chapter 3, Funding Guidelines.

To receive professional services and/or be eligible to apply for Planning and Design funds, RPOSD will assess the applicant’s responses to the technical assistance questionnaire in the enrollment application and the applicant’s Study Area park need level. Applicants will then be notified of RPOSD’s eligibility determination.

4.6 PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

TAP consists of six elements that support all stages of the grant project continuum: Resource Toolkits, Technical Assistance Directory, Training and Education, Ongoing Technical Support from RPOSD, Professional Services, and Planning and Design Funds. TAP elements have varying requirements for eligibility, with some elements available to the general public, some to all enrollees, and some to enrollees on a selective and/or competitive basis. Each element, along with anticipated funding amounts and eligibility requirements is described in the section below.

4.6.1 RESOURCE TOOLKITS

4.6.1.1 FUNDING AMOUNT

Pilot Phase - Year 1: 16.3% of available TAP funding

Pilot Phase - Year 2: 2.5% of available TAP funding

Full Program Phase (annual): 1.9% of available TAP funding

Refer to Figure 4-2 Measure A Expenditure Plan and Figure 4-4 TAP Phasing for visual representations of the expenditure and phasing of funding.

Resource toolkits cover a range of important topics related to the grant project continuum and applicants can use available resources for support during the grant process. This includes conducting community engagement, creating promotional materials for outreach, writing grant applications, preparing required documents such as project budgets, and navigating RPOSD’s Measure A grant application and enrollment process. The types of available resource toolkits, which will be available on RPOSD’s website, include but are not limited to the following:

- Community Engagement and Outreach
 - PowerPoint templates for community engagement meetings/workshops
 - Guidance handbook on meeting facilitation
 - Templates for outreach flyers, sign-in sheets, and other meeting collateral
 - Park-related stock photos
- Grant Writing
 - Grant writing handbook, including grant applications case studies from past award recipients
 - Cost estimate resources
- Grant Project Implementation
 - Planning/Design handbook

- Establishing Joint-use Agreements
- Measure A Grant Application
 - Grant application quick start guide
 - Enrollment quick start guide
- Additional Toolkits – topics to be determined based on applicant feedback

4.6.1.3 ELIGIBILITY

Resource toolkits will be available to the general public, and will be available on RPOSD’s website. Resource toolkits will be updated routinely as needed.

4.6.2 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY

FUNDING AMOUNT

Pilot Phase - Year 1: 0% of available TAP funding

Pilot Phase - Year 2: 1.3% of available TAP funding

Full Program Phase (annual): 1.0% of available TAP funding

Refer to Figure 4-2 Measure A Expenditure Plan and Figure 4-4 TAP Phasing for visual representations of the expenditure and phasing of funding.

4.6.2.2 DESCRIPTION

A key component to providing technical assistance is awareness of, and access to, a network of qualified professionals and mentors. RPOSD’s Technical Assistance Directory will serve as an online database that contains information, including offered services, location, and contact information, of a range of professionals in planning, design, outreach, community engagement, cost estimating, construction, grant writing, translation/interpretation services, and graphic design. Professionals will be recruited by RPOSD through a Request for Professionals process, and the list of qualified consultants will be routinely updated. Applicants and grantees can utilize the Technical Assistance Directory to connect with the directory’s listed professionals and potentially hire them for their services.

Mentors, who are volunteer-based, will also be part of the Technical Assistance Directory and can provide informal guidance to applicants and grantees. Mentors consist of representatives from agencies and organizations that have previously won Measure A/Proposition A grant awards and are willing to mentor and help prospective grantees through the grant process. All mentors who are part of the Technical Assistance Directory will have completed mentorship training.

4.6.2.3 ELIGIBILITY

The Technical Assistance Directory will be available to all enrollees and will be accessed via RPOSD’s website. The Technical Assistance Directory will be updated routinely as needed.

4.6.3 TRAINING AND EDUCATION

4.6.3.1 FUNDING AMOUNT

Pilot Phase - Year 1: 54.5% of available TAP funding

Pilot Phase - Year 2: 67.1% of available TAP funding

Full Program Phase (annual): 51.4% of available TAP funding

Refer to Figure 4-2 Measure A Expenditure Plan and Figure 4-4 TAP Phasing for visual representations of the expenditure and phasing of funding.

4.6.3.2 DESCRIPTION

To better equip and educate applicants about the Measure A grant process, RPOSD will hold training and education workshops throughout the year on a range of applicable topics. Workshops will be led either by RPOSD or outside instructors/consultants. Workshop presentations will be recorded and posted to the RPOSD website. Workshop topics may include and are not limited to the following:

- Introduction to Measure A/Grant Application Process
- Community Outreach and Engagement
- Grant Writing
- Project Management
- Grant Administration
- Park Planning 101

4.6.3.3 ELIGIBILITY

Training and Education workshops are available to all enrollees. Enrollees must register to attend each workshop. The number of workshops held on each topic will be determined by the number of registrations received. Recordings of workshops will be available to the general public on RPOSD's website.

4.6.4 ONGOING TECHNICAL SUPPORT FROM RPOSD

4.6.4.1 FUNDING AMOUNT

Pilot Phase - Year 1: 29.2% of available TAP funding

Pilot Phase - Year 2: 29.1% of available TAP funding

Full Program Phase (annual): 22.8% of available TAP funding

Refer to Figure 4-2 Measure A Expenditure Plan and Figure 4-4 TAP Phasing for visual representations of the expenditure and phasing of funding.

4.6.4.2 DESCRIPTION

RPOSD is the facilitator and manager of TAP. RPOSD, in collaboration with the Department of Parks and Recreation, will provide ongoing technical assistance support to prospective applicants, applicants, and grantees throughout the grant process, including proactive outreach to High/Very High Need areas and CBOs before grant opportunities and enrollment come up, during enrollment, the application period, grant administration, and project/program implementation. This includes providing a "concierge" or case manager service for High/Very High Need areas, feedback on grant applications, being a resource about grant-related questions or needs, and acting as the liaison between applicants and outside professionals and mentors.

RPOSD will also serve as an information clearinghouse and guide applicants to leverage other infrastructure investment programs and technical assistance resources in the county and state, including but not limited to: LA County Measure M, LA County Stormwater Measure (if approved), Statewide Parks and Water Bond (Prop 68, if approved), Statewide Prop 1 Water Bond, and California Climate Investments (cap-and-trade programs).

RPOSD will create open-source and/or open-access platforms for small cities, CBOs, and others to share best practices, models, and other technical knowledge.

4.6.4.3 ELIGIBILITY

Ongoing technical support from RPOSD will be available to all enrollees.

4.6.5 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

4.6.5.1 FUNDING AMOUNT

Pilot Phase - Year 1: 0% of available TAP funding

Pilot Phase - Year 2: ~~0% of available TAP funding~~ ← Invest more funding to get Professional Services up and running in pilot phase year 2

Full Program Phase (annual): 22.9% of available TAP funding

Refer to Figure 4-2 Measure A Expenditure Plan and Figure 4-4 TAP Phasing for visual representations of the expenditure and phasing of funding.

4.6.5.2 DESCRIPTION

Professional services in a variety of topics of expertise will be available to eligible agencies and organizations from professionals contracted with RPOSD. Professional services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Grant Writing.** Grant writing assistance is intended to help grant-seeking agencies and organizations successfully write competitive grant proposals. Professional services will provide either grant writing training seminars to organizations seeking to improve their grant writing skills or one-on-one grant writing services to organizations that have not yet written a successful grant proposal for RPOSD.
- **Community Outreach and Engagement.** Community outreach and engagement assistance will be available to agencies and organizations at various stages throughout the grant process. Professional services will be provided to agencies and organizations who do not have the capacity or other resources to organize and conduct their own outreach and engagement, including developing and distributing outreach materials; facilitating meetings; preparing meeting materials; and providing refreshments, child care, and/or multilingual translation or interpretive services.
- **Construction Administration.** Construction administration assistance is available to agencies and organizations during the construction phase of capital projects funded by Measure A grant programs. These types of professional services include project management in reviewing construction drawings and overseeing the administrative aspect of the construction process.

4.6.5.3 ELIGIBILITY

Technical assistance from professional services is limited and thus not all agencies and organizations will receive these services. Eighty percent (80%) of funding for professional services will be distributed through a selective process to enrollees who report a need for professional services during enrollment. RPOSD will determine which applicants are eligible for professional services based on the enrollee's responses to the technical assistance questionnaire and their Study Area park need level, and match eligible applicants to specific consultants depending on the agency's or organization's type of need. Any enrollees who reported a need for professional services but were not selected to receive professional services may submit a letter to RPOSD to explain their need for professional services in further detail. RPOSD will distribute the remaining twenty percent (20%) of funding for professional services through a competitive process by evaluating these enrollees' supplemental letters.

4.6.6 PLANNING AND DESIGN FUNDS

Planning and Design funds are intended to provide recipients with the financial resources for hiring professional consultants to perform work in planning and/or designing a park, trails, open space, or other recreation project. There is \$2,500,000 available annually from Category 3 and Category 4 for Planning and Design funds. The Planning and Design funds program is competitive and available to all enrollees. The program includes the following evaluation criteria:

- Level of Need
- Proposed Community Involvement
- Existing Community Support
- Existing Planning and Design Challenges
- Timeliness and Urgency
- Multi-Benefit Projects

For detailed information about Planning and Design funds, including project requirements, award size, and evaluation criteria, refer to Section 3.5.5 in Chapter 3, Funding Guidelines.

4.7 MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

To ensure the success of TAP, RPOSD will closely monitor and measure, to the extent possible, the outcomes of agencies and organizations who receive any form of technical assistance through TAP against established metrics. The purpose of monitoring and measuring outcomes is to assess whether participation in TAP benefits agencies and organizations by enabling them to be more successful and better prepared to complete grant applications, win grant awards, engage the community, and implement projects.

After RPOSD's annual assessment of TAP and identification of any program shortcomings, RPOSD will develop a plan to improve TAP and adjust its elements and/or resource distribution accordingly to improve outcomes. RPOSD's assessment and improvement plan will be available through a public annual report, which will contain RPOSD's assessment methodology and outcomes of the program evaluation. After Year 10 of TAP, RPOSD will determine the amount of funding needed for TAP based on the program's outcomes and progress from previous years. The objective of TAP is to initially provide agencies and organizations with a robust program that offers a variety of resources during the full program phase; as the program matures, funding for TAP should gradually decrease and then level out, assuming that agencies and organizations will become better prepared and gain increased capacity in the grant process.

[Note: This subsection will be expanded when overall Measure A monitoring and assessment guidelines are further developed]

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jane Beesley, Regional Park and Open Space District (JBeesley@parks.lacounty.gov)
David Early, PlaceWorks (dearly@placeworks.com)
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Jessica Wuyek, PlaceWorks (jwuyek@placeworks.com)

FROM: Tamika Butler, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (tbutler@lanlt.org)

CC: Mark Glassock (mglassock@lanlt.org)
Elsa Tung (etung@lanlt.org)

DATE: 3/7/2018

RE: **Recommendations for Competitive Grant Scoring Criteria**

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust creates, organizes, and advocates for urban parks and gardens in low-income, park-poor communities of color. We are grateful to be a close nonprofit partner to the County on multiple fronts, including as a Measure A Implementation Steering Committee member.

We would like to thank the Regional Park and Open Space District and Placeworks for presenting the Measure A Steering Committee with draft grant scoring and evaluation criteria for its consideration and review. In reviewing several documents related to competitive grant categories 3 & 4, including but not limited to the following: Measure A Ballot Language, *Section Three: Category 3 & 4 Competitive Grant Policies*, *General Competitive Grants: Category 3*, *General Competitive Grants: Category 4*, *Recreation Access Grants: Categories 3 & 4*, and *Evaluation Criteria for Categories 3 & 4*, we would like to offer several observations and recommendations that we hope to see addressed in subsequent iterations of the scoring and evaluation criteria.

This memo includes recommendations for the restructuring of the General Competitive Category 3 scoring criteria, including scoring categories, relative weights, and in some cases, specific new criteria.

3.3.3.2 General Competitive (Category 3)

Evaluation Criteria

Level of Need (25%)

Level of Need should be no less than 25% of the total points in the final evaluation scoring criteria. Level of need was 25% of the proposed total in the draft criteria that were presented to the Steering Committee and we propose that this be retained or increased.

The definition of need should be based on High Need and Very High Need as demonstrated in the current Park Needs Assessment (PNA). We recommend that full points for addressing need should not

automatically be available to those working at the sub-area level. If RPOSD and PlaceWorks can demonstrate for the steering committee concrete examples or scenarios where a strong proposal meeting need in a sub-area should be considered on par with those addressing the needs as defined by the PNA, that would be helpful for the steering committee's deliberation. Proposals originating from outside High Need or Very High Need areas should be held to a high standard requiring them to develop project plans and demonstrate evidence that their proposals will meet the needs of people in High Need / Very High Need areas. To receive points for meeting need, it is not sufficient that a project simply be available, for the following reasons:

- Availability of and proximity to parks and open space is associated with public health benefits, including opportunities for increased physical activity, improved air quality, and better mental health.
- The *Parks and Public Health in Los Angeles County Report* found that cities and communities with less park space per capita on average had higher rates of premature mortality from diabetes and cardiovascular disease, higher prevalence of childhood obesity, and greater economic hardship.
- The LA County Report also found that African Americans and Latinos were more likely than Asians and Whites to live in cities and communities with less park space per capita. These findings underscore current socioeconomic and racial inequities in park space, and the need to prioritize resources to create safe parks in High Need / Very High Need areas to maximize health benefits, for which LA County is also responsible.

RPOSD and the Steering Committee have a significant opportunity to deliver high quality projects which can accrue benefits for the whole County by addressing persistent health and park need inequities.

Summary Recommendations:

- Increase maximum points given to Level of Need; don't go below 25%.
- Strike Sub criteria (C) and (D) that reference subareas
 - Or demonstrate subarea need through project plan and narrative
 - Clarify how narrative will be evaluated; identify objective criteria, strategies or best practices for projects to meet need despite not being located in a High Need / Very High Need area.
- Explore how project evaluation year over year can be used to ensure progress toward meeting need.
 - What are the benefits / risks of waiting 5 years?
 - Should there be a quality-improvement mechanism? If no demonstration that gaps in needs of low income people and people of color are being closed, what actions will be taken to course correct?

Regional Benefit & Regional Need (5%)

The ballot text of Measure A under category 3 states, "The District shall prioritize projects that offer the greatest regional benefits, or serve the greatest regional need." Greater clarity is needed in defining and scoring "regional benefit" and "regional need." In other words, these are potentially very subjective terms and could be meaningless without clear guidance to applicants. The radius approach is challenging to implement and has the potential to prioritize uniqueness of feature over population served, which seems incongruous with the intent of the Measure and the Park Needs Assessment methodology.

Please further explore ways to define regional need and regional benefit in relation to people who live in Very High Need and High Need areas of the County and offer alternative scenarios for how to attribute points to projects that provide regional benefit and meet regional need. Based on our review of materials, we see some ambiguity and the potential for projects of regional significance to score well without being explicitly geared toward meeting regional need, namely, addressing the needs of people. In alignment with the Park Needs Assessment methodology, the definition and scoring of “regional benefit” must include population measures, including numbers of people served and/or the population density of the area where the project is located.

Summary Recommendations:

- Clarify definition of Regional Benefit to highlight connection with regional need and associate regional need with closing gaps in parks and open space access and proximity for low income people and people of color. This is where we can accrue greater benefit to the County as a whole.
- Eliminate radius approach (or radius approach alone) because it incentivizes unique features without taking into consideration the demographic profile served by that feature.
- Define Regional Benefit using population measures, including numbers of people served and/or the population density of the area where the project is located.
- Define Regional Need as addressing needs in the High or Very High Need study areas.
- Consider the feasibility of including sub-criterion that awards points for projects that involve coordination among at least 3 or more adjacent High or Very High Need Study Areas or cities
- Please also help the Steering Committee to more deeply consider the potential additional impacts of projects of regional significance to other related priority concerns in LA County, namely displacement. We can envision a scenario where a large regional project in a large city would be able to claim regional benefit to acquire or develop a large parcel, and that project could accelerate forces of residential and small business displacement. While we recognize that RPOSD cannot “do it all” with respect to displacement and gentrification, we feel strongly that LA County has set forth a clear priority around addressing homelessness for all Departments, including special districts and therefore, each contribution can be meaningful. One possibility is to require projects claiming regional significance to leverage funds for anti-displacement measures from other sources or to develop a clear anti-displacement mitigation plans.

Multi-Benefit Projects (45% total)

In the current funding and political climate, it is essential that today’s parks and open-spaces generate multiple benefits. For LA County, and based on the ballot measure language and polling data, we propose that the priority dimensions of multi-benefit include three equally weighted buckets as follows: 1) Community Safety, Gang Reduction and Violence Prevention; 2) Recreation, Physical Activity & Health; and 3) Environmental Benefits. Projects would have the opportunity to address all three domains to score maximum points.

1) Community Safety, Gang Reduction and Violence Prevention (15%)

The ballot measure’s short description states: “To replace expiring local funding for safe, clean, neighborhood/city/county parks; increase safe playgrounds, reduce gang activity... [etc.]” Given this emphasis on safe parks and gang reduction, projects should be expected to advance

community safety, reduce gangs and prevent violence. Polling data similarly indicate that likely voters were strongly in favor of park funds being used to advance community safety and gang reduction. It is critical that gang reduction not become simply a messaging tool but be operationalized.

Fortunately, LA County is home to some of the most recent, evidence-based innovations at the intersection of parks and open space and community safety and gang reduction (see attached for additional resources). The California Violence Prevention and Intervention Program (see: http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_cpgpcalvipgrant.php) has also recently released a grant RFP which demonstrates how a scoring methodology designed to provide “extra points” for projects in cities in California that are disproportionately impacted by violence. Their methodology may be useful to explore and embed in Measure A “level of need” scoring criteria. We recommend assigning points to invite, incentivize and reward applications that use best practices to address community safety and gang reduction, especially in Very High Need and High Need areas of the county. In this vein, it is important to note that public safety and crime prevention are not the same as addressing community safety and gang reduction best practices. Evaluations from LA City’s Friday Night Lights program and LA County’s Parks After Darks (see Measure A and Safety Working Document, attached) as well as expert input from the field suggest that strategies such as engaging with former and current gang members to ensure park safety, community-based programming at gang affected parks, and the existence of community based infrastructure for gang intervention such as inclusion of street outreach workers, youth diversion programs represent some best practices and could be embedded as objective scoring criteria.

Summary Recommendations:

- We would like to see community safety and gang reduction as a stand-alone category on the scoring tool, under the multi-benefit category with points awarded for:
 - Evidence of partnership with organizations that are expert in community safety and gang reduction in multiple phases of project delivery
 - Park design that uses best practices to enhance safety, e.g. by reducing isolated places, clustering activity areas to increase informal surveillance, increasing sight lines, and providing adequate lighting;
 - Robust community outreach processes that includes engagement with community members in high violence communities, including youth who are at risk, gang affiliated or formerly gang affiliated, to help address issues of safety during the park design process; and
 - Narrative language that describes how the city will provide community-based programming at proposed project locations, aligned with best practice strategies.
 - Adoption of park policies and programs that prevent criminalization of youth of color in park areas, including a commitment that funding cannot go towards increasing law enforcement personnel and presence.
 - Addressing homelessness

2) Health, Physical Activity and Recreation (15%)

Evaluation scoring criteria for community health, physical activity should reflect the Measure language and the board motion’s emphasis of the potential for parks and open space to achieve the County’s public health aims. The draft scoring criteria suggested such low point values for

“health” that we are concerned that an otherwise excellent project can score well without making any meaningful contributions to human health. Here, we offer some examples of sample strategies and criteria that might be used to delineate the expectation that high quality projects in Categories 3 & 4 seek to advance health:

Summary Recommendations:

- We would like to see Health, Physical Activity Recreation, as a category in the multi-benefit category on the scoring tool, with points awarded for the following:
 - Project provides infrastructure and equipment for physical activity for a variety of ages
 - Project provides infrastructure and equipment that cater to physical activity and recreation needs of youth, seniors, and people with special needs
 - Project increases ability of residents to get to the park/open space by walking and bicycling, as in Safe Routes to Parks and Open Space, use of way finding signs
 - Project provides access to healthy food growing and/or healthy food options defined by/recommended in the request for proposal; we want to minimize the risk of supporting weak “healthy vending” changes to the food environment, but healthy, affordable fresh foods and innovative practices related to healthy street vending might be very appealing.

3) Environmental Benefits (15%)

Many of the environmental benefits listed are closely linked. We recommend streamlining the criteria and creating an Environmental Benefits category within the Multi-Benefits category.

Summary Recommendations:

- We would like to see Environmental Benefits as a category on the scoring tool, with points awarded for: Habitat Protection and Biodiversity, Healthy Ecosystem, Water Quality Improvements, Storm Water Capture and Attenuation, Water Conservation, Climate Resiliency, Greenhouse Gas Reductions, Air Quality Improvements, and Heat-Island Reduction.
- Storm Water Capture and Leveraging: LA County will be placing a storm water measure on the ballot, most likely in July 2018. Scoring criteria should encourage multi-benefit with storm water capture and management, done so in a way that defines need according to the high priority park need area of the County.

Community Engagement (15%)

Based on ongoing discussions among the Steering Committee, Community Engagement and Community Participation – particularly of residents in High Need and Very High Need park areas that do not normally participate in public processes – is important to members of the Steering Committee. Community Engagement should be demonstrated in all projects, and demonstrated ability of applicants to carry out effective community engagement should be rewarded with points in the evaluation scoring criteria.

- Criterion 1: Number of outreach methods used. Outreach methods include but are not limited to: door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, mailers, distribution of flyers or other printed

materials, outreach to existing community groups and networks, local media and/or ethnic media, surveys/focus groups, email marketing/website/social media. Score from high to low:

- 5+ methods
 - 4 methods
 - 3 methods (= minimum requirement)
- Criterion 2: Participation from a broad representation of residents and stakeholders; score from high to low:
 - Broad representation
 - Narrow representation
 - Criterion 3: Number of participatory engagement activities and convenience for residents. Participatory engagement activities include but are not limited to public workshops/meetings, design charrettes, collective design/visioning, community mapping, model making, public art, surveys/focus groups. Score from high to low:
 - 5+ activities, 3 activities held evening/weekend
 - 4 activities, 2 activities held evening/weekend
 - 3 activities (= minimum requirement), 1 activity held evening/weekend
 - 3 activities (= minimum requirement), 0 activities held evening/weekend
 - Criterion 4: Creative Place making and Shared Decision-Making (the following goals were adapted from AB 31 – see AB 31 for specific scoring rubric):
 - Goal 1: The residents worked together to identify and prioritize recreation features that best meet their needs and reached a general agreement on the type and design of the recreation feature(s).
 - Goal 2: The residents engaged in a process to reach a general agreement on the location of the recreation features(s) within the project.
 - Goal 3: The residents engaged in a process to provide other project design ideas, including solutions for safe public use and park beautification such as landscaping and public art.

Summary Recommendations:

Some of the key dimensions of Community Engagement that can be reviewed and scored include:

- Active engagement, taking part in discussions, research, decision making, leadership roles, etc. during proposal design/pre-grant
- Active engagement during project implementation
- More points for participatory engagement
- Partnerships with a variety of stakeholders (residents, business owners, CBOs, etc.)
- Stakeholders have a clear and genuine role in decision making
- Evaluation plan to measure robustness of community engagement
- *See AB 31 Statewide Park Program and Transformative Climate Communities Scoring Rubric/community engagement plan*

Universal Accessibility and Facility/Amenity Conditions (1-5%)

We want to propose grouping Universal Accessibility and Facility/Amenity Conditions into one category and do away with the percentages entirely. This will incentivize park projects that include universally

accessible amenities to bring all parks up to the same high quality standards. The repair/fix criteria create a risk of prioritizing large, existing projects that have already seen a lot of investment. This isn't an attempt to avoid repair/fix, but just noting that there is separate funding allocated to maintenance and servicing.

Summary Recommendations:

- Points should be awarded to the following accessibility criteria: water fountains, shade structures, adequate lighting, seating, restrooms
- Keep the first two criteria to fix or replace amenities found to be in poor or fair condition
- Eliminate the rest of the percentage breakdowns

Leveraging of Funds (Proposed: Inversely Proportional to Level of Need, or 1-5%)

Leveraging of funds is a critical issue. We agree that maximizing the potential of Measure A dollars requires groups to leverage funds. However, we also know that given structural inequities and pre-existing disparities in local tax bases and distribution of resources (historic and present day, across multiple dimensions), the requirement for leveraging funds can de facto block low-income cities and partners working in the highest need areas from competing for funds.

We would like to see PlaceWorks offer up some creative solutions that recognize and reflect that everyone is not starting from the same place *and* that those who are better positioned to leverage should be encouraged to do so. We don't have easy answers to this and suspect there is no 'perfect' solution, but we do believe we should try to grapple with this issue. One idea is to use the Countywide Park Needs Assessment to create tiers. Those in the Very High Need category would not be penalized for not being able to leverage funds, but perhaps provided with additional technical assistance (TA) for doing so at a later stage. On the other hand, well-established groups in relatively park-rich communities who have a track record of drawing down state funds, for example, should remain encouraged and expected to leverage funds or be required to provide mentorship and support to groups in high needs areas.

Additional Thoughts / Recommendations:

- Give points to projects that integrate Measure A and Measure M efforts (and other funds/efforts) to create healthy, sustainable places
- Address the concern that points for leveraging funds will disproportionately benefit higher income cities
- What can RPOSD or other TA providers do help applicants identify matching/leverage funds via TA? Integrate TA and leveraging to give lower-capacity cities/orgs opportunities to leverage.

Creative Place making and Quality Design to meet the needs of Local Residents (1-5%)

Creative place making needs to be contextualized and oriented toward meeting the needs of local residents, and elevating neighborhood history and culture, for instance, enlisting local arts and culture organizations.

Addressing LA County Priority Issue of Gentrification and Displacement (1-5%)

While the issues of gentrification and displacement are not equally felt across the Open Space District, areas that are High Need and Very High Need may be at particular risk for displacement pressures. We recognize that parks and open space can't solve "every issue." However, as stated earlier, given the housing affordability crisis in LA County, the recognized need to eliminate inequities in park access, and the association between healthy community improvements, increasing land values and other real-estate pressures, we would like to propose that the Steering Committee give serious consideration to developing project scoring criteria or enhance the review process in some way to encourage and incentivize practical strategies for improving park access while addressing issues of gentrification and displacement. If Measure A fails to do so, it runs the risk of simply relocating park need rather than ameliorating it. Here are some concrete thoughts:

- Grant narrative includes description of displacement vulnerability
- Priority given to projects that advance solutions to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with park creation pursuant to the project is an increase in the cost of housing.
- *Note: Bullet 2 above is from Prop 68 (which hasn't passed yet).*
- For planning projects, plans should address park needs and displacement avoidance strategies
- For acquisition and development, maximum points should be given to co-located affordable housing and parks/open space projects
- For connectivity/trail projects, maximum points should be given to those that link existing parks and open space to affordable housing
- Maximum points should be given to affordable housing developers and land trusts that build parks/open space onsite or nearby.
- *What is feasible to require applicants to do to avoid displacement? Should applicants have a displacement policy in place or does this disadvantage low income cities? Is there an initial step that is feasible for applicants that could be required or receive points?*

We recognize that developing a comprehensive and evidence-based scoring criteria is a complex endeavor and that there are many dimensions that must simultaneously be addressed. Thank you, in advance, for considering this critical feedback.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 8, 2018
TO: Jane Beesley
FROM: Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer
RE: Revised comments on the Evaluation Criteria for Categories 3 & 4 General Competitive Grants

MRCA has modified our comments *after* consideration of other comments received and the discussions of the Steering Committee. I want to reiterate that the draft criteria are not salvageable and should be completely rewritten. Minor edits to the descriptions or point spread will not result in a successful program. The Steering Committee's discussions did not cover all of the issues raised in our previous comments, and those issues are restated here. Proposed rubrics for categories 3 and 4 are again included below for your consideration.

To help guide the District's development of final criteria, MRCA proposes the following performance goals. Above all the criteria must accomplish these things to be successful:

- A. First and foremost, *the criteria must reward good park projects and provide for their implementation*. The District's focus for Measure A funding should be on tangible results for the County's parks, open space and users.
- B. *The criteria should not create barriers to funding*. Placing too much focus on things that are unrelated or tangential to parks will make it more difficult to accomplish park projects, and could effectively prevent the implementation of certain project types or in certain areas.
- C. *The criteria should not encourage bloated project budgets*. It is clear that the County's overall need for parks funding is much larger than the measure, making it imperative that this funding stretch as far as possible—rather than reduce the number of projects that could be accomplished. The District's focus should be on making it easier for grantees to implement projects, rather than more difficult, time-consuming and expensive.

MRCA offers the following amended and restated comments:

- 1) **The highest point value criteria should be those that accomplish the funding purposes as stated in the measure.** The most important thing to evaluate is how well a project accomplishes the priorities of that funding category. This comment was over-simplified during the Steering Committee's discussion as whether a project "matched the category name". This characterization trivialized the issue. Category purposes are communicated through the text of each section, not just the name, and are summarized here:

- a. Category 3: Highest criteria should be those that measure the improvement and protection of open space, watersheds and water resources.
- b. Category 4: Highest criteria should be those that measure the improvement and protection of regional recreational facilities, trails and accessibility projects.

The existence of separate categories implies prioritization of those specific purposes. Funding was set aside into categories 3 and 4 for specific reasons, and those are what the criteria should reward the most. While projects should also work toward accomplishing the overall purposes of the measure (enumerated in section 5(a)), this is not as important for scoring as the purposes of the specific funding section.

There appears to be broad support for scoring criteria related to “multiple benefits.” We note that the inclusion of “multiple” benefits implies that there is, therefore, a “primary” benefit. That primary benefit ought to be the funding category purposes.

- 2) **A project’s location should not be an evaluation criteria, and Level of Need should not be a scoring criteria for categories 3 and 4.** The draft guidelines propose a set-aside for projects in VH and H Study Areas, so investment in these areas is already ensured. Only the applicant’s plan for how the project will serve the populations of VH and H Study Areas should be scored.

Location cannot be changed, and it’s not a choice in how an agency develops a project. Project opportunities are where they are. Given the challenges of obtaining land tenure and maintenance commitments, all opportunities are not equally feasible. The District should not impose further barriers to project implementation. Every area has needs that should be able to be addressed by Category 3 & 4 funding.

The Draft criteria also included location-based evaluation under “Regional Benefit”, and “Amenity Conditions.” These criteria should be eliminated, not only because location should not be scored, but also because the criteria aren’t applicable to many projects.

- 3) **The Multi-Benefit criteria in Categories 3 and 4 should closely reflect the types of benefits identified in the measure, particularly those which are relevant to the category’s purpose.** The Multiple Benefits points are the appropriate place to consider a project’s additional merits, beyond those of the funding priority. These are the “extra” things a project does, and reflect choices that the applicant made. Logically, multiple benefit points should not sum up to more than the primary benefit points. Furthermore, multiple benefits should not be worth so many points that it encourages bloated project budgets.

Multiple benefits that should be rewarded are things that add value to the project and increase the benefits of public dollars. This is the appropriate place to consider public health impacts through new recreational options (both active and passive recreation),

age-friendly design, design for public safety, and consistency with existing planning and policy documents. Finally, some of the most significant multiple benefits have not been discussed at all: education and interpretation. All categories should support the inclusion of elements that build positive stewardship attitudes and teach sustainable practices.

- 4) **The criteria for Community Involvement should be eliminated entirely for Categories 3 and 4.** A progressive policy for community outreach is already going to be required for all projects, and therefore should not be an evaluation criteria. Benefits that are not reflective of the measure or category's purpose, such as increased meaningfulness of community engagement and other social outcomes, should instead be encouraged through the District's Technical Assistance program. Exceptional efforts toward such goals may also be given additional points under an "innovation" criteria.
- 5) **A project's total economic aspects should be evaluated, not simply the presence of matching funds.** As has been noted, a requirement or reward for leveraging funds can become a barrier to some projects and grantees. It is more important and meaningful to consider economic aspects as a whole, including cost-effectiveness, relative value, in-kind donations, maintenance costs, and where applicable, employment impacts. Economic benefits criteria could also reward partnerships that reduce a grantee's total project costs.

The Park Facility/Amenity conditions evaluation criteria should be eliminated, as this is not applicable for many projects, especially open space acquisition projects. An economic benefit criteria is an appropriate way to give consideration to projects that bring existing facilities up to better condition, as those projects will generally be more cost-effective than new facilities, and have further economic benefits in reduced maintenance costs.

- 6) **A new criteria for "Urgency" should be added.** This would evaluate a project's timeliness, and is particularly important for projects that include open space acquisition.
- 7) **Innovation should be added as a scoring criteria.** This is more appropriate than the draft criteria's "Creativity, Place-Making and Design", and innovation may be applicable to all projects. Innovation criteria can reward best practices in a number of areas.

Below is a revised evaluation criteria system. This rubric should work for different types of projects, including land acquisition.

Category 3, Natural Lands, Open Spaces and Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Watersheds Protection:

40 Category Priorities (4 criteria worth 0-10 pts each)

- a. Public Access and Regional Benefit
- b. Habitat Protection and Watershed Health
- c. Connectivity and Accessibility
- d. Water Quality, Supply and Conservation

35 Multiple Benefits (5 criteria worth 0-7 pts each)

- a. Recreation Opportunities and Public Health
- b. Interpretation and Education
- c. Social Outcomes
- d. Climate Resiliency and GHG Reductions
- e. Consistency with Existing Plans and Policies

10 Service and benefits to populations of VH and H areas

5 Economic Benefits

5 Innovation

5 Urgency

100 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE

Category 4, Regional Recreational Facilities, Multi-use Trails and Accessibility Program:

40 Category Priorities (4 criteria worth 0-10 pts each)

- a. Public Access and Regional Benefit
- b. Recreation
- c. Connectivity
- d. Accessibility

35 Multiple Benefits (7 criteria worth 0-5 pts each)

- a. Habitat and Biodiversity Protection
- b. Watershed Health and Water Conservation
- c. Interpretation and Education
- d. Social Outcomes
- e. Climate Resiliency and GHG Reductions
- f. Public Safety
- g. Consistency with Existing Plans and Policies

10 Service and benefits to populations of VH and H areas

5 Economic Benefits

5 Innovation

5 Urgency

100 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE

March 8, 2018

Director Jane I. Beesley
LA County Regional Park and Open Space District
1000 South Fremont Avenue #40
Alhambra, CA 91803
JBeesley@parks.lacounty.gov

Re: Recommendations on the Measure A Community Engagement Requirements (Chapter 3.3.1.1) and Technical Assistance (Chapter 4)

Dear Director Beesley,

We are committed to the equitable implementation of Measure A and view the 2016 voter-backed initiative as a historic opportunity to address racialized gaps in park access and improve health outcomes for low-income communities and communities of color in Los Angeles County. The multiple environmental and population health benefits of proximity to high-quality parks has been well-documented, and the cost of inaction is high: according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, chronic disease costs LA County \$25.4 billion dollars a year. Successful implementation requires clearly-defined community engagement and technical assistance requirements that builds off of the robust public process of the foundational LA County 2016 Park Needs Assessment.

We submitted recommendations for a robust scoring and evaluation criteria that helps direct and prioritize Measure A investments based on the results of the Park Needs Assessment. Our recommendations on Measure A's community engagement and technical assistance complement our earlier feedback to ensure that meaningful public participation is an integral part of park and open space planning across the County. Statewide, there has been a shift towards investing in deep, authentic engagement that is culturally responsive and centers the expertise of local residents. The benefits to institutionalizing robust community engagement and technical assistance can build local capacity, ensure that local residents feel connected to projects they were involved in and, in our current context of housing and displacement pressures, can signal that these transformative investments can and should benefit current and long-time residents.

We urge you to consider and adopt high quality community engagement and technical assistance approaches that reflects and meets the needs of our County's diverse communities, and closes capacity gaps among local community-based organizations and smaller jurisdictions. In the following memo, we offer detailed recommendations that align with the state's and local community partners' best thinking on these critical issues.

Sincerely,
Anisha Hingorani, Advancement Project California
ahingorani@advanceproj.org

Cc: Placeworks
David Early dearly@placeworks.com
C.C. LaGrange clagrange@placeworks.com
Jessica Wuyek jwuyek@placeworks.com

Memorandum

TO: Jane Beesley, Director of the LA County Regional Parks and Open Space District
FROM: Mike Russo, Director of Equity in Public Funds, Advancement Project California; Anisha Hingorani, Policy Analyst, Advancement Project California
DATE: March 8, 2018
SUBJECT: Recommendations for Community Engagement Requirements (Chapter 3.3.1.1) and Technical Assistance (Chapter 4)

Executive Summary

We thank the Regional Park and Open Space District and PlaceWorks for their early thinking on the draft guidelines on community engagement and technical assistance. In making the edits and recommendations below, we want to underscore that Measure A passed only after the County performed a robust Park Needs Assessment to understand different communities' need for parks and the great disparities that exist across the county. It is critical that RPOSD and PlaceWorks formulate guidelines that deliver on what the voters were promised.

The practice of community engagement and the provision of technical assistance within municipalities, including park and recreation agencies, has grown and advanced over the last several years, and it's essential that Measure A draw upon lessons learned and the best available information on the state of practice in California and around the country, including the City of Seattle's Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement Guide and USC PERE's *Measures Matter* report. The first half of this memo includes recommended edits to the community engagement requirements on pages 10 and 11 of the "Funding Guidelines" draft dated November 30, 2017. The second half of this memo includes recommended edits to the technical assistance guidelines reviewed at the January 25, 2018 steering committee meeting.

3.3.1.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Recommendations:

- Rewrite the purpose of community engagement to:
 - Acknowledge the barriers that low-income people and people of color experience in accessing government or participating in public processes.
 - Recognize diversity as both a strength and opportunity.
 - Affirm that a healthy democracy requires outreach and community engagement that takes into account our communities' racial, cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic complexity.
 - Clearly state the need to build strong, sustainable, and authentic community partnerships that: center the perspectives of vulnerable communities; support inclusive community-based participation, power, and leadership; and result in shared decision-making.
- Expand the minimum community engagement requirements to include:
 - Community outreach and engagement plan: Applicants must demonstrate how their outreach and engagement plan will be directed to the residents of the community.
 - Acceptable verification for all levels of engagement: narrative descriptions of the type of outreach and engagement activities conducted, photos of activities/materials produced during meeting(s), sign-in sheets, signed resolutions (if applicable), social media reports, and sample flyers and printed materials, lists of streets that were canvassed, lists of community landmarks where materials were posted.
- Clarify Annual Allocations:
 - The level of community engagement should be dependent on the full scope and budget of each project, rather than the Measure A award size.
 - The three funding threshold amounts should reference the full scope and budget of each project, rather than the Measure A award size.

- If a project's other sources of funding (non-Measure A) also require community engagement, allow the activities under those engagement requirements to count towards Measure A community engagement requirements as long as they are done to a standard that meets or exceeds Measure A community engagement requirements.
- Clarify Competitive Grants community engagement requirements:
 - For competitive grants, the level of community engagement should be dependent on the full scope and budget of each project, rather than the Measure A award size.
- Rewrite engagement approaches and requirements to reflect innovative approaches and best practices from park and open space community engagement requirements across the state:
 - Redefine participatory engagement:
 - Participatory engagement seeks to build strong, sustainable, authentic partnerships with impacted communities to enable communities to identify their needs and priorities and make project decisions to address their needs and priorities. Projects must be driven by the needs and priorities of the community.
 - Participatory engagement requires robust and culturally competent and linguistically appropriate outreach and engagement activities to ensure broad and accurate representation and participation from the impacted communities.
 - Redefine outreach methods:
 - Agencies and applicants are required to use a minimum of three different types of community outreach methods, which should be appropriate in scale and type to the particular community. Community outreach methods include but are not limited to: door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, mailers, distribution of flyers or other printed materials, outreach to existing community groups and networks, local media and/or ethnic media, surveys/focus groups, email marketing/website/social media.
 - Printed outreach materials must be available in any language that is the primary language of five percent or more of the community's population, per guidance from the California Bilingual Services Act. Printed outreach materials must be reasonably legible and posted publicly at culturally relevant and high foot-traffic sites.
 - To complete the required community outreach, agencies and applicants are encouraged to partner with the Technical Assistance Program's professional service providers.
 - Redefine participatory engagement activities:
 - Agencies and applicants are required to complete a minimum of three different types of participatory engagement activities, which should be appropriate in scale and type to the particular community. Participatory engagement activities include but are not limited to: public workshops/meetings, design charrettes, collective design/visioning, community mapping, model making, public art, and surveys/focus groups.
 - Meetings and events must be scheduled and located at a time and location appropriate for broad and representative community participation, including on evenings and weekends.
 - Printed materials must be available in any language that is the primary language of five percent or more of the community's population, per guidance from the California Bilingual Services Act. Oral interpretation at public workshops and meetings is required for any language that is the primary language of five percent or more of the community's population, per guidance from the California Bilingual Services Act.
 - To complete the required participatory engagement activities, agencies and applicants are encouraged to sub-contract with the Technical Assistance Program's professional service providers.

3.3.3.2 GENERAL COMPETITIVE (CATEGORY 3) EVALUATION CRITERIA (P.30);

3.3.3.3 GENERAL COMPETITIVE (CATEGORY 4) EVALUATION CRITERIA (P.36)

Recommendations:

- Model the community engagement scoring criteria after the AB 31 Statewide Park Program and allocate at least 15% of the total points to community engagement.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 OVERVIEW

Recommendations:

- Rewrite the overview statement:
 - Acknowledge “how we got here” in terms of present-day park disparities across LA County, as shown in the Park Needs Assessment. We got here through historical, systemic race- and class-based inequalities and inequitable investments. Measure A is an opportunity to repair historical and present disadvantage. See USC’s “Measures Matter” report for historical context.
 - Clearly state that proactive, robust, and continuous technical assistance is one of the key ways to reduce park inequities by helping make projects happen in High/Very High Need areas.
 - Target technical assistance to High/Very High Need study areas.
- Commit to maintaining the technical assistance program beyond the 10-year maturity phase
 - RPOSD should recognize that technical assistance will continue to be necessary after the program’s tenth year and will continuously evaluate park need outcomes to decide how to direct future technical assistance investments.

4.6.4 ONGOING TECHNICAL SUPPORT FROM RPOSD

Recommendations:

- Clarify and expand the description of RPOSD’s role in providing technical assistance:
 - RPOSD, in collaboration with the Department of Parks and Recreation should develop targeted strategies and proactive outreach to High/Very High Need areas and CBOs before grant opportunities and enrollment come up. This includes providing a “concierge” or case manager service for High/Very High Need areas.
 - RPOSD should also serve as an information clearinghouse and suggest applicants to leverage other infrastructure investment programs and technical assistance resources in the county and state, including but not limited to: LA County Measure M, LA County Stormwater Measure (if approved), Statewide Parks and Water Bond (Prop 68, if approved), Statewide Prop 1 Water Bond, and California Climate Investments (cap-and-trade programs).
 - RPOSD should create open-source and/or open-access platforms for small cities, CBOs, and others to share best practices, models, and other technical knowledge.

4.6.5.1 FUNDING AMOUNT

Recommendations:

- Invest more funding to get Professional Services up and running in pilot phase year 2.

March 8, 2018

Director Jane I. Beesley
LA County Regional Park and Open Space District
1000 South Fremont Avenue #40
Alhambra, CA 91803
JBeesley@parks.lacounty.gov

Re: Recommendations on the Measure A Grant Scoring and Evaluation Criteria

Dear Director Beesley,

Advancement Project California is a multi-racial public policy organization that champions the struggle for racial and economic justice. We are committed to the equitable implementation of Measure A and view the 2016 voter-backed initiative as a historic opportunity to address racialized gaps in park access and improve health outcomes for low-income communities and communities of color in Los Angeles County.

Studies have shown that access to high-quality parks, green spaces, and recreation areas have positive and long-lasting impacts on individual and community health outcomes¹. The impacts of poor health access on our most vulnerable communities are significant: according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, chronic disease costs LA County \$25.4 billion dollars a year. Due to a lack of strong equity metrics, previous park funding mechanisms have exacerbated disparities in park access and contributed to systemic disinvestment. Los Angeles County has a critical responsibility to reverse this trend by prioritizing Measure A revenues and other public investments in historically underserved communities.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit feedback on the draft scoring and evaluation criteria of the Measure A competitive grant categories. Our recommendations emphasize alignment with the equity-driven framework of the LA County Park Needs Assessment, ensuring community-driven processes undergird project planning, and that health benefits, long-term community safety outcomes and addressing regional issues of homelessness and displacement are prioritized in the scoring criteria. We look forward to working with you and your team to support successful and equitable implementation of Measure A. We recognize that developing a comprehensive and evidence-based scoring criteria is a complex endeavor. Thank you in advance for considering this important feedback.

Sincerely,

Anisha Hingorani, Advancement Project California
ahingorani@advanceproj.org

Cc: Placeworks
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¹ Heiman and Artiga, "Beyond Health Care: The Role of Social Determinants in Promoting Health and Health Equity," 2015, <https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/beyond-health-care-the-role-of-social-determinants-in-promoting-health-and-health-equity/>

Memorandum

TO: Jane Beesley, Director of the LA County Regional Parks and Open Space District
FROM: Mike Russo, Director of Equity in Public Funds, Advancement Project California;
Anisha Hingorani, Policy Analyst, Advancement Project California
DATE: March 8, 2018
SUBJECT: Recommendations on Measure A Competitive Grant Scoring and Evaluation Criteria

Executive Summary

Our review of several documents related to competitive grant categories 3 & 4, including but not limited to the following: *Measure A Ballot Language, Section Three: Category 3 & 4 Competitive Grant Policies, General Competitive Grants: Category 3, General Competitive Grants: Category 4, Recreation Access Grants: Categories 3 & 4, and Evaluation Criteria for Categories 3 & 4* produced the following recommendations that we hope to see addressed in subsequent iterations of the scoring and evaluation criteria. We propose the following recommendations for the restructuring of the General Competitive Category 3 and 4 scoring criteria, including scoring categories, relative weights, and in some cases, specific new criteria:

- Scoring Criteria Categories and Weighting for General Competitive Categories 3 and 4

Category	Weight
Level of Need	30%
Regional Benefit and Regional Need	5%
Multi-Benefit Projects	45% total
- Community Safety, Gang Reduction and Violence Prevention	15%
- Health, Physical Activity and Recreation	15%
- Environmental Benefits	15%
Community Engagement	15%
Universal Accessibility and Facility/Amenity Conditions	1-5%
Leveraging of Funds	1-5%
Creative Placemaking and Quality Design to Meet the Needs of Local Residents	1-5%
Addressing LA County Priority Issue of Gentrification and Displacement	1-5%

- Our recommendations emphasize alignment with the equity-driven framework of the LA County Park Needs Assessment, ensuring community-driven processes undergird project planning, and that health benefits, long-term community safety outcomes and addressing regional issues of homelessness and displacement are prioritized in the scoring criteria.

Level of Need

Availability of and proximity to parks and open space is associated with positive population and environmental health benefits, including opportunities for increased physical activity, improved air quality, and better mental health. Level of Need should be no less than 30% of the total points in the final evaluation scoring criteria. The definition of need should be based on High Need and Very High Need as

demonstrated in the current Park Needs Assessment (PNA). The proposal to award points to projects serving subareas of need weakens the PNA methodology and findings. We recommend that full points for addressing need should not automatically be available to those working at the sub-area level.

Level of Need Recommendations:

- Allocate 30% or more of available points to Level of Need
- Strike Sub criteria (C) and (D) that reference subareas
 - Develop concrete examples or scenarios where a strong proposal meeting need in a sub area should be considered on par with those addressing the needs as defined by the PNA.
 - Clarify how narrative will be evaluated; identify objective criteria, strategies or best practices for projects to meet need despite not being located in a Very High Need and High Need area.
 - Proposals originating from outside of a High Need or Very High Need areas should be held to a high standard requiring them to develop project plans and demonstrate evidence that their proposals will meet the needs of people in High Need/Very High Need areas.

Regional Benefit & Regional Need

Greater clarity is needed in defining and scoring “regional benefit” and “regional need.” The proposed radius approach is challenging to implement and has the potential to prioritize uniqueness of feature over population served, which is incongruous with the intent of the Measure and the Park Needs Assessment methodology. We recommend exploring ways to define regional need and regional benefit in relation to population measures and serving people who live in Very High Need and High Need areas of the County and offer alternative scenarios for how to attribute points to projects that provide regional benefit *and* meet regional need.

Summary Recommendations:

- Allocate 5% of available points to Regional Benefit & Regional Need
- Define Regional Benefit using population measures, including numbers of people served and/or the population density of the area where the project is located.
 - Define Regional Need as addressing needs in the High or Very High need study areas.
- Eliminate radius approach (or radius approach alone) because it incentivizes unique features without taking into consideration the demographic profile served by that feature.
- Include sub criterion that awards points for projects that involve coordination among at least 3 or more adjacent High or Very High Need Study Areas or cities
- Include guiding language that requires large projects of regional significance to leverage funds for anti-displacement measures from other sources or to develop a clear anti-displacement mitigation plans.

Multi-Benefit Projects

In the current funding and political climate, it is essential that today’s parks and open-spaces generate multiple benefits. We propose that the priority dimensions of multi-benefit include three equally weighted buckets for as follows: 1) Community Safety, Gang Reduction and Violence Prevention; 2) Recreation, Physical Activity & Health; and 3) Environmental Benefits to reflect the ballot measure language. Projects would have the opportunity to address all three domains to score maximum points.

- 1) Community Safety, Gang Reduction and Violence Prevention (15%): LA County is home to some of the most recent, evidence-based innovations at the intersection of parks and open space and community safety and gang reduction. We recommend assigning points to invite, incentivize and reward applications that use best practices to address community safety and gang reduction, especially in very high need and high need areas of the county.

Recommendations:

- We would like to see community safety and gang reduction as a stand-alone category on the scoring tool, under the multi-benefit category with points awarded for:
 - Evidence of partnership with organizations that are expert in community safety and gang reduction in multiple phases of project delivery
 - Park design that uses best practices to enhance safety, e.g. by reducing isolated places, clustering activity areas to increase informal surveillance, increasing sight lines, and providing adequate lighting;
 - Robust community outreach processes that includes engagement with community members in high violence communities, including youth who are at risk, gang affiliated or formerly gang affiliated, to help address issues of safety during the park design process; and
 - Narrative language that describes how the city will provide community-based programming at proposed project locations, aligned with best practice strategies.
 - Adoption of park policies and programs that prevent criminalization of youth of color in park areas, including a commitment that funding cannot go towards increasing law enforcement personnel and presence.
 - Adoption of park policies and supportive services to address homelessness.

2) Health, Physical Activity and Recreation (15%): Evaluation scoring criteria for community health, physical activity should reflect the Measure language and board motion’s emphasis of the potential for parks and open space to achieve the County’s public health aims. The draft scoring criteria suggested such low point values for “health” we are concerned that an otherwise excellent project can score well without making any meaningful contributions to human health.

Recommendations:

- We would like to see Health, Physical Activity Recreation, as a category in the multi-benefit category on the scoring tool, with points awarded for the following:
 - Provides infrastructure and equipment for physical activity for a variety of ages
 - Provides infrastructure and equipment that cater to physical activity and recreation needs of youth, seniors, and people with special needs
 - Increases ability of residents to get to the park/open space by walking and bicycling, as in Safe Routes to Parks and Open Space, use of way finding signs
 - Provides access to healthy foods; innovative practices related to healthy street vending might be very appealing.

3) Environmental Benefits (15%): Many of the environmental benefits listed are closely linked. We recommend streamlining the criteria and creating an Environmental Benefits category within the Multi-Benefits category.

Recommendations:

- We would like to see Environmental Benefits as a category on the scoring tool, with points awarded for: Habitat Protection and Biodiversity, Healthy Ecosystem, Water Quality Improvements, Storm water Capture and Attenuation, Water Conservation, Climate Resiliency, Greenhouse Gas Reductions, Air Quality Improvements, Carbon Sequestration and Heat-Island Reduction.
- LA County will be placing a storm water measure on the ballot, most likely in July 2018. This should be noted and again, scoring criteria should encourage multi-benefit with storm water capture and management, and done so in a way that defines need according to the high priority park need area of the County.

Community Engagement

Community Engagement should be demonstrated in all projects and demonstrated ability of applicants to carry out effective community engagement should be rewarded with points in the evaluation scoring criteria. Community-based organizations that are funded to conduct inclusive and participatory

engagement contributes to increased capacities of local stakeholders. Please see *AB 31 Statewide Park Program and Transformative Climate Communities Scoring Rubric/community engagement plan* for an example of best practices for how the Community Engagement category should be designed.

Recommendations:

- Allocate 15% points of available points to Community Engagement
- Points should be awarded for projects that meet the following requirements:
 - Active engagement, taking part in discussions, research, decision making, leadership roles, etc. during proposal design/pre-grant
 - Active engagement during project implementation
 - Partnerships with a variety of stakeholders (residents, business owners, CBOs, etc.)
 - Trusted community-based organizations with local knowledge and relationships are adequately funded to lead concurrent/participatory community engagement
 - Gives stakeholders a clear and genuine role in decision making
 - Evaluation plan to measure robustness of community engagement

Universal Accessibility and Facility/Amenity Conditions

We want to propose grouping Universal Accessibility and Facility/Amenity Conditions into one category and eliminate the scoring criteria based on the percent of amenities in bad repair in the area. This will incentivize park projects that include universally accessible amenities to bring all parks up to the same high quality standards. The repair/fix criteria create a risk of prioritizing large, existing projects that have already seen a lot of investment. There are opportunities to award funding for repair and fix projects through maintenance and servicing funds.

Recommendations:

- Allocate 1-5% of available points for Universal Accessibility and Facility/Amenity Conditions
- Points should be awarded to the following accessibility criteria: water fountains, shade structures, adequate lighting, seating, restrooms
- Keep the first two criteria to fix or replace amenities found to be in poor or fair condition
- Eliminate the rest of the percentages breakdowns

Leveraging of Funds

Maximizing the potential of Measure A dollars requires groups to leverage funds. However, we also know that given structural inequities and pre-existing disparities in local tax bases and distribution of resources (historic and present day, across multiple dimensions), the requirement for leveraging funds can de facto block low income cities and partners working in the highest need areas from competing for funds. Projects located in the highest need category should not be penalized for not being able to leverage funds, but perhaps provided with additional technical assistance (TA) for doing so at a later stage. On the other hand, well-established groups in relatively park-rich communities who have a track record of drawing down state funds, for example, should remain encouraged and expected to leverage funds or be required to provide mentorship and support to groups in high needs areas.

Recommendations:

- Allocate 1-5% of available points for Leveraging of Funds
- Give points to projects that integrate Measure A and Measure M efforts (and other funds/efforts) to create healthy, sustainable places
- Address concern here is that points for leveraging funds will disproportionately benefit higher income cities
- Consider ways RPOSD or other TA providers can help applicants identify matching/leverage funds via TA.
 - Integrate TA and leveraging to give lower-capacity cities/orgs opportunities to leverage.

Creative Placemaking and Quality Design to meet the needs of Local Residents

Creative place making needs to be contextualized and oriented toward meeting the needs of local residents, and elevating neighborhood history and culture, for instance, enlisting local arts and culture organizations.

Recommendations:

- Allocate 1-5% of available points for this category
- Award points for having project designs that directly reflect the needs and priorities developed by residents through community engagement.

Addressing LA County Priority Issues of Gentrification and Displacement

While the issues of gentrification and displacement are not equally felt across the Open Space District, areas that are high need and very high need may be at particular risk for displacement pressures. Given the housing affordability crisis in LA County, the recognized need to eliminate inequities in park access and the association between healthy community improvements, increasing land values and other real-estate pressures, project scoring criteria should encourage and incentivize practical strategies for improving park access while addressing issues of gentrification and displacement. If Measure A fails to do so, it runs the risk of simply relocating park need rather than ameliorating it.

Recommendations:

- Allocate 1-5% of available points for this category
- For planning projects, plans should address park needs and displacement avoidance strategies
- For acquisition and development, maximum points should be given to co-located affordable housing and parks/open space projects (drawn from Proposition 68 language)
- For connectivity / trail projects, maximum points should be given to those that link existing parks and open space to affordable housing
- Maximum points should be given to affordable housing developers and land trusts that build parks / open space onsite or nearby.
- Grant narrative includes description of displacement vulnerability
- Priority given to projects that advance solutions to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with park creation pursuant to the project is an increase in the cost of housing.

March 8, 2018

Jane Beesley
Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District
1000 South Fremont Avenue, Unit #40 Building A-9 East, Ground Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803

RE: FEEDBACK ON MEASURE A GRANT SCORING CRITERIA

Dear Ms. Beesley,

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health greatly appreciates the leadership of the Regional Parks and Open Space District (RPOSD) and Placeworks in developing draft grant scoring criteria for consideration and review by the Measure A Implementation Steering Committee. We look forward to our next conversation on this important topic and would like to offer several recommendations for consideration.

Set Aside for Disadvantaged Communities

We greatly commend RPOSD for the set asides in Categories 3 and 4 for high and very high need study areas as demonstrated in the Parks Need Assessment (PNA). Such set asides are critical given the impact of historic disinvestment and structural inequities that have persistently contributed to unequal access to opportunities in low-income communities and communities of color. The availability of parks and open space have documented public health benefits, including opportunities for increased physical activity, reduced obesity, improved air quality, and better mental health. However, these benefits do not accrue equally to all Los Angeles County communities, as clearly documented in the PNA.

Our *Parks and Public Health in Los Angeles County Report* found that cities and communities with less park space per capita have higher average rates of childhood obesity and premature death from heart disease and stroke, and greater economic hardship, than those with more park space. We also found that African Americans and Latinos were more likely than Asians and Whites to live in cities and communities with less park space per capita. These findings

underscore current socioeconomic and racial inequities in park space, and the need to prioritize resources to create safe parks in high need areas to maximize health and emotional benefits.

Level of Need

For the same reason, we feel that inclusion of Level of Need as a highly weighted domain in the scoring criteria (30%) supports the goals of the measure and will help support improved public health outcomes. We agree with RPOSD’s current recommendation that scoring of Level of Need should be based on current Parks Needs Assessment determination.

Health, Physical Activity and Universal Accessibility

Scoring criteria for health should reflect Measure language related to safe green places for recreation and promoting healthy communities. The draft scoring criteria currently addresses health by allocating points to “active recreation and fitness” and “food access” as two of thirteen options in the “Multi-Benefit Projects” category. Applicants can, however, get full points in this category without addressing any aspect of health, by focusing on environmental improvements like habitat protection, stormwater capture, and water conservation.

We recommend that health should be pulled out of the multi-benefit category and be scored as a standalone category to delineate the expectation that all high-quality projects in Categories 3 & 4 seek to advance health as a regional priority. We also suggest giving significant weight to this category and that points can be allocated based on the ability of the project to improve health through such actions as increasing access to physical activity for people of all ages (including elderly residents), promoting universal accessibility, providing access to drinking water, and enhancing access to fresh fruits and vegetables through infrastructure such as community gardens or fruit trees.

Community Safety, Gang Reduction and Violence Prevention

The Measure A ballot language specifically emphasized safe parks and gang reduction and applicants should be encouraged to address these concerns. Currently, the draft scoring criteria includes “public safety” as one of the thirteen options in the “Multi-Benefit Projects” category; however, an applicant can get full points in this category without addressing issues related to gang reduction or park safety. To elevate the importance of safety, we recommend including “Community Safety, Gang Reduction, and Violence Prevention” as a stand-alone category on the scoring tool, with up to 20% of weighted points awarded for:

- 1) park design that uses best practices to enhance safety, e.g. by reducing isolated places, clustering activity areas to increase informal surveillance, increasing sight lines, and providing adequate lighting;
- 2) robust community engagement processes that includes partnerships with community members in high violence communities, including youth who are at risk, gang affiliated or formerly gang affiliated, to help address issues of safety during the park design process, and;
- 3) narrative language that describes how the city will support active park spaces as exemplified in promising practices such as the County’s Parks After Dark and City of Los Angeles’ Summer Night Lights programs.

In sum, we recommend that the scoring tool assigns points for applications that use best practices to address community concerns related to safety, gang reduction, and/or violence prevention with

the clear expectation that best practices suggest the need to do more than increase police presence.

Community Engagement

Residents are experts in understanding the impact of structural inequities--such as lack of park access--on their health and the health of their communities and should be key participants in deciding how resources are spent and which amenities are best suited to address community needs. As such, we recommend that the scoring criteria reward applicants that build authentic, collaborative partnerships and provide opportunities for shared decision-making at critical junctures throughout the parks planning process. Specifically, we recommend that a greater number of points are assigned for: holding a large number of participatory engagement activities; using a variety of outreach methods; having activities at a variety of times (e.g. including weekends, evenings); getting broad representation from residents and stakeholders; and using shared decision-making processes when selecting park enhancements.

Leveraging of Funds

Given structural inequities and pre-existing disparities in distribution of resources, a requirement to leverage funds may prevent low-income cities and partners working in the highest need areas from being competitive. Rather than allocating the greatest number of points to projects that leverage the largest amount of outside funding, we recommend an approach that will not disadvantage high need areas. For example, RPOSD could consider using the PNA to create tiers of applicants; projects in the highest need category would not be penalized for being unable to leverage funds and could be provided with technical assistance for leveraging funds at a later stage. On the other hand, well-established groups in park-rich communities who have a track record of drawing down State funds could be expected to leverage funds. Additionally, we should consider allocating points to projects that describe their approach to *integrating* Measure A and Measure M efforts, and other funding programs, to create healthy, sustainable places.

Regional Benefit & Regional Need

Currently, the draft scoring criteria includes a 20-point question that intends to assess the degree to which the project addresses regional benefit and regional need. However, regional benefit and regional need are not clearly defined in the draft application or scoring criteria. The current scoring tool gives more points to park facilities “that do not currently exist or are one-of-a-kind within a 25-mile radius over projects that provide services only to local communities.” This approach would, for example, give greater points to projects such as large regional centers with state-of-the-art basketball arenas, over many smaller basketball courts located throughout a geographic area.

We recommend that RPOSD continue exploring ways to define regional benefit and regional need and offer alternative scenarios for how to attribute points. For example, the definition of regional need could include the numbers of people served or the population density of the area where the project is located. Regional need could also be defined as reducing the county’s existing inequities in *proximity* to parks. Given the complexity of defining and scoring regional benefit and regional need, we recommend significantly decreasing the number of points allocated to this category.

Conclusion

We recognize that developing a comprehensive and evidence-based scoring criterion is a complex endeavor and that there are many considerations that must be incorporated while doing so.

We appreciate your review of our recommendations and thank you, in advance, for soliciting our feedback.

Sincerely,



Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed
Director of Public Health

BF:ja

c: David Early, Placeworks



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March 29, 2018

Jane Beesley
District Administrator
L.A. County Regional Park and Open Space District
1000 South Fremont Ave. Unit #40
Building A-9 East, Ground Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803

RE: Comments on draft Measure A guidelines

Dear Jane:

Enclosed are my comments on the draft Measure A guidelines. For ease of incorporating edits, I have kept my comments and suggestions in an outline format. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Esther Feldman
President

cc: David Early and C.C. LaGrange, Placeworks
Maria Chong-Castillo

I. Comments that apply throughout the Measure A Guidelines

A. Statutory Legal Framework

There is a statutory legal framework for the Measure A guidelines that includes:

- the authorizing state legislation of the Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD), which sets out the purposes and responsibilities of the RPOSD
- the specific goals, purposes and funding schedule of Measure A
- the legal requirements of use of the approved parcel tax, in accordance with state law;
- the approved expenditure plan for Measure A

This statutory framework for Measure A must be appropriately referenced and clearly stated throughout the Measure A Guidelines, as detailed below.

The competitive grant criteria must also accurately reflect the purposes of Measure A.

In addition, the substantial Needs Assessment conducted by the RPOSD identified numerous specific types of park and open space projects throughout L.A. County, as well as non-profit organizations and other community stakeholders. Reference should be made to the substantive findings of the RPOSD's Needs Assessment.

B. Measure A Purposes that should be cited or quoted:

- 1) **TITLE:** *Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure*
- 2) **The overall purpose of Measure is successful park and open space projects,** including *“acquisition, construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities, natural resources, beaches, and open space lands”*

Measure A's specific purposes include:

- *safe, clean neighborhood, city and county parks*
- *increase safe playgrounds and reduce gang activity*
- *keep neighborhood recreation and senior centers safe*
- *keep drinking water safe*
- *protect beaches, rivers, water resources*
- *protect remaining natural areas and open space*

- 3) **Protection and restoration of open spaces and natural areas:**
“protection and restoration of our last open spaces and natural areas of scenic beauty located next to rivers, creeks, streams and lakes is necessary for the purposes of

conserving native and endangered species, biological diversity, protecting the health of the County's environment, and for the enjoyment of this and future generations"

4) Public access:

"improving non-motorized or active transportation methods to reach the network of park facilities, beaches, and multi-use trails, including regional bike paths, is important to our health and provides for greater accessibility for our citizens"

and:

"the programs funded under this measure will increase the accessibility of public lands, park facilities, and park amenities to the people of Los Angeles County, especially to those living in high-need and very-high need Study Areas"

C. What funds from the Measure A parcel tax can be spent on

Measure A funds must be spent in accordance with the state legal requirements of the funding method (parcel tax), Measure A itself, the authorizing legislation of the RPOSD, and any other relevant county fiscal requirements. These must be clearly referenced in the guidelines, and the Guidelines should not include any recommendations that are not consistent with these legal requirements.

D. Park and Open Space needs as identified by the RPOSD Needs Assessment

Reference the total number and estimated cost of park projects as identified by the RPOSD Needs Assessment and any other relevant, subsequent community engagement conducted by or under the auspices of the RPOSD.

E. Emphasis must be on who park and open space projects serve and on connecting communities to park and open space resources

Consideration of proposed park projects must include an emphasis on the communities to be served by those parks, open space or related resources. People don't stay only within their neighborhoods or city boundaries. No community should be restrained or confined to its boundaries by a lack of connectivity to trails, rivers, natural open space, mountains and beaches.

These resources are an essential part of L.A. County's unique park, open space and natural lands infrastructure network. Regional-serving resources are essential to public health.

F. The Guidelines must clearly state each category exactly as written in Measure A.

This is a legal document and must be respected. To date, the Guidelines have effectively re-defined these categories by incorrectly replacing the Measure A terms.

Example: "Category 3: Natural Lands, Open Space and Local Beaches, Water Conservation, Watersheds Protection" should always be written exactly as stated in Measure A.

Category 4: Regional Recreational Facilities, Multi-use Trails, Accessibility

II. Competitive Grant Programs

A. Why issuing some bonds for the competitive grant programs makes good sense.

1. Per the RPOSD's Needs Assessment, which lay the groundwork and justification for Measure A, there is a very high level of existing need for funding and project readiness. It will take years from the passage of Measure A to get competitive projects underway in any case, so there is no reason to add yet more years to fund projects that need funding now.
2. Bonding maximizes flexibility in getting good park projects in a timely fashion done throughout L.A. County.
3. Bonding maintains RPOSD's flexibility in responding to a wide diversity of park project needs.
4. Bonds can be issued over several years.
5. Bonding helps leverage other public funds, including numerous competitive state grants which require local matching funds
6. Ample opportunity. There is enough funding to both issue bonds AND have recurring grant cycles.

B. Grant cycle frequency should be every two years. Four years is an extraordinarily long time to wait to fund a park project, and other funding opportunities will be lost in the meantime.

C. Grant funding ranges for Category 3: Natural Lands, Open Spaces and Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Watersheds Protection Program and Category 4: Regional Recreational Facilities; Multi-Use Trails and Accessibility Program).

The RPOSD needs to evaluate similar-sized projects in a consistent manner. I recommend the following corrections to the funding ranges, because there is a significant difference between a \$50,000 project and a \$500,000 project, and these projects should not be evaluated in the same way.

\$50,000 - \$250,000 – A lot of projects will fall within this range, particularly given the emphasis on developing new first-time applicants and projects through the Technical Assistance Program.

\$250,000 - \$1 million

\$1 million and up

D. Keep competitive grant cycles open for all; don't segregate by project type. This doesn't make sense in real life.

E. Land Tenure: For the competitive grant application, a letter of intent from the landowner is sufficient. The landowner will most frequently be a public agency, and agencies don't want to commit unless they know funding is in place. A written agreement should be required only if the

grant is awarded. This is consistent with Prop. A and state grant requirement.

- F. Do not require approval of Neighborhood Councils.
- G. Qualifying expenses should include permitting, preparation and changes to Construction Documents, as city and county permitting agencies frequently request numerous changes to construction documents.

H. Program and Project Type Definitions

To meet the purposes of Measure A, in all relevant categories of competitive funds, these program and project type definitions must include restoration of native habitat, natural lands, and rivers and streams.

Other specific comments:

1. Water Conservation

To be eligible for Measure A funding, these project types must be specifically integrated with a park or nature-based approach to capturing and re-using runoff in a park or open space setting.

- a. **Drainage basins can't be a stand-alone project:** Unless they are part of an integrated, nature-based approach to Green Infrastructure, providing both a natural open space and stormwater/dry weather runoff capture function; drainage basins on their own are a flood control function only. Not the purpose of Measure A.
- b. **Revegetation of banks and waterways.**
This needs to go beyond "revegetation", and should be "restoration of native habitat" and require planting of native habitat using an ecosystem-focused model. Note that in L.A., almost all banks and waterways are concrete. Expand this wording to include land within and next to river/stream channels, where there ARE opportunities for habitat restoration.
- c. **Stormwater capture and other water recycling.**
See comment 1.a. above.
This needs to specify "cleaning, storage and re-use of runoff" and cleaning must use green Best Management Practices (BMPs). These are defined in the CASQA manual and considered standard practice. Consistent with the county's Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMPs) to meet State Water Resources Control Board regulations and U.S. Clean Water Act. Measure A requirements should be consistent.
- d. **Add dry weather runoff capture.** In many places, this is the easiest to capture.

2. Combine Watershed Protection with Water Conservation.

- a. Add "restore habitat along channels"
- b. Add "connectivity" to trails, parks, open space, rivers and other public uses

3. Under Beaches, include kayak/small non-motorized boat launch and related public access.

4. **Under Category 5: Youth and Veteran Job Training and Placement Opportunities Program.**
Measure A's park project purposes include rivers, trails, watersheds, open space and natural lands. To meet the purposes of Measure A, job training and placement should therefore include a focus on education and training for not only parks and recreation, but also for restoration and maintenance of restored native habitat and open space, trails, nature-based stormwater/dry weather runoff capture projects and similar projects. There are many opportunities for on-going "green jobs", consistent with Measure A's goals and purposes.

I. Category 3: Natural Lands, Open Spaces and Local Beaches, Water Conservation, and Watersheds Protection Program

1. Project Types

- a. Must include native habitat restoration/creation
- b. The language must be relevant to restoring habitat along urban streams in LA County, which are largely concrete.
- c. Emphasis should be on Green Best Management Practices (BMPS) and Green Infrastructure: nature-based approaches/green infrastructure for runoff capture and cleaning
- d. Include connectivity to river and other trails, parks, natural areas, and other public lands.

2. Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation criteria need to be different for Category 3: Natural Lands, Open Spaces and Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Watersheds Protection Program and Category 4: Regional Recreational Facilities; Multi-Use Trails and Accessibility Program.

These programs serve different purposes, and the criteria should be appropriate to each category.

Both must include criteria for projects that are regional-serving and provide connectivity between communities and park/open space/trail/river resources, and between these resources themselves.

River greenways, mountain parks, natural areas, and trails all serve the very diverse range of communities that make up the 88 cities and unincorporated area of L.A. County.

3. Project Feasibility

- a. Land access/tenure: letter of support is sufficient
- b. Planning and Design: should include funding for planning and design

J. Scoring

The purpose of scoring must be to maximize objectivity. All projects must be reviewed and scored in the same way. Remove subjectivity as much as possible, and keep the general categories so that they are applicable across a broad range of proposed park projects.

K. Criteria

The overall purpose of Measure A is to implement successful park and open space projects.

Therefore, park-related benefits (or the benefits of the specific category within which the project is proposed) of project must be top priority and scored accordingly.

What not to do: An example of completely subjective criteria that would be impossible to score consistently across projects and categories: “creativity, place-making and high quality design.”

L. Specific Comments on Draft Criteria:

1. Delete “amenities that are one of a kind”
This has no bearing on whether a project is a good park/open space project
2. The ability to leverage other funds is key to a successful park project. This should be scored appropriately.
3. Multi-benefits must include connectivity and access
4. Ecosystem and habitat elements should all be combined.
5. Establishing or protecting native habitat should be a baseline for all relevant projects. A go/no-go criteria.
6. Combine all water elements into one item/scoring. Including capture and re-use of stormwater/dry weather runoff is essential to a sustainable and good park project.
 - a. Emphasize runoff re-use: This is critical to long-term park/habitat maintenance
7. Combine all air quality/climate change elements, and specifically include the benefits of: reducing Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), reducing heat island effects, absorbing air pollutants and improving public health.
8. **Correction:** There is a great deal of science that demonstrates the quantitative benefits of restoring habitat and creating natural open space on improving air quality, reducing air pollutants and other toxins, reducing Greenhouse Gases, and sequestering carbon. The California Air Resources Board recently amended their recommendations to specifically include “Anti-Pollution Design Elements” such as trees, vegetation and earth berms to reduce sources of air pollution near freeways and roadways.
The Measure A Guidelines should be consistent with contemporary science, current practice, and state regulatory recommendations.
9. Beaches: include kayak/non-motorized small boat launch ramps and related public access.
These are especially relevant in L.A. County, which has no such recreational resources.

M. Grant evaluation committees.

It is essential that there be consistency in the grant evaluation process to ensure equitable decision-making. The evaluation of competitive grant proposals needs to be objective.

Because these committees will be made up of different people year-to-year, and will be

volunteer, these committees should be advisory only, and should make recommendations which the RPOSD staff will then review. There will be no way to ensure any consistency in the evaluations made by these ever-changing committees, who will have many conflicting priorities.

Final decisions should be made by RPOSD staff.

III. Bonding – why essential to meet Measure A’s goals

The RPOSD’s flexibility and agility should be preserved, so that Measure A funds are expended in a manner that achieves the greatest park and open space benefits.

This has to include some debt issuance.

Issuing bonds makes sense because the RPOSD has already identified great outstanding needs through its Needs Assessment. There are numerous projects ready to go now. After 25 years of successfully managing Proposition A and numerous issues of revenue anticipation notes and other similar debt, there is ample experience within the RPOSD and the County related to the needs and practical considerations related to bonding or debt issuance. With the very small amount of funding available annually, the cost of capital projects will balloon out of the range of feasibility if stretched out over many years.

There is ample annual income to both secure a certain amount of debt and to have funds available on an annual basis, as needed.

The draft guidelines include specifics that are not appropriate for an Advisory Committee. These Measure A guidelines and the Advisory Committee should not include recommendations about specifics and technical matters related to bond issuance, bond management, debt service or other fiscal matters. These fiscal matters must be determined by the appropriate fiscal, legal and other experts advising the RPOSD and the county.

IV. Other

A. Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

Primary focus: The purpose of the TAP must be consistent with the purposes of Measure A: good, successful park and open space projects.

1. Providing assistance to applicants to develop their organizational capacity must be tied to assistance in developing the applicants proposed park/open space project, so that it is a sound, competitive project. Organizational capacity-building funded by Measure A must be linked to development of a sound park/open space project to be proposed for competitive grant funding.

2. Appropriate screening and eligibility criteria should be developed for selection of individual recipients of technical assistance, and for other levels of technical assistance to be provided.
3. RPOSD staff should not be providing direct technical assistance to potential grantees, as this is a conflict of interest, since the RPOSD also will be making the final decisions about award of competitive grants. RPOSD's role must be general and neutral.

B. Oversight and Innovation

Flexibility of the RPOSD needs to be maintained here.

Section 2.1 needs to include "innovation"

Section 2.2. The RPOSD should be able to allocate M&S funding for up to 3-5 years.



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

April 12, 2018

Jane Beesley, District Administrator
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District
c/o Department of Parks and Recreation
1000 S. Fremont Ave, Unit #40
Building A-9 East, Ground Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803

Re: Los Angeles County Measure A Competitive Grant Program Guidelines

Dear Ms. Beesley:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to thank the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) for your work in implementing the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure (Measure A). The City additionally appreciates the opportunity to apply for grant funding that is made possible through this parcel tax measure. With that said, since draft grant guidelines have been released for Measure A competitive grant programs, Long Beach is significantly concerned with changes that are being made with respect to investments in disadvantaged communities.

Specifically, the City was expecting to see "Level of Need" weighted at 25 points for three grant programs: (1) Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection, (2) Regional Recreation, Multi-Use Trails and Accessibility, and (3) Acquisition-only, as presented by the RPOSD as draft evaluation criteria scoring themes on March 1, 2018. Long Beach was surprised to see the number of points for these programs reduced to 10 points in documents dated March 29, 2018. **The City strongly opposes this change, and urges the RPOSD to restore "Level of Need" to 25 points in the final grant evaluation criteria.**

For years, there have been inequitable investments made towards improvements within disadvantaged communities. It is essential that funding is available to cities and the county through Measure A to help support equitable access to safe and healthy green space in these neighborhoods. In our City, there exists a significant need for future acquisition and remediation of former oil operation and brownfield locations in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Long Beach was expecting to use Measure A funding to support these green space developments in these areas, as well as additional critical park projects in high need areas where improvements to park space would truly improve the quality of life.

April 12, 2018

Page 2

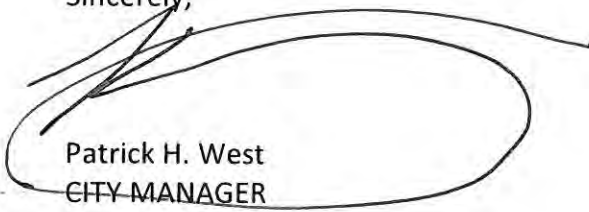
Measure A is fundamental to providing public investment for parks in high need areas of the County, including areas in Long Beach identified during the robust public engagement process conducted in preparation for Measure A. Should RPOSD elect not to restore the "Level of Need" to the original 25 points, areas of need within the County will be unable to address historic issues of inequity. In Long Beach, high need areas that have averages below 1 acre of park, per 1,000 residents will be unable to see meaningful public investment to increase the number of acres to Long Beach's citywide average of 5.6 park acres per 1,000 residents.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach strongly opposes any decrease in weight placed on "Level of Need" in the evaluation criteria to award Measure A funding. We urge the RPOSD to restore 25 points for "Level of Need", and continue to place a strong emphasis on park equity while also making funds available for park improvements countywide.

Should you have any questions, please contact Stephen Scott, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine with the City of Long Beach at (562) 570-3200 or Stephen.Scott@longbeach.gov. Please also see attached for more specific comments regarding the RPOSD's draft Measure A grant guidelines.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and for working with the City of Long Beach on this important countywide initiative.

Sincerely,



Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

cc: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors


Measure A Competitive Grant Scoring Rubrics Summary

	Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection	Regional Recreation, Multi-use Trails, and Accessibility	Acquisition-only	Recreation Access Program	Youth and Veteran Job Training and Placement	Planning & Design Funds
Level of Need	10	10	10	25	15	20
Regional Benefits	10	30	20	-	-	-
Community Involvement Beyond Minimum Requirements	10	10	-	30	-	10
Community Partnerships	-	-	-	-	20	-
Social Multi-Benefits	10	10	10	-	-	-
Community Health Multi-Benefits	10	10	-	-	-	-
Environmental Multi-Benefits	40	20	10	-	-	-
Leveraging of Funds	5	5	5	-	-	-
Connectivity and Accessibility	15	15	-	-	-	-
Program Benefits	-	-	-	30	50	-
Timeliness and Urgency <i>→ DESIGN WITH CARE</i>	20	20	30	-	-	20
Existing P&D Challenges	-	-	-	-	-	30
TOTAL POINTS	130	130	85	85	85	80

NATURAL LANDS, LOCAL BEACHES, WATER CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Goals

Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Competitive Grant Program projects should improve and protect open space, watersheds, and water resources through planning, acquisition, development, improvement, and restoration, of multi-benefit park projects that promote, improve, or protect clean local water supplies, habitat improvements, park space, recreation, public access, watershed health, and open space, including improvements or restoration of areas that buffer our rivers, streams, and their tributaries along with the lakes and beaches throughout the County. Priority will be given to projects offering the greatest regional benefit, or serving the greatest regional need.

 Thirty percent of these funds will be awarded to projects in High or Very High Need Study Areas, as defined by the most recent Countywide Parks Needs Assessment.

2018 Funding Amount

\$4,000,000

Project Types

Below is a non-exhaustive list of projects that may be eligible for these grant funds:

Natural Lands/Open Spaces

- Parks
- New or improved access points to mountain, foothill, river, stream, and wetland areas
- Restoration of natural habitat
- Scenic vistas
- Wildlife corridors and habitats
- Habitat gardens
- Nature/Interpretive centers
- Preservation of natural lands
- Tree planting

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION,
AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

Local Beaches

- Active recreation amenities
- New or improved fishing and boating facilities
- Pier/dock improvements
- Replacement of sand
- Restrooms/shower facilities
- Access facilities, including staging areas, roadways, parking lots, and trailheads.



Water Conservation and Protection

- Drainage basins
- Irrigation projects
- Permeable walkways and play surfaces
- Rainwater harvesting
- Revegetation of banks and waterways
- Stormwater capture and other water recycling
- Beach and coastal watershed clean up
- Drinking water improvements
- Lake or reservoir clean up
- Riparian corridor improvements
- River and stream clean-up
- River and stream parkway development

Project Requirements

Project Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following Project Eligibility requirements in order to apply for a grant award:

- The project plans for, acquires, develops, improves, or restores a multi-benefit park project that promotes, improves, or protects clean local water supplies, habitat improvements, park space, recreation, public access, watershed health, or open space.
- The project is a permanent capital project.
- The project is consistent with the Study Area's long-range park planning documents.
- The project's requested grant award size is a minimum of \$50,000 and maximum of \$3,700,000.

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION,
AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

Project Feasibility

The project must meet at least one requirement in each topic area in order to apply for a grant award:

Land Access/Tenure

- Applicant owns the land in question;
- Applicant has entered into a lease or other use agreement for the land in question; or
- Applicant has concrete plans as to how access or tenure will be acquired or arranged.

Planning and Design

- Design documents of 30% or greater are complete; or
- Applicant has sketch-level plans for project design and a planned approach as to how and when planning and design will be completed.

Permitting and CEQA Compliance

- Project is exempt from regulatory permits and CEQA;
- Any necessary permitting and CEQA documents are completed and certified; or
- Applicant has concrete plans as to how and when permitting and CEQA will be completed.

Adverse Site Conditions (e.g., overhead or underground utilities, toxic contamination, etc.)

- There are no adverse site conditions that would affect project implementation;
- Adverse site conditions have been characterized and the applicant has concrete plans for addressing them; or
- Adverse site conditions are known to exist but have not been characterized. Applicant has plans as to how and when these conditions will be addressed, with appropriate budget contingencies in the project budget.

Project Cost and Funding

- Applicant has a detailed budget consistent with the level of planning and design completed to date, as well as a plan for funding to cover the budgeted costs, with appropriate contingencies given the level of planning completed.

Project Schedule

- Applicant has a detailed schedule from grant receipt to project completion that reflects the level of planning, design, permitting and community involvement that will be necessary for the project.




Operations and Maintenance

- The project has an appropriately detailed financial plan for operation and maintenance of the completed project.

Community Engagement

The project must meet the minimum community engagement requirements described in Section X.

Award Size

Requested grant awards must meet the minimum and maximum grant award size requirements. Grant applications will be categorized into different thresholds of award size brackets depending on the requested size of the grant award. Grant applications within the same award size bracket will be evaluated against each other.  at least one grant will be awarded in each bracket that receives completed applications. Total funds available and award bracket limits may be adjusted prior to each grant round, and will be publicized in the grant announcement materials.

Minimum: \$50,000

Maximum: \$3,700,000

Brackets

Small: \$50,000 - \$499,999

Medium: \$500,000 - \$999,999

Large: \$1,000,000 - \$1,999,999

Jumbo: \$2,000,000 - \$3,700,000

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be scored using the following criteria:

- Level of Need
- Regional Benefits
- Community Involvement Beyond Required Minimum
- Environmental Multi-benefits
- Community Health Multi-benefits
- Social Multi-Benefits
- Timeliness and Urgency
- Connectivity and Accessibility
- Leveraging of Funds

Each evaluation criterion is described below, along with a breakdown of points by subcriteria (where applicable). All acquisition-only project applications will be scored only against other acquisition-only projects, regardless of requested award amount. These projects will be evaluated using the same criteria as are used for the Acquisition-only Grant Program (Level of Need, Regional Benefits, Environmental Multi-benefits, Social Multi-Benefits, Leveraging of Funds, and Timeliness and Urgency)

NATURAL LANDS, LOCAL BEACHES, WATER CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM SCORING RUBRIC



Evaluation Criteria	Points
Level of Need	10
Regional Benefits	10
Community Involvement Beyond Minimum Requirements	10
Social Multi-Benefits	10
Community Health Multi-Benefits	10
Environmental Multi-Benefits	40
Leveraging of Funds	5
Connectivity and Accessibility	15
Timeliness and Urgency	20
TOTAL POINTS	130

PAST POINTS


→ 5/8 HIGHER

→ 5/8 HIGHER

<i>SCORING IS SEPARATE FROM RUD/ORDS PNA AREA</i>	
<p>LEVEL OF NEED LEVEL OF NEED IS BASED ON THE CURRENT COUNTYWIDE PNA DETERMINATION. PROJECTS SERVING OR BENEFITTING STUDY AREAS WITH HIGH OR VERY HIGH NEED WILL RECEIVE MORE POINTS THAN PROJECTS THAT DO NOT.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	10 MAX.
<p><i>(A) Project attracts visitors who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas. More points will be awarded to projects that can provide statistical information that a high number of residents from High or Very High Need Study Areas visit/use the project.</i></p>	0-6
<p><i>(B) Project demonstrates access from High or Very High Need Study Areas to the project site. Access can include connections by existing or planned trails, bikeways, pathways, transit routes, or shuttle service to and from High or Very High Need Study Areas. Best practices include convenience in access, frequency in service, visibility, safety, and /or provision of the most effective and/or efficient means of transportation between the project site and High or Very High Need Study Area. Other best practices include providing signage, using social media, and other marketing on how to navigate to the project.</i></p>	0-4
<p><i>(C) Project includes elements that support the language needs of people who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas, including multilingual wayfinding, informational signage, interpretive programs, and educational materials.</i></p>	0-2



MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>REGIONAL BENEFITS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE REGIONAL BENEFITS OR SERVE REGIONAL NEED WILL RECEIVE POINTS¹.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	10 MAX.
<p>(A) Project provides regional benefits by rehabilitating, adding, or improving a unique facility, amenity, or natural resource within the region it serves. </p>	0-2
<p>(B) Project meets regional need by adding, rehabilitating or improving any facility, amenity, or natural resource for which regional demand/use is high.</p>	0-2
<p>(C) Project accommodates regional access by providing trail connectivity, transit connections beyond the local vicinity, trailhead and/or parking improvements, or ADA improvements.</p>	0-2
<p>(D) Project includes interpretive, educational, programmatic, or other components that encourage regional visitation.</p>	0-2
<p>(E) Project involves the collaboration of multiple, agencies, or organizations.</p>	0-2
<p>(F) Project increases community value (natural or built) by filling a gap in regional facilities, amenities, or natural resources.</p>	0-2

Will be DETERMINED BY RPOSD

¹ Definition of "regional benefit" and "regional need" will be determined by RPOSD through the future development of a Countywide Regional and Open Space Assessment.

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT BEYOND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE POINTS BASED ON THE QUALITY OF PAST AND/OR PROPOSED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY (SEE SECTION 3.X) THAT GOES BEYOND THE MINIMUM ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.</p> <p>Points will be awarded based on the evaluators' assessment of the submitted community involvement documentation and/or community involvement plan describing proposed community involvement. All proposed community involvement will be tracked as part of the grant administration process; grantees not completing proposed community involvement will lose good standing on the grant.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>10 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Applicant engaged and/or will engage the community at a point in the project when community input could influence the outcome of the plan.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>
<p><i>(B) Project utilized and/or will utilize multiple inclusive outreach methods that targeted broad representation of residents and stakeholders. Applicants utilizing more than three methods may receive more points.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>
<p><i>(C) Applicant actively sought and/or will seek to remove barriers to accessing engagement meetings/events such as scheduling meetings in the evenings and/or weekends, providing childcare, providing transportation, and providing refreshments. Applicants removing more barriers will receive more points.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>
<p><i>(D) Applicant established or leveraged, or will establish or leverage, community partnerships with local community-based organizations, citizen advisory groups, and/or school districts to gain support for the project.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>
<p><i>(E) Applicant provided or will provide language access services beyond minimum requirements.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>
<p><i>(F) Project reflects or will reflect community input received during the engagement process.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>SOCIAL MULTI-BENEFITS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE OTHER BENEFITS BESIDES RECREATION THAT RELATE TO SOCIAL ISSUES.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>10 MAX.</p>
<p>(A) Community Safety, Gang Activity Reduction, and Violence Prevention Project includes features that improve safety conditions and visibility through the provision of safe equipment and facilities, and thereby reduce or prevent of gang activity, violence, and crime. Best practices include using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies, such as increasing natural surveillance, reducing isolated spaces, increasing sight lines, and providing adequate lighting. Projects located in areas of high gang activity and violence and incorporate safe design, and/or engage former and current gang members or gang reduction community groups to ensure park safety.</p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p>(B) Anti-displacement Mitigation Project includes advance displacement avoidance strategies to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with the project creates a significant increase in the cost of housing. More points will be scored based on how realistic and proactive the strategies are.</p>	<p>0-3 <i>Comment on lack of curb/over market forces</i></p>
<p>(C) Cultural and Language Sensitivity Project incorporates elements that accommodate the cultural and language needs of the served populations, such as multilingual wayfinding and other signage and informational signs or public art related to the surrounding history and culture of the project and area. More points will be scored on the quantity and quality of the proposed cultural and language elements.</p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p>(D) Interpretive Programs and Education Project incorporates elements that provide interpretation and education to foster user connection and awareness of the environment, the outdoors, and/or recreation, such as incorporating informative signage explaining the project's location, landscape, wildlife, plants, background, and history. More points will be scored on the appropriateness of the proposed interpretive programs and education elements.</p>	<p>0-3</p>



(B) = CALL OUT QUALIFICATION - AND HOW MUCH
(B) = RECOMMEND BOUNTY TO DO STUDY - POSSIBLE MORE POINTS?

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH MULTI-BENEFITS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE OTHER BENEFITS BESIDES RECREATION THAT RELATE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>10 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Physical Activity</i> <i>Project provides infrastructure and equipment that encourages physical activity. Examples include a combination of playground equipment, exercise equipment, walking and biking paths, and/or trails.</i></p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p><i>(B) Universal Design and Accessibility</i> <i>Project provides infrastructure and equipment that cater to the physical activity of people of all abilities, especially to people with special needs. Examples include access ramps, accessible restrooms, and inclusive recreation options.</i></p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p><i>(C) Safe and Active Transportation</i> <i>Project includes connections to transportation infrastructure to increase the ability of users to travel to and from the project by active forms of transportation such as walking, biking, skateboarding, scootering, etc. Examples include sidewalks, multi-use paths, bikeways, and Safe Routes to School.</i></p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p><i>(D) Social Interaction</i> <i>Project includes elements that promote social interaction, such as safe, attractive, and interactive gathering areas; interpretive and wayfinding signage; public art; and infrastructure for play.</i></p>	<p>0-3</p>



MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>ENVIRONMENTAL MULTI-BENEFITS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE OTHER BENEFITS BESIDES RECREATION THAT RELATE TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 40 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>40 MAX.</p>
<p>(A) Stormwater Capture and Conservation Project includes features to capture stormwater and attenuate potential flood conditions which go beyond those required by State and local codes. Examples include swales, rain gardens, retention basins, pervious pavement, use of drought-tolerant plants, use of drip irrigation, etc.</p>	<p>0-10</p>
<p>(B) Water and Air Quality Improvements Project includes features to improve water quality which go beyond those required by State and local codes and features to reduce existing criterion air pollutant emissions that go beyond those required by current regulations. Examples include bioswales, use of recycled water, low allergen plant palette selection, sustainable irrigation practices, and reducing runoff.</p>	<p>0-10</p>
<p>(C) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reductions, including Carbon Sequestration Project includes features to reduce existing GHG emissions that go beyond those required by current regulations and features to sequester carbon that go beyond typical plantings found in park and open space projects. Examples include tree planting, active transportation options, and sustainable maintenance of amenities.</p>	<p>0-10</p>
<p>(D) Heat-Island Reductions Project includes features to reduce heat-island effects, in ways that go <u>beyond typical plantings found in park and open space projects</u>. Examples include use of light colored and/or reflective surfaces, planting trees, providing shade, and reducing hardscape.</p>	<p>0-10</p>
<p>(E) Habitat Protection and Biodiversity Project includes features to create and preserve important habitat areas and biodiversity. Examples include preserving critical habitat areas, using native plants that attract pollinators, and creating a diversity of spaces that can be used as habitat for a diversity of animals.</p>	<p>0-10</p>



- Some should be combined - same bucket & there is just
- More than simply meeting requirements
- Take out language if you only meet minimum points
- * Single bucket for all items related to air & separate for water
- Should add high/very high words points

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>LEVERAGING OF FUNDS MEASURE A ENCOURAGES PROJECTS THAT LEVERAGE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING FROM SEVERAL SPECIFIC TYPES OF BENEFIT PROGRAMS. PLEASE SUBMIT A BUDGET INDICATING SECURED FUNDING SOURCES AND AMOUNTS THAT WILL BE LEVERAGED FOR THE PROJECT. RELEVANT FUNDING SOURCES SPECIFICALLY CALLED OUT IN MEASURE A ARE THOSE THAT ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WATER CONSERVATION AND SUPPLY; WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS; FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT; • AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS; CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION OR ADAPTATION; CARBON SEQUESTRATION; HEAT-ISLAND REDUCTION; HABITAT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY; • PUBLIC HEALTH; ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 5 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>5 MAX.</p>
<p>(A) Project leverages a percentage of the project's cost. Only one of the following subcriteria may apply to each project. More points will be awarded to projects that use a higher percentage of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</p>	<p>4 max.</p>
<p>(A1) Project uses more than 80% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>(A2) Project uses 60%-80% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>(A3) Project uses 40%-59% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>(A4) Project uses 20%-39% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>(B) Project leverages funds in one or more of the following methods: (1) uses awarded Measure A competitive funds as a source of leveraged funding for other grant programs; (2) uses awarded Measure A competitive funds to complete funding for a project that is currently funded by other grant programs; and/or (3) uses Measure A Category 1 or 2 funds as a source of leveraged funds.</p>	<p>4</p>

this goes against need, lifts up those who "hand" etc formula

* RECOMMENDED ADDING MORE POINTS.

* ISSUE WAS BIDS WHO HAD MORE MONEY TO LEVERAGE.

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE



<p>TIMELINESS AND URGENCY THE INITIATION AND COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT IS NEEDED AND TIMELY IN THAT IT BUILDS ON, COMPLEMENTS, OR MOVES TOWARD IMPLEMENTING HIGH PRIORITY ACQUISITIONS, CONNECTIONS, AND/OR HABITAT PROTECTION PLANS WATER CONSERVATION OR PROTECTION .</p> <p>Only one of the following subcriteria will apply to each project, for a maximum of 20 points.</p>	<p>20 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) The completion of the project is timely and urgent and will result in additional acquisition, connections, habitat protection, water conservation or improvements, and/or there is an existing threat of imminent development on the project site.</i></p>	<p>11-20</p>
<p><i>(B) The completion of the project is timely, but not urgent, and/or will not necessarily advance other high priority acquisitions, connections, habitat protection plans, water conservation or protection improvements.</i></p>	<p>0-10</p>

DEFINE URGENT? IF YOU DON'T DO IT NOW - FUTURE EFFORTS DIMINISH.

DRAFT

REGIONAL RECREATION, MULTI-USE TRAILS, AND ACCESSIBILITY COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Goals

Regional Recreation, Multi-use Trails, and Accessibility Competitive Grant Program projects should improve and protect regional recreational facilities, trails and accessibility projects. Greater priority will be given to trail and accessibility projects that connect river, meadow, and urban areas, especially to County Parks, State Parks, the National Forest, the National Recreation Area(s), and the National Monument(s), and that link other canyons and regional and local parks throughout the County.

Thirty percent of these funds will be awarded to projects in High or Very High Need Study Areas, as defined by the most recent Countywide Parks Needs Assessment.

2018 Funding Amount

 \$5,000,000

Project Types

Below is a non-exhaustive list of projects that may be eligible for grant funds.

Regional Recreational Facilities

- Aquatic facilities
- New regional park facilities
- Equestrian staging areas
- Improvements to existing regional park facilities
-  ▪ Golf course facilities
- Multi-use sports facilities

Multi-use Trails

- Addition of amenities along trail corridor
- Development of new multi-use trails
- Upgrades to existing multi-use trails
- Trail refurbishment
- Trailhead amenities and improvements

Accessibility

- ADA restroom upgrades, walkway/sidewalk improvements, ADA-compliant amenities
- Bike storage facilities at parks, trails, recreation centers, and beaches
- Connections from Class I bike paths to recreation facilities
- General trail and walkway repairs or improvements
- Interactive wayfinding
- Parking facilities serving parks and recreational facilities
- Pathways and trails connecting transit stops to park and recreation facilities, open space, natural lands, or beaches
- Projects that utilize publicly owned rights-of-way and vacant spaces
- Safety improvements such as crosswalks and pedestrian signals that provide safer access (must be adjacent to facility)
- Trailhead improvements

Project Requirements

Project Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following Project Eligibility requirements in order to apply for a grant award:

- The project acquires, develops, improves, and/or rehabilitates land for regional recreational facilities, multi-use trails, and/or accessibility.
- The project is a permanent capital project.
- The project is consistent with the Study Area's long-range park planning documents.
- The project's requested grant award size is a minimum of \$50,000 and maximum of \$3,100,000.

Project Feasibility

The project must meet at least one requirement in each topic area in order to apply for a grant award:

Land Access/Tenure

- Applicant owns the land in question;
- Applicant has entered into a lease or other use agreement for the land in question; or
- Applicant has concrete plans as to how access or tenure will be acquired or arranged.

Planning and Design

- Design documents of 30% or greater are complete; or
- Applicant has sketch-level plans for project design and a planned approach as to how and when planning and design will be completed.

Permitting and CEQA Compliance

- Project is exempt from regulatory permits and CEQA;
- Any necessary permitting and CEQA documents are completed and certified; or
- Applicant has concrete plans as to how and when permitting and CEQA will be completed.

Adverse Site Conditions (e.g., overhead or underground utilities, toxic contamination, etc.)

- There are no adverse site conditions that would affect project implementation;
- Adverse site conditions have been characterized and the applicant has concrete plans for addressing them; or
- Adverse site conditions are known to exist but have not been characterized. Applicant has plans as to how and when these conditions will be addressed, with appropriate budget contingencies in the project budget.

Project Cost and Funding

- Applicant has a detailed budget consistent with the level of planning and design completed to date, as well as a plan for funding to cover the budgeted costs, with appropriate contingencies given the level of planning completed.

Project Schedule

- Applicant has a detailed schedule from grant receipt to project completion that reflects the level of planning, design, permitting and community involvement that will be necessary for the project.



Operations and Maintenance

- The project has an appropriately detailed financial plan for operation and maintenance of the completed project.

Community Engagement

The project must meet the minimum community engagement requirements described in Section X.

Award Size

Requested grant awards must meet the minimum and maximum grant award size requirements. Grant applications will be categorized into different thresholds of award size brackets depending on the requested size of the grant award. Grant applications within the same award size bracket will be evaluated against each other and at least one grant will be awarded in each bracket that receives completed applications. Total funds available and award bracket limits may be adjusted prior to each grant round, and will be publicized in the grant announcement materials.

Minimum: \$50,000

Maximum: \$3,100,000

REGIONAL RECREATION, MULTI-USE TRAILS, AND ACCESSIBILITY COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM SCORING RUBRIC



Evaluation Criteria	Points
Level of Need	10
Regional Benefits	30
Community Involvement Beyond Minimum Requirements	10
Social Multi-Benefits	10
Community Health Multi-Benefits	10
Environmental Multi-Benefits	20
Leveraging of Funds	5
Connectivity and Accessibility	15
Timeliness and Urgency	20
TOTAL POINTS	130

<p>LEVEL OF NEED LEVEL OF NEED IS BASED ON THE CURRENT COUNTYWIDE PNA DETERMINATION. PROJECTS SERVING OR BENEFITTING STUDY AREAS WITH HIGH OR VERY HIGH NEED WILL RECEIVE MORE POINTS THAN PROJECTS THAT DO NOT.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>10 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Project attracts visitors who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas. More points will be awarded to projects that can provide statistical information that a high number of residents from High or Very High Need Study Areas visit/use the project.</i></p>	<p>0-6</p>
<p><i>(B) Project demonstrates access from High or Very High Need Study Areas to the project site. Access can include connections by existing or planned trails, bikeways, pathways, transit routes, or shuttle service to and from High or Very High Need Study Areas. Best practices include convenience in access, frequency in service, visibility, safety, and /or provision of the most effective and/or efficient means of transportation between the project site and High or Very High Need Study Area. Other best practices include providing signage, using social media, and other marketing on how to navigate to the project.</i></p>	<p>0-4</p>
<p><i>(C) Project includes elements that support the language needs of people who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas, including multilingual wayfinding, information signage, interpretive programs, and educational materials.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>



<p>SOCIAL MULTI-BENEFITS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE OTHER BENEFITS BESIDES RECREATION THAT RELATE TO SOCIAL ISSUES.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>10 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Community Safety, Gang Activity Reduction, and Violence Prevention</i> Project includes features that improve safety conditions and visibility through the provision of safe equipment and facilities, and thereby reduce or prevent gang activity, violence, and crime. Best practices include using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies, such as increasing natural surveillance, reducing isolated spaces, increasing sight lines, and providing adequate lighting. Projects located in areas of high gang activity and violence and incorporate safe design, and/or engage former and current gang members or gang reduction community groups to ensure park safety.</p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p><i>(B) Anti-displacement Mitigation</i> Project includes advance displacement avoidance strategies to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with the project creates a significant increase in the cost of housing. More points will be scored based on how realistic and proactive the strategies are.</p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p><i>(C) Cultural and Language Sensitivity</i> Project incorporates elements that accommodate the cultural and language needs of the served populations, such as multilingual wayfinding and other signage and informational signs or public art related to the surrounding history and culture of the project and area. More points will be scored on the quantity and quality of the proposed cultural and language elements.</p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p><i>(D) Interpretive Programs and Education</i> Project incorporates elements that provide interpretation and education to foster user connection and awareness of the environment, the outdoors, and/or recreation, such as incorporating informative signage explaining the project's location and cultural and natural history. More points will be scored on the appropriateness of the proposed interpretive programs and education elements.</p>	<p>0-3</p>

<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH MULTI-BENEFITS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE OTHER BENEFITS BESIDES RECREATION THAT RELATE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>10 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Physical Activity</i> Project provides infrastructure and equipment that encourages physical activity. Examples include a combination of playground equipment, exercise equipment, walking and biking paths/trails, etc. More points will be scored for the quantity and variety of infrastructure and equipment.</p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p><i>(B) Universal Design and Accessibility</i> Project provides infrastructure and equipment that cater to the physical activity of people of all abilities, especially to people with special needs. Examples include access ramps, accessible restrooms, and inclusive recreation options.</p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p><i>(C) Safe and Active Transportation</i> Project includes transportation infrastructure to increase the ability of users to travel to and from the project by active forms of transportation such as walking, biking, skateboarding, scootering, etc. Examples include sidewalks, multi-use paths, bikeways, and Safe Routes to School.</p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p><i>(D) Healthy Food Access</i> Project provides access to healthy food growing and/or healthy food options, such as healthy street vending, community gardens, and healthy grocers. Examples include community gardens, areas for farmers' markets, clean drinking water, incorporation of healthy food vending or provision on the project site, and/or providing transportation infrastructure that allows access to these types of healthy food uses.</p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p><i>(E) Social Interaction</i> Project includes elements that promote social interaction, such as safe, attractive, and interactive gathering areas; public art; and infrastructure for play.</p>	<p>0-3</p>



MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>ENVIRONMENTAL MULTI-BENEFITS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE OTHER BENEFITS BESIDES RECREATION THAT RELATE TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 20 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>20 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Stormwater Capture and Conservation</i> Project includes features to capture stormwater and attenuate potential flood conditions which go beyond those required by State and local codes. Examples include swales, rain gardens, retention basins, pervious pavement, use of drought-tolerant plants, use of drip irrigation, etc.</p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(B) Water and Air Quality Improvements</i> Project includes features to improve water quality which go beyond those required by State and local codes and features to reduce existing criterion air pollutant emissions that go beyond those required by current regulations. Examples include bioswales, use of recycled water, low allergen plant palette selection, sustainable irrigation practices, and reducing runoff.</p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(C) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reductions, including Carbon Sequestration</i> Project includes features to reduce existing GHG emissions that go beyond those required by current regulations and features to sequester carbon that go beyond typical plantings found in park and open space projects. Examples include tree planting, active transportation options, and sustainable maintenance of amenities.</p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(D) Heat-Island Reductions</i> Project includes features to reduce heat-island effects, in ways that go beyond typical plantings found in park and open space projects. Examples include use of light colored and/or reflective surfaces, planting trees, providing shade, and reducing hardscape.</p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(E) Habitat Protection and Biodiversity</i> Project includes features to create and preserve important habitat areas and biodiversity. Examples include preserving critical habitat areas, using native plants that attract pollinators, and creating a diversity of spaces that can be used as habitat for a diversity of animals.</p>	<p>0-5</p>



<p>LEVERAGING OF FUNDS MEASURE A ENCOURAGES PROJECTS THAT LEVERAGE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING FROM SEVERAL SPECIFIC TYPES OF BENEFIT PROGRAMS. PLEASE SUBMIT A BUDGET INDICATING SECURED FUNDING SOURCES AND AMOUNTS THAT WILL BE LEVERAGED FOR THE PROJECT. RELEVANT FUNDING SOURCES SPECIFICALLY CALLED OUT IN MEASURE A ARE THOSE THAT ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WATER CONSERVATION AND SUPPLY; WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS; FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT; • AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS; CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION OR ADAPTATION; CARBON SEQUESTRATION; HEAT-ISLAND REDUCTION; HABITAT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY; • PUBLIC HEALTH; ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 5 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	5 MAX.
<p><i>(A) Project leverages a percentage of the project's cost. Only one of the following subcriteria may apply to each project. More points will be awarded to projects that use a higher percentage of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</i></p>	4 max.
<p><i>(A1) Project uses more than 80% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</i></p>	4
<p><i>(A2) Project uses 60%-80% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</i></p>	3
<p><i>(A3) Project uses 40%-59% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</i></p>	2
<p><i>(A4) Project uses 20%-39% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</i></p>	1
<p><i>(B) Project leverages funds in one or more of the following methods: (1) uses awarded Measure A competitive funds as a source of leveraged funding for other grant programs; (2) uses awarded Measure A competitive funds to complete funding for a project that is currently funded by other grant programs; and/or (3) uses Measure A Category 1 or 2 funds as a source of leveraged funds.</i></p>	4

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE



<p>TIMELINESS AND URGENCY THE INITIATION AND COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT IS NEEDED AND TIMELY IN THAT IT BUILDS ON, COMPLEMENTS, OR MOVES TOWARD IMPLEMENTING HIGH PRIORITY acquisitions, CONNECTIONS, AND/OR HABITAT PROTECTION PLANS WATER CONSERVATION OR PROTECTION .</p> <p>Only one of the following subcriteria will apply to each project, for a maximum of 20 points.</p>	<p>20 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) The completion of the project is timely and urgent and will result in additional acquisition, connections, habitat protection, water conservation or improvements, and/or there is an existing threat of imminent development on the project site.</i></p>	<p>11-20</p>
<p><i>(B) The completion of the project is timely, but not urgent, and/or will not necessarily advance other high priority acquisitions, connections, habitat protection plans, water conservation or protection improvements.</i></p>	<p>0-10</p>

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ACQUISITION-ONLY GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Goals

Acquisition-only grant projects should meet the goals of the Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Program or the Regional Recreation, Multi-use Trails, and Accessibility Program. Urgent acquisitions in High or Very High Need Study Areas and for trails connections and access, wildlife corridors, and critical habitat will be prioritized.

Thirty percent of these funds will be awarded to projects in High or Very High Need Study Areas, as defined by the most recent Countywide Parks Needs Assessment.



2018 Funding Amount

\$2,400,000



Project Types

All projects should acquire land for project types included in the Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Program or the Regional Recreation, Multi-Use Trails, and Accessibility Program. Refer to those programs for additional information.

Project Requirements

Project Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following Project Eligibility requirements in order to apply for a grant award:

- The project only includes land acquisition.
- There is a willing seller.
- The acquired land will be used for a purpose covered in the Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Competitive Grants Program OR the Regional Recreation, Multi-Use Trails, and Accessibility Competitive Grants Program.
- The project's requested grant award size is a minimum of \$50,000 and maximum of \$1,000,000.



Project Feasibility

The project must meet at least one requirement in each topic area in order to apply for a grant award:

Land Access/Tenure

- Applicant has entered into a preliminary offer or purchase agreement, or negotiations with the willing seller; or
- Applicant has concrete plans for entering into negotiations with the willing seller.

Permitting and CEQA Compliance

- Project is exempt from regulatory permits and CEQA;
- Any necessary permitting and CEQA documents are completed and certified; or
- Applicant has concrete plans as to how and when permitting and CEQA will be completed.

Adverse Site Conditions (e.g., overhead or underground utilities, toxic contamination, etc.)

- There are no adverse site conditions that would affect future project implementation;
- Adverse site conditions have been characterized and the applicant has plans for addressing them during future project implementation; or
- Adverse site conditions are known to exist but have not been characterized. Applicant has plans as to how and when these conditions will be addressed.

Project Cost and Funding

- Applicant has a detailed budget as well as a plan for funding to cover the budgeted acquisition costs related to the acquisition of the property, with appropriate contingencies where needed.

Project Schedule

- Applicant has a detailed schedule that reflects the anticipated timeline for acquisition.

Operations and Maintenance

- The project has an appropriately detailed financial plan for operation, including future project development if applicable, and maintenance of the acquired land project.

Award Size

Requested grant awards must meet the minimum and maximum grant award size requirements. Grant applications will be categorized into different thresholds of award size brackets depending on the requested size of the grant award. Grant applications within the same award size bracket will be evaluated against each other and at least one grant will be awarded in each bracket that receives completed applications. Total funds available and award bracket limits may be adjusted prior to each grant round, and will be publicized in the grant announcement materials.

Minimum: \$50,000

Maximum: \$1,000,000

ACQUISITION-ONLY GRANT SCORING RUBRIC

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Level of Need	10
Regional Benefits	20
Social Multi-Benefits	10
Environmental Multi-Benefits	10
Leveraging of Funds	5
Timeliness and Urgency	30
TOTAL POINTS	85

<p>LEVEL OF NEED LEVEL OF NEED IS BASED ON THE CURRENT COUNTYWIDE PNA DETERMINATION. PROJECTS SERVING OR BENEFITTING STUDY AREAS WITH HIGH OR VERY HIGH NEED WILL RECEIVE MORE POINTS THAN PROJECTS THAT DO NOT.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	10 MAX.
<p><i>(A) Project attracts visitors who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas. More points will be awarded to projects that can provide statistical information that a high number of residents from High or Very High Need Study Areas visit/use the project.</i></p>	0-6
<p><i>(B) Project demonstrates access from High or Very High Need Study Areas to the project site. Access can include connections by existing or planned trails, bikeways, pathways, transit routes, or shuttle service to and from High or Very High Need Study Areas. Best practices include convenience in access, frequency in service, visibility, safety, and /or provision of the most effective and/or efficient means of transportation between the project site and High or Very High Need Study Area. Other best practices include providing signage, using social media, and other marketing on how to navigate to the project.</i></p>	0-4
<p><i>(C) Project includes elements that support the language needs of people who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas, including multilingual wayfinding, information signage, interpretive programs, and educational materials.</i></p>	0-2



MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>REGIONAL BENEFITS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE REGIONAL BENEFITS OR SERVE REGIONAL NEED WILL RECEIVE POINTS¹. Projects may receive up to a maximum of 20 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>20 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Project provides regional benefits by adding acreage to a park, acreage for a new park, or natural resource within the region it serves.</i></p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(B) Project meets regional need by adding park acreage for which regional demand is high.</i></p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(C) Project accommodates regional access by providing trail connectivity, transit connections beyond the local vicinity, trailhead and parking improvements, or ADA improvements.</i></p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(D) Project involves the collaboration of multiple Study Areas, agencies, or nonprofit organizations.</i></p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(E) Project increases community value (natural or built) by filling a gap in regional facilities, amenities, or open space.</i></p>	<p>0-5</p>



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¹ Definition of “regional benefit” and “regional need” to be determined by RPOSD through the development of a Countywide Regional and Open Space Assessment
 Acquisition-Only Grant Program Scoring Rubric
 March 29, 2018

<p>SOCIAL MULTI-BENEFITS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE OTHER BENEFITS BESIDES RECREATION THAT RELATE TO SOCIAL ISSUES.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>10 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Community Safety, Gang Activity Reduction, and Violence Prevention</i> Project acquisition results in improved safety conditions and visibility. . Best practices include using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies, such as increasing natural surveillance, reducing isolated spaces, increasing sight lines, and providing adequate lighting. Projects located in areas of high gang activity and violence and incorporate safe design, and/or engage former and current gang members or gang reduction community groups to ensure park safety.</p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(B) Anti-displacement Mitigation</i> Project includes advance displacement avoidance strategies to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with the project creates a significant increase in the cost of housing. More points will be scored based on how realistic and proactive the strategies are.</p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL MULTI-BENEFITS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE OTHER BENEFITS BESIDES RECREATION THAT RELATE TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>10 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Heat-Island Reductions</i> Project includes features to reduce heat-island effects, in ways that go beyond typical plantings found in park and open space projects. Examples include use of light colored and/or reflective surfaces, planting trees, providing shade, and reducing hardscape.</p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(B) Habitat Protection and Biodiversity</i> Project acreage includes important habitat areas and biodiversity. Examples include preserving critical habitat areas, using native plants that attract pollinators, and creating a diversity of spaces that can be used as habitat for a diversity of animals.</p>	<p>0-5</p>



<p>LEVERAGING OF FUNDS MEASURE A ENCOURAGES PROJECTS THAT LEVERAGE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING FROM SEVERAL SPECIFIC TYPES OF BENEFIT PROGRAMS. PLEASE SUBMIT A BUDGET INDICATING SECURED FUNDING SOURCES AND AMOUNTS THAT WILL BE LEVERAGED FOR THE PROJECT. RELEVANT FUNDING SOURCES SPECIFICALLY CALLED OUT IN MEASURE A ARE THOSE THAT ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WATER CONSERVATION AND SUPPLY; WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS; FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT; • AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS; CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION OR ADAPTATION; CARBON SEQUESTRATION; HEAT-ISLAND REDUCTION; HABITAT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY; • PUBLIC HEALTH; ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 5 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>5 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Project leverages a percentage of the project's cost. Only one of the following subcriteria may apply to each project. More points will be awarded to projects that use a higher percentage of the project's cost as leveraged funds. (OBJECTIVE)</i></p>	<p>4 max.</p>
<p><i>(A1) Project uses more than 80% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</i></p>	<p>4</p>
<p><i>(A2) Project uses 60%-80% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</i></p>	<p>3</p>
<p><i>(A3) Project uses 40%-59% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</i></p>	<p>2</p>
<p><i>(A4) Project uses 20%-39% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</i></p>	<p>1</p>
<p><i>(B) Project leverages funds in one or more of the following methods: (1) uses awarded Measure A competitive funds as a source of leveraged funding for other grant programs; (2) uses awarded Measure A competitive funds to complete funding for a project that is currently funded by other grant programs; and/or (3) uses Measure A Category 1 or 2 funds as a source of leveraged funds.</i></p>	<p>4</p>





<p>TIMELINESS AND URGENCY THE INITIATION AND COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT IS NEEDED AND TIMELY IN THAT IT BUILDS ON, COMPLEMENTS, OR MOVES TOWARD IMPLEMENTING HIGH PRIORITY COMMUNITY PARK OR GREENING INITIATIVES THAT COULD RESULT IN THE COMPLETION OF A MEASURE A-FUNDED IMPROVEMENT OR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, AND/OR THERE IS AN EXISTING THREAT OF IMMINENT DEVELOPMENT ON THE PROJECT SITE.</p> <p>Only one of the following subcriteria will apply to each project, for a maximum of 30 points.</p>	<p>30 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) The completion of the project is timely and urgent and will result in being more competitive for Measure A funds to advance high priority park or greening initiatives that could result in the completion of a Measure A-funded improvement or development project, and/or there is an existing threat of imminent development on the project site.</i></p>	<p>16-30</p>
<p><i>(B) The completion of the project is timely, but not urgent, and/or will not necessarily advance other high priority park or greening community initiatives that could result in the completion of a Measure A-funded improvement or development project.</i></p>	<p>0-15</p>

RECREATION ACCESS GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Goals

Measure A allows for up to 15 percent (15%) of Category 3 and 4 funds to be awarded to recreation access programs. These programs shall increase the ability of residents to access public lands, park facilities, and park amenities, including education, interpretive services, safety information, transportation, and other activities that increase the accessibility for County residents, especially those in high-need and very high-need areas.



2018 Funding Amount



\$3,600,000

Program Types

Below is a non-exhaustive list of programs that may be eligible for Recreation Access grant funds:

- Educational and interpretive programs that promote park use
- Resource interpretive programs and nature education
- Pop-up recreational or interpretive programs
- Programs that provide or fund transportation from areas of High and Very High need to beaches, regional parks, cultural facilities, recreational events, or natural parks

Program Requirements

Program Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following Program Eligibility requirements in order to apply for a grant award:

- The program increases the ability for county citizens to access public lands, park facilities, park amenities, and recreational opportunities.
- The program meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act of 1990.
- The program must provide an annual program evaluation report.

RECREATION ACCESS GRANT PROGRAM SCORING RUBRIC



Evaluation Criteria	Points
Level of Need	25
Community Involvement Beyond Minimum Requirements	30
Program Benefits	30
TOTAL POINTS	85

ADD SOCIAL MULTI-BENEFIT POINTS

<p>LEVEL OF NEED LEVEL OF NEED IS BASED ON THE CURRENT COUNTYWIDE PNA DETERMINATION. PROJECTS LOCATED WITHIN OR SERVING OR BENEFITTING STUDY AREAS WITH HIGH OR VERY HIGH NEED WILL RECEIVE MORE POINTS THAN PROJECTS THAT DO NOT.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 25 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	25 MAX.
<i>(A) Program is located in a High or Very High Need Study Area or 90% of program participants live in a High or Very High Need Study Area.</i>	25
<i>(B) Program is not located in a High or Very High Need Study Area, but directly serves or benefits the residents of a High or Very High Need Study Area by achieving one or more of the subcriteria below.</i>	20 max.
<i>(B1) Program attracts participants who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas. More points will be awarded to projects that can provide statistical information that a high number of residents from High or Very High Need Study Areas will participate in the program.</i>	0-10
<i>(B2) Program demonstrates access from High or Very High Need Study Areas to the recreation site. Access can include connections by existing trails, bikeways, pathways, transit routes, or shuttle service to and from High or Very High Need Study Areas. Best practices include convenience in access, frequency in service, visibility, safety, and /or provision of the most effective and/or efficient means of transportation between the program site and High or Very High Need Study Area.</i>	0-15
<i>(B3) Program includes elements that support the language needs of the participants and/or people who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas, including multilingual wayfinding, information signage, interpretive programs, and educational materials.</i>	0-10

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>PROGRAM BENEFITS PROGRAMS THAT IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY, CONNECTIVITY, AND SAFETY, AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION, INTERPRETIVE SERVICES, AND ACTIVE RECREATION.</p> <p>Programs may receive up to a maximum of 30 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>30 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Goals and Objectives</i> Agency or organization has clearly stated its goals and objectives (e.g., service or recruit a certain number of participants), and has provided a detailed description on how these goals and objectives will be met, and an evaluation program to show how the outcomes are met.</p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(B) Accessibility</i> Program provides accessibility for many users, including hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, seniors, and persons with disabilities, especially in urban areas. More points will be awarded to programs that intentionally provide access to more types of users, and/or targets its services to urban areas.</p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(C) Participant Recruitment</i> Agency or organization actively recruits and publicizes the program to a wide range of participants within the area served.</p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(D) Connectivity</i> Program connects (or offers transportation to) river, mountain, and urban areas, especially to County Parks, State Parks, National Forests, National Recreation Area, and National Monument, and that link other canyons and regional and local parks throughout the County.</p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(E) Interpretive Programs and Education</i> Program incorporates elements that provide interpretation and education to foster user connection and awareness of the environment, the outdoors, and/or recreation, such as programs that educate the public about the project's location and natural and cultural history. More points will be scored on the quantity and quality of the proposed interpretive programs and education programs.</p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p><i>(F) Safe and Active Transportation</i> Program includes elements that promote the ability of users to travel to and from the project by active forms of transportation such as walking, biking, skateboarding, scootering, utilizing a Metro or City transportation system, etc. Examples include Safe Routes to School programs, safety education, and other programs that promote walking and biking.</p>	<p>0-5</p>



YOUTH AND VETERAN JOB TRAINING AND PLACEMENT GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Description

Youth and Veteran Job Training and Placement grants provide funds for organizations that provide any of the following programs:

- **Education and Skills Training Program.** Organizations or program providers within the County, including certified conservation corps, are eligible for funds if they administer a program that provides education, skills training, and career pathway development to young adults, aged 18 to 25, or veterans, to implement park projects and programs.
- **Certification and Job Placement Program.** Organizations or program providers within the County, including conservation corps, are eligible for funds if they administer a program that provides certifications and placement services, or apprenticeship opportunities, for young adults, aged 18 to 25, or veterans, for jobs and careers in the Parks and Recreation field.

Organizations may submit grant applications to fund multi-year program(s) not to exceed three years. For awarded multi-year programs, grant funding will only be guaranteed for the first year. Funding for subsequent year(s) is contingent to approval by RPOSD and a third-party evaluation process. The awarded grant program must receive a satisfactory evaluation from a third party and work to fix any deficiencies found through the evaluation process, in order to receive additional funding for the following years. The third-party evaluation process can be funded through the grant.

2018 Funding Amount

\$2,900,000. Of these funds, at a minimum \$2,884,028 (80%) must be allocated to education and skills training programs and at most \$700,000 (20%) must be allocated to certification and job placement programs.

Program Types

Below is a non-exhaustive list of programs that may be eligible for grant funds in this program. Eligible programs are required to provide education, skills, training, and career pathway development to implement park projects to young adults and/or veterans; or provide certifications, placement services or apprenticeship opportunities for jobs and careers in the Parks and Recreation field to young adults and/or veterans.

Program Requirements

Program Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following Program Eligibility requirements in order to apply for a grant award:

- The program provider is an eligible organization (including certified conservation corps) which meets the following:
 - Has an office within Los Angeles County; and
 - Serves young adults (aged 18 to 25) or veterans; and either
 - Provides education, skills training, and career pathway development to implement park projects; OR,
 - Provides certifications and placement services, or apprenticeship opportunities for jobs and careers in the Parks and Recreation field
- The program provider's requested grant award size for the program is a minimum of \$50,000 and maximum of \$1,400,000.
- The program provider must provide an annual third-party program evaluation report for the grant program.

Program Feasibility

The proposed program must meet at least one of the following Program Feasibility requirements:

- The program has already been established.
- The program provider has a track record of running similar types of programs in other locations.
- The program provider has not run programs similar to the one proposed, but is either well-established in the geographic service area or has established a partnership with an agency or organization that has experience running similar types of programs.

Award Size

Requested grant awards must meet the minimum and maximum grant award size requirements. Grant applications will be categorized into different thresholds of award size brackets depending on the requested size of the grant award. Grant applications within the same award size bracket will be evaluated against each other and at least one grant will be awarded in each bracket that receives completed applications. Total funds available and award bracket limits may be adjusted prior to each grant round, and will be publicized in the grant announcement materials.

Minimum: \$50,000

Maximum: \$1,400,000

YOUTH AND VETERAN JOB TRAINING AND PLACEMENT GRANT PROGRAM SCORING RUBRIC

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Level of Need	15
Community Partnerships	20
Program Benefits	50
TOTAL POINTS	85



*+ ADD POINTS FOR SOCIAL BENEFITS
with 00*

<p>LEVEL OF NEED THE PROGRAM PROVIDER PROVIDES SERVICES TO AND/OR RECRUITS A MAJORITY OF ITS PARTICIPANTS FROM HIGH OR VERY HIGH NEED STUDY AREAS.</p> <p>Program providers may receive up to a maximum of 15 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	15 MAX.
<p><i>(A) The program provider recruits a majority of its participants from High or Very High Need Study Areas, or has a concrete plan to do so (for new programs). More points will be awarded for higher recruitment rates from High or Very High Need Study Areas.</i></p>	0-10
<p><i>(B) The program provider's program(s) helps implement park projects and creates jobs and careers in the Parks and Recreation field within High or Very High Need Study Areas, or has a plan to do so (for new programs).</i></p>	0-10

<p>PROGRAM BENEFITS ORGANIZATION OR PROGRAM PROVIDER PROVIDES EXCEPTIONAL PROGRAM(S) RELATED TO (1) EDUCATION, SKILLS TRAINING, AND CAREER PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT TO IMPLEMENT PARK PROJECTS, AND/OR (2) CERTIFICATIONS AND PLACEMENT SERVICES, OR APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOBS AND CAREERS IN THE PARKS AND RECREATION FIELD.</p> <p>Programs may receive full or partial credit in each subcriterion below, totaling up to a maximum of 50 points.</p>	<p>50 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Program Readiness</i> <i>Organization or program provider demonstrates a high level of capability and readiness to provide Youth and Veteran program-eligible programs, including having an efficient and effective organizational structure, being staffed by highly trained and qualified individuals, providing a wealth of useful resources, fostering invested mentorship relationships, etc.</i></p>	<p>0-10</p>
<p><i>(B) Goals and Objectives</i> <i>Program provider has clearly stated its goals and objectives (e.g., service or recruit a certain number of participants), and has provided a detailed description on how these goals and objectives will be met and an evaluation program to show how the outcomes are met. Program provider's primary goal is to result in the implementation of park projects and/or development of career pathways within the Parks and Recreation field.</i></p>	<p>0-10</p>
<p><i>(C) Participant Recruitment and Retention</i> <i>Program provider actively recruits and publicizes the program to a wide range of participants, including in High and Very High Need Study Areas, or has a concrete plan to do so (for new programs). For existing programs, program provider has a successful track record of retaining participants.</i></p>	<p>0-10</p>
<p><i>(D) Follow-up Services</i> <i>Program provider effectively and efficiently tracks the status and outcomes of past program participants, or has a concrete plan to do so (for new programs).</i></p>	<p>0-10</p>
<p><i>(E) History of Success and Outcomes</i> <i>Program provider has defined expectations of participants and developed evaluation tools, or has a concrete plan to do so (for new programs). For existing programs, program provider has a history of success helping participants find employment, earn a steady income and thrive in careers that promote parks and the environment.</i></p>	<p>0-10</p>



PLANNING AND DESIGN FUNDS (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE) PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Goals

Planning and Design funds are a part of the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) described in Chapter X. Planning and Design funds are intended to provide recipients with the financial resources to perform work in planning and/or designing a park, trail, open space, or other recreation project.

Planning

Planning funds provide resources to complete a range of planning efforts such as park master plans, feasibility studies, and other site studies required to effectively plan and design a park project. Park master planning includes planning assistance for Study Areas that lack current park master plans, whose plans are outdated, and/or have identified major demographic or physical changes that prove their current plans obsolete. While the 2016 PNA included the identification of priorities for park projects, further examination of community-wide park system and project needs could help agencies and groups refine and expand on the list of priority projects for both competitive grants and annual allocations. Site studies would inform acquisition and development of new parks, and/or additions to existing parks, and could evaluate elements such as physical context and site conditions, land use and zoning compatibility, traffic, safety, and utilities. Assistance related to necessary environmental compliance and permitting required for site acquisition and development may also be provided.

Design

Design funds provide resources to complete design services and could include a preliminary conceptual design, design development drawings, or construction documents. Services could also include specific tasks such as landscape design, materials selection, design of stormwater treatment elements, or incorporation of best management practices.

2018 Funding Amount

\$2,500,000

Project Types

Below is a non-exhaustive list of projects that may be eligible for funds under the Planning and Design funds program.



- Park master plans
- Feasibility studies
- Site plans or studies
- Environmental planning/compliance

- Park or trail design development and construction documents

Project Requirements

Project Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following Project Eligibility requirements in order to apply for these funds:

- The applicant must be enrolled with RPOSD, and determined by RPOSD to be eligible to apply for Planning and Design funds. See Section X in Chapter 4, Technical Assistance Program, for additional details. 
- The proposed project's schedule is a maximum of two years.
- The applicant must not have an open planning/design grant with RPOSD. 

Project Feasibility

The project must meet at least one requirement in each topic area in order to apply for a grant award:

Land Access/Tenure

- Applicant has a plan as to how access or tenure will be acquired or arranged.

Permitting and CEQA Compliance

- Applicant has a general timeline and approach as to how and when permitting and CEQA will be completed; or
- If permitting and/or CEQA compliance are not applicable to the project, applicant has an explanation as to why not.

Adverse Site Conditions (e.g., overhead or underground utilities, toxic contamination, etc.)

- Adverse site conditions are known to exist but have not been characterized. Applicant has plans as to how and when these conditions will be addressed, with appropriate budget contingencies in the project budget; or
- The proposed project seeks to identify adverse site conditions on the project site.

Project Cost and Funding

- Applicant has a budget consistent with the level of planning and design completed to date, as well as a plan for funding to cover the budgeted costs, with appropriate contingencies given the level of planning completed.

Project Schedule

- Applicant has a schedule from fund award receipt to project completion that reflects the level of planning, design, permitting and community involvement that will be necessary for the planning/design project.

Award Size

Requested grant awards must meet the minimum and maximum grant award size requirements. Grant applications will be categorized into different thresholds of award size brackets depending on the requested size of the grant award. Grant applications within the same award size bracket will be evaluated against each other and at least one grant will be awarded in each bracket that receives completed applications. Total funds available and award bracket limits may be adjusted prior to each grant round, and will be publicized in the grant announcement materials.

Minimum: \$20,000

Maximum: \$250,000

Brackets



Small: \$20,000- \$99,999

Medium: \$100,000- \$174,999

Large: \$175,000- \$250,000

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be scored using the following criteria:

- Level of Need
- Community Involvement
- Timeliness and Urgency
- Existing Planning and Design Challenges

Each evaluation criterion is described below, along with a breakdown of points by subcriteria (where applicable).

The evaluation criterion of "Community Involvement Beyond Minimum Requirement" will not be applicable to those projects that are more exploratory and/or technical in nature such as adverse site condition assessments or development of construction documents. These types of projects will be scored out of a total of 70 points.

All projects will be scored and ranked based on a percentage of how many points are earned out of a respective total number of points, either 70 or 80 points. For example, a project that earns 56 out of a total of 70 points will be assigned a final percentage of 80 percent to be ranked against other projects within the same award size bracket.

**PLANNING AND DESIGN FUNDS (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE)
SCORING RUBRIC**

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Level of Need	20
Community Involvement Beyond Minimum Requirements ⁴	10
Timeliness and Urgency	20
Existing Planning and Design Challenges	30
TOTAL POINTS	80

→ PROPOSALS TO ERM OUR CATEGORY
TECH ASSIST ALREADY MEANS
YOU HAVE CHALLENGES.



<p>LEVEL OF NEED LEVEL OF NEED IS BASED ON THE CURRENT COUNTYWIDE PNA DETERMINATION. PROJECTS LOCATED WITHIN OR SERVING OR BENEFITING STUDY AREAS WITH HIGH OR VERY HIGH NEED WILL RECEIVE MORE POINTS THAN PROJECTS THAT DO NOT.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 20 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	20 MAX.
<i>(A) Project to be planned or designed is located in a High or Very High Need Study Area.</i>	20
<i>(B) Project to be planned or designed is not located in a High or Very High Need Study Area, but will directly serve or benefit the residents of a High or Very High Need Study Area by achieving one or more of the subcriteria below.</i>	10 max.
<i>(B1) The described planning or design process includes a plan for inclusion of participants/future park users who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas. More points will be awarded to projects that can provide statistical information that a high number of residents from High or Very High Need Study Areas currently visit nearby sites or will visit/use the proposed project.</i>	0-6
<i>(B2) The described planning or design process includes meeting the language needs of the participants in the process and/or the future park users who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas.</i>	0-4

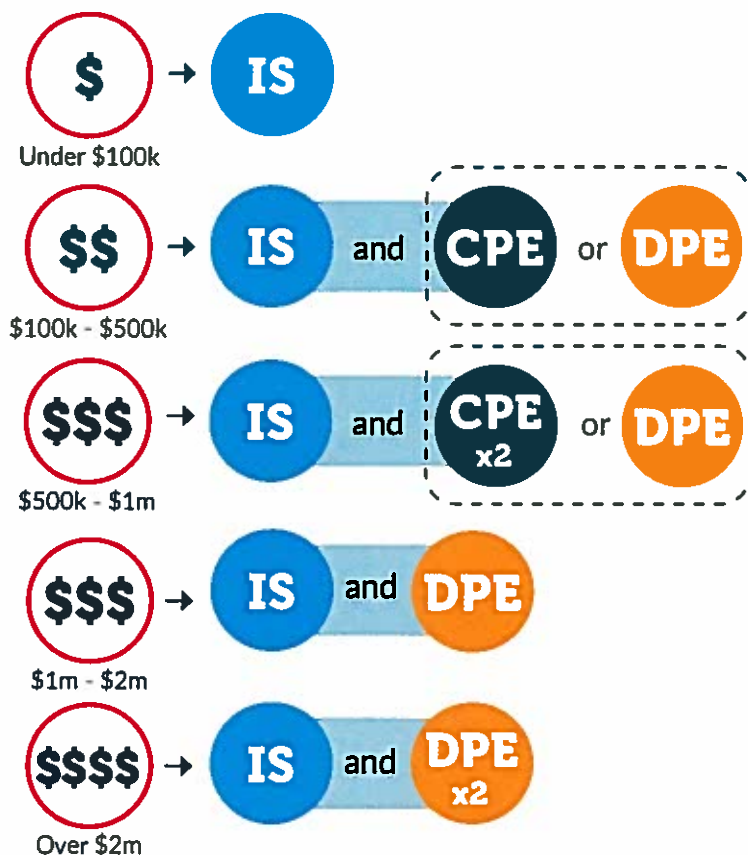
⁴ The evaluation criterion of "Community Involvement Beyond Minimum Requirements" will not be applicable to those projects that are more exploratory and/or technical in nature such as adverse site condition assessments or development of construction documents. These types of projects will be scored out of a total of 70 points.

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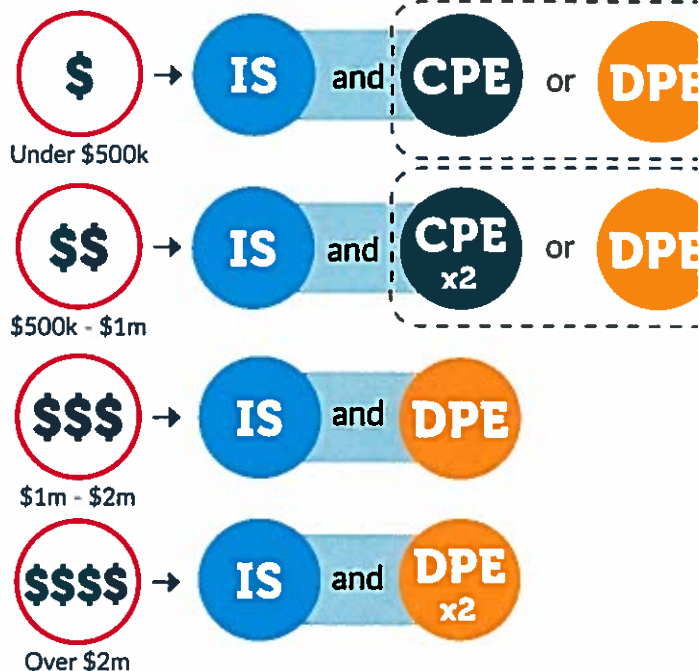
Minimum Engagement Requirements

Find your funding type and total project budget to determine minimum community engagement requirements:

Annual Allocations*



Competitive Grants**



* Applies to all annual allocations, including Categories 1 and 2, as well as Category 3 Department of Beaches and Harbor (DBH) and Category 4 Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR).

** Unique requirements apply to Category 5 Youth and Veteran Job Training and Placement Program

Maintenance & Servicing (M&S) Funds



- IS** Information Sharing Approach
- CPE** Concurrent Participatory Engagement Approach
- DPE** Dedicated Participatory Engagement Approach
- x2** Engagement Approach to be Completed at Two Separate Times
- Total Project Budget

Note: Engagement conducted prior to grant award must have occurred no more than 36 months prior to application date.

April 12, 2018

Director Jane Beesley
LA County Regional Park and Open Space District
1000 South Fremont Avenue #40
Alhambra, CA 91803
JBeesley@parks.lacounty.gov

Re: Recommendations on the Revised Measure A Competitive Grant Scoring Rubric and Revised Technical Assistance Program

Dear Director Beesley,

We appreciate the opportunity to submit feedback on the second draft of the grant scoring rubric and technical assistance program of the Measure A competitive grant categories. We commend your team for incorporating positive revisions in the areas of social and community health multi-benefits, participatory community engagement, and equity-focused technical assistance. The updated version demonstrates the team's efforts in reviewing public comments from various stakeholders across the County.

However, we found that the overall substance of the grant scoring criteria falls short of catalyzing the transformational shifts in open space and park investments in low-income communities and communities of color mandated by the 2016 Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment. We remain concerned that the weighting of the different criteria fails to take sufficient account of the needs of park-poor communities in Los Angeles County. The Park Needs Assessment set a national standard and roadmap for how regional agencies can repair generations of disinvestment in High and Very High Need areas, close racial and economic gaps in health outcomes, and promote environmentally just land use policies. The ultimate success of Measure A depends on our ability to target funding responsively and aggressively to areas of High and Very High Need. For the final version, we urge you to consider the equity directives spelled out in the Measure A ballot measure and Park Needs Assessment and reconfigure the weighting of the grant scoring rubric to reflect these values.

Thank you in advance for considering this important feedback. We look forward to working with you and your team to support successful and equitable implementation of Measure A.

Sincerely,

Anisha Hingorani, Advancement Project California
ahingorani@advanceproj.org

Cc: Placeworks
David Early dearly@placeworks.com
C.C. LaGrange clagrange@placeworks.com
Jessica Wuyek jwuyek@placeworks.com

Memorandum

TO: Jane Beesley, Director of the LA County Regional Parks and Open Space District
FROM: Mike Russo, Director of Equity in Public Funds, Advancement Project California;
Anisha Hingorani, Policy Analyst, Advancement Project California
DATE: April 12, 2018
SUBJECT: Recommendations on the Revised Measure A Competitive Grant Scoring Rubric and Revised Technical Assistance Program

Executive Summary

Our review of several documents related to competitive grant categories 3 & 4, including but not limited to the following: *Measure A Funding Measure Resolution, Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Competitive Grant Program Scoring Rubric; Regional Recreation, Multi-Use Trails, and Accessibility Competitive Grant Program Scoring Rubric; Acquisition-Only Grant Program Scoring Rubric; Youth and Veteran Job Training Grant Program Scoring Rubric; and Technical Assistance Program* produced the following recommendations that we hope to see addressed in final draft of the scoring rubric and technical assistance program.

- **Level of Need:** As it stands, Measure A allocates only \$15.5 million of \$97 million towards High and Very High Need study areas, which account for over 50% of the County's study areas and an overwhelming majority of the County's low-income communities and communities of color. Level of Need should be the largest criteria across all funding areas to ensure that Measure A resources are robustly invested towards High and Very High Need study areas.
- **Multi-Benefits:**
 - The three multi-benefit sections (community health, social, and environmental) should be equally weighted to ensure sufficient incentives for projects to incorporate all multi-benefit elements into their designs.
 - Environmental justice benefits should be included as a subcriteria under Environmental Multi-Benefits
 - Displacement avoidance should be its own standalone category.
- **Timeliness & Urgency:** We are concerned that this category is weighted too high and unfairly disadvantages low-income communities and communities of color that have high park need but lack available land and local capacity to move quickly in acquiring or developing land. We recommend reducing the weighting of this category, combining this with Leveraging of Funds, and clarifying the subcriteria to reduce overlap.
- **Acquisition-only Funds:** RPOSD should allocate the most points (at least 30%) to Level of Need to ensure that projects in High and Very High Need areas are able to maximize acquisition dollars to eliminate park access gaps.
- **Technical Assistance Program:** Maintain focused and targeted support of High and Very High Need study areas and include displacement avoidance training and resources as an element of the Technical Assistance Program.

Level of Need

We agree with the 30% set aside in Categories 3 & 4 for projects in High and Very High Need study areas and view this commitment as a positive first step. However as it stands, Measure A allocates only \$15.5 million of \$97 million towards park-poor study areas, which account for over 50% of the County's study areas and an overwhelming majority of the County's communities of color. The grant scoring rubrics for all of the different competitive funding areas currently weigh Level of Need at nominal amounts; we argue that Level of Need should be the largest criteria across all funding areas to ensure that Measure A resources are robustly invested towards High and Very High Need study areas. We recommend reducing

the points allocated to Environmental Multi-Benefits to compensate and elaborate in the following sections on why this category should be weighted less heavily.

Level of Need Recommendations:

- Allocate at least 30% or more of available points across all competitive funds to Level of Need (balance overall weighting by reducing points allocated to Environmental Multi-Benefits)
- Allow projects that are located in High and Very High Need study areas to receive maximum points in this section.

Multi-Benefit Projects

We applaud RPOSD's groundbreaking efforts to incorporate key social and community health multi-benefits into the grant scoring rubric to address pressing challenges facing Los Angeles County and incentivize coordinated approaches. We are also pleased to see the Environmental Multi-Benefits category streamlined. We stand by our initial recommendation that the three multi-benefit sections should be equally weighted and are concerned that the current approach does not create enough incentives for projects to incorporate social and community health multi-benefits into their designs. In addition, as stated in the Measure A Funding Resolution, environmental justice subcriteria should be included under Environmental Multi-Benefits to ensure that projects consider environmental justice impacts and prioritize environmental justice outcomes. Finally, we are encouraged by the inclusion of an anti-displacement mitigation subcriterion under Social Multi-Benefits. However, the strong link between public investments with increased property values and the vulnerability of our County residents to displacement and homelessness requires that displacement avoidance be more seriously considered as a separate standalone category and that anti-displacement resources be included as an element in RPOSD's Technical Assistance Program.

Recommendations:

- Ensure that each of the multi-benefit categories are weighted equally (e.g. 15% of available points to each)
- Environmental Multi-Benefits should include environmental justice subcriteria
- Separate anti-displacement mitigation into its own standalone category and include as an element within the Technical Assistance Program.

Timeliness & Urgency

We have general questions about this newly added category and the reasoning behind its inclusion in the revised draft. We are concerned that this category is weighted too high and unfairly disadvantages low-income communities and communities of color that have high park need but lack available land and local capacity to move quickly through acquisition and development processes. Research has demonstrated that previous park bond revenues in Los Angeles were allocated towards more affluent jurisdictions that are well-resourced and have track records of successful grant funding, thereby reproducing park inequities in low-income and park-poor communities¹. Due to the similarities between the subcriteria this category and Leveraging of Funds, we are concerned about the potential for projects to receive points in both categories and thus 'double-dip.' Since the Leveraging of Funds category also favors well-resourced and well-organized projects and applicants, this has an overall impact of excluding projects in low-income communities and communities of color. We recommend reducing the weighting of this category, combining the two categories, and clarifying the subcriteria to reduce overlap.

Recommendations:

- Reduce weighting and combine with Leveraging of Funds

¹ Sister, C.; Wolch, J.; Wilson, J. (2009). Got green? Addressing environmental justice in park provision. *GeoJournal*, 75:229–248.

- Clarify subcriteria to streamline overlapping elements to reduce potential to double-dip

Acquisition-Only Funds

Acquisition-Only Funds are a critical tool to secure developable park land. Dense, park-poor communities often lack acquisition opportunities compared with less dense regions, so these funds should prioritize and weigh Level of Need higher to ensure that projects in High and Very High Need areas are able to maximize acquisition dollars to eliminate park access gaps.

Recommendations:

- Allocate at least 30% or more of available points to Level of Need

Technical Assistance Program

The revised Technical Assistance Program (TAP) is impressive, reflects a strong equity lens, and will ensure that projects in High and Very High need areas are properly supported and equipped with the resources necessary to reduce park inequities in low-income communities and communities of color. The TAP elements should be broadened to include anti-displacement mitigation resources to guide enrollees on how to maximize points in that category.

Recommendations:

- Include anti-displacement training and resources as an element of the Technical Assistance Program. Elements can include: support to conduct displacement impact studies to track vulnerability and risks as well as training and resources to help park projects co-locate with affordable housing.

Jane Beesley
District Administrator
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District
510 S. Vermont Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Dear Administrator Beesley:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Measure A Funding Guidelines (Guidelines), administered by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) draft funded through the Safe, Clean, Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure of 2016 (Measure A). We are excited about the opportunities presented by this measure for communities throughout the county. We have reviewed updated Grant Program Descriptions and Scoring Rubrics, Community Engagement, Technical Assistance and Graphic Enlargements and have summarized our comments below.

GRAPHICS:

Competitive Grants and TAP cycle:

Timeline: For competitive grant programs, we suggest annual grant cycles, spread no more than 18 months apart. Securing funding for significant park and open space projects often requires leveraging a variety of grant funds throughout the project development and implementation phases. If Measure A competitive grant cycles are 2-4 years apart, project funding challenges will be exacerbated, adding uncertainty and stress to timing projects to match with a funding cycle.

Funding Categories and Acquisition Only: While we are glad to see specific evaluation criteria for acquisition projects, and that acquisitions only compete against other acquisitions, we are

unclear as to why Category 3 and 4 were are divided into specified pots. We are particularly unclear as to why the small acquisition “pots” were created as there is no language in Measure A to create them. Will those pots serve to be the only competitive funding available for acquisitions? It is somewhat unclear whether acquisitions are eligible for the entire \$24.6m outlined in Category 3 and 4, the Competitive General +

Acquisition Only or Acquisition Only based on the current outlined pots of funding.

Suggest removing the formal funding pots from the Expenditure Plan: The full text of Measure A indicates that of the funds provided in Category 3 *up to* 25% shall be allocated to the Department of Beaches and Harbers and *up to* 15% shall be allocated to develop and implement recreation access programs (Implementation (i)(1) and (2)). There is similar language in Category 4 (Implementation (i) (3)(4)(5)) regarding providing *up to* 25% of funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation, *up to* 15% to Recreation Access programs and *up to* 10% to County Cultural facilities. We believe the plain language of Measure A does not necessitate the creation of separate “pots” of funding providing the maximum allocations possible to each. The smaller “pots” or “programs”, as created, could be more helpful if they were not given specific funding amounts, but instead used simply as the criteria for funding the unique project types guided by the maximum thresholds described in Measure A.

Suggest Just Two Separate Competitive Grant Programs- for Category 3 and 4- and separate out in the calendar. As written, Measure A seems to encourage two competitive grant programs with separate goals and project types- one for Category 3 and one for Category 4. Right now, it appears as though the Categories are both merged overall (so that the competitive funding rounds look for projects in both categories) and oddly separated out within each category. The tiny slices of pie created in the graphic should not create separate programs within the larger category. Rather, it should just be noted within the two separate competitive grant programs that there may be allocations of *up to* the described amounts based on the annual requests by the Department of Parks and Recreation, for example.

Overall, we believe that the language of Measure A can and should provide the District with more flexibility around funding projects in Category 3 and 4. For example, we see a need to expend more funding for acquisitions in the first few rounds of competitive grant programs and development funds in later rounds. Or, there may be a substantial amount of planning and design that must be done in the early years of Measure A funding, and more Access programs later. While we understand that planning and design has a maximum threshold of funding as described in Measure A, we still encourage flexibility within that structure. The County Department of Beaches and Harbers may not have a plan to spend \$3.1

million in year one and that funding can be used, based on our reading of Measure A, on other projects in Category 3.

Ultimately, there is a risk that by proscribing funding pots (recreation access, planning & design, and acquisition) that the District may leave funding for those project types on the table, or leave worthy projects unfunded, based on the strict funding outlines created within Category 3 and 4 (in that second row of funding categories in the Expenditure Plan graphic). Instead, we envision a more streamlined two competitive grant program system in which the criteria already created for the smaller pots are used to evaluate project types, but are not strictly allocated certain funding amounts. This system would allow applicants, particularly those in disadvantaged or underserved communities, to submit only one or two applications maximum for their project, rather than having to sift through all of the various grant programs to determine which one(s) to apply to.

COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND SCORING RUBRICS:

General:

Increase Scoring Flexibility: An overarching concern regarding the scoring rubrics is that they provide very little flexibility for targeted multi-benefit projects to score well. For example, under “social multi-benefits” we think a more flexible system in which the four subcriteria are listed and can inform the reviewers in determining if the project should receive the maximum points. This way, a project that involves a trailhead in a rural area would not need to meet (b) anti-displacement in order to get the full points if it does a fantastic job providing interpretive programs and multilingual wayfinding- elements appropriate to the project.

Award Size (p. 4 and others): Consistency across programs re: grant min/max and brackets. We recommend creating consistent grant minimum and maximums and make the brackets the same across the board for simplicity’s sake.

General Competitive (Category 3) (p.1)

- **Goals:** Suggest “of” should be changed to “or” in the first sentence under Goals after the word restoration.
- **Operations and Maintenance (p.3):** Having a detailed financial plan for O&M may be difficult at the time of the application as the project components will evolve in design development and as community input increases over time. We suggest requiring showing of financial capability to provide O&M and examples of well-maintained sites within the jurisdiction. Perhaps the detailed O&M plan is a deliverable at the close of the grant.
- **Project types (p.2):**

- Suggest adding “Acquisitions” under Water Conservation and Protection as a project type so that it is clear that they are eligible for the Competitive Grant program where they conserve or protect water resources.
- **Evaluation Criteria:**
 - **Community Engagement beyond minimum requirements (p.7):** Consider preferential points for groups that engage a diversity of community groups, i.e. not just local residents but locally based businesses, schools, religious organizations, etc.
 - **Leveraging of funds (p.11):** Why must projects leverage only the listed type of funds? There should be points for any leveraged funds. Measure A only states that applicants should “seek to leverage public and private funding” from those types of funds but not that they should *only* seek to leverage those named types of funds that only fund specific project elements.
 - **Connectivity and Accessibility (p.12, elsewhere):** Suggest that new and improved connections receive the same scores (up to 15 points). Improvements to aging and outdated connections may be desperately needed and these projects should not be penalized.

Regional recreation, Multi-Use Trails, And Accessibility Competitive Grant Program (Category 4):

- **Project Types (p.15):** The goal of this program is to improve and *protect* regional recreational facilities, trails and accessibility projects. We’d encourage the addition of “protect new, expanded, or existing regional recreational facilities” under Regional Recreational Facilities and “protect land for new or expanded multi-use trails” under Multi-Use Trails. We suggest, under Accessibility, changing the following “protect *or improve* trailheads” and changing “Projects that utilize *or protect* publicly owned-rights-of-way and vacant spaces for access.”

- **Evaluation Criteria:**
 - **Multi-benefit projects (p.23):** Consider adding *enhance* in addition to *preserve* under the Habitat Protection and Biodiversity section.

Acquisition Only (Categories 3 and 4) (p.27):

- Again, are acquisitions eligible and competitive for General Competitive pots in Cat 3 and 4? For example, is an acquisition-only project eligible for \$6.2 million under Category 3?
- If acquisitions are eligible for the general competitive pots, but are scored using the master criteria (even if only scored against other acquisitions), how

can an acquisition be competitive for the general competitive Categories 3 or 4 funding?

- Ensure relevant scoring criteria for acquisitions:
 - Social-multi benefits of acquisition scoring- this section is not really applicable to most acquisitions (A. Safety and Gang reduction, for example). This section also discusses providing lighting which is not relevant.
 - Environmental-multi-benefits scoring- heat island reduction is not relevant to acquisitions unless you intend to prioritize acquisitions with more trees?
 - Level of need: for acquisitions, could this be “threat of development”?

Recreation Access (Categories 3&4)

- Could this program include upgrades/improvements to facilities?
- Are development or acquisition projects eligible for funding?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **3.1.1.3 (p.4) Acquisition-Only Grants:** We appreciate the acknowledgement of the potential privacy issues and sensitivities around public outreach. We see the requirements around Information Sharing and Concurrent Engagement as fair.
- **3.1.3: Evaluation of Engagement**
Remove Barriers to Access- (p.9). This section states that applicants should “provide childcare services...and refreshments if meetings are scheduled close to traditional meal times.” Are these eligible expenses through Measure A?
- **Figure 3-3:** This figure is mentioned, but is not in the materials.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the draft Measure A funding guidelines. We look forward to working with the District in the continued development of this important program for communities throughout Los Angeles.

Best regards,



Tori Kjer
Los Angeles Program Director
The Trust for Public Land

May 3, 2018

Jane Beesley
Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District
1000 South Fremont Avenue, Unit #40
Building A-9 East, Ground Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803

RE: FEEDBACK ON MEASURE A POLICY GUIDELINES

Dear Ms. Beesley,

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide additional input on the Measure A grant scoring criteria. We consider parks to be critical public health infrastructure because they are associated with increased access to physical activity, reduced obesity and chronic disease, improved air quality and better mental health. There is significant evidence that children and adults get more physical activity when they *live near* a park, trail, or playground. For example, a 10-year study of more than 3000 children living in 12 communities of southern California found that those who lived closer to recreational programs and parkland had much lower rates of obesity compared to children who lived further away.

As evidenced in the Parks Needs Assessment (PNA), low-income communities and communities of color continue to be affected by unequal, proximal access to park and open spaces, often as a result of historic and persistent disinvestment. Intentional funding allocations can be made to address such structural inequities. With that in mind, we commend RPOSD for its commitment to allocating 30% of funds to High and Very High Need Study Areas in three competitive grant programs (*Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection; Regional Recreation, Multi-Use Trails, and Accessibility; and Acquisition Only*). Given RPOSD's presentation on the revised scoring rubric at the April 5th meeting, we would like to offer several recommendations to help ensure that this commitment is fulfilled.

1. While RPOSD described the process for creating two categories of proposals (one for high need areas and another all other proposals), we suggest that the agency provide policy guidelines to describe *how* the allocation of 30% of funds to High and Very High Need Areas will be achieved. This written description can also clarify to all stakeholders and the public that the set asides for high need areas are guaranteed.
2. The revised scoring criteria and sub criteria may make proposals from cities and communities in High Need areas less competitive. The scoring criteria can instead clearly invite and incentivize applications from these areas. For example, the revised scoring rubric eliminates the allocation of points to communities *located* in High or Very High Need Study Areas. Instead, points are awarded based on the extent to which projects *attract* visitors who live in High or Very High Need Study area or demonstrate access from High or Very High Need Study Areas. We agree that RPOSD should encourage all applicants to think carefully about how to make their parks accessible to all residents. However, given how essential park proximity is to maximizing health benefits, projects *located* in High or Very Need Areas need to be prioritized.
3. The new “Timeliness and Urgency” category, as currently conceived, may also inadvertently disadvantage High Need Areas. The greatest number of points are awarded in this category if “the project is both timely and urgent and will result in acquisition, connections, habitat protection, water conservation, or there is a threat of imminent development.” Many of the High and Very High Need Areas in the County are dense, built-out communities where land acquisition is especially difficult. We suggest that RPOSD revise the sub-criteria to include allocation of points for acquisition in High and Very High Need areas and for projects that meet high priority community needs.

We understand that RPOSD must balance the perspectives of many stakeholders when making decisions about the policy guidelines and scoring criteria, and appreciate your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed
Director of Public Health

BF:ja

c: David Early, Placeworks



seaca
southeast asian community alliance

June 11, 2018

Jessica Wuyek
Placeworks
700 S. Flower St. Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Measure A Anti-Displacement Outreach Strategies

Dear Ms. Wuyek,

On behalf of the Southeast Asian Community Alliance, we want to thank Placeworks and the Regional Parks and Open Space District (RPOSD) for your leadership in addressing the issues of gentrification and displacement. These are complex issues and we are eager to support RPOSD's efforts to ensure that the Anti-Displacement policies are adopted and successfully implemented.

We are submitting this letter and the attached chart outlining additional recommendations to be embedded into the Measure A outreach requirements. These strategies were developed with the goal of promoting proactive strategies to address the issue of displacement while balancing the need to provide cities and park agencies with clear direction and create requirements that could be easily adopted.

And in order to ensure that they are successfully adopted, we are also recommending that these activities be included as an eligible expense to be paid for by Measure A.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sissy Nga Trinh
Executive Director

Measure A Displacement Avoidance Activities

Project Budget	Community Engagement Requirements	Displacement Avoidance Requirements
Under \$100k	Information Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concurrent distribution of the following materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Know your rights as a tenant ○ Foreclosure Rights ○ Flyers containing eligibility, services provided, and contact information on local economic security services and programs including tenant education, homeless, and affordable housing service providers and resources
\$100k to \$500k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information Sharing ● Concurrent Participatory Engagement Approach; OR Dedicated Participatory Engagement Approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concurrent distribution of the following materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Know your rights as a tenant ○ Foreclosure Rights ○ Flyers containing eligibility, services provided, and contact information on local economic security services and programs including tenant education, homeless, and affordable housing service providers and resources
\$500k to \$1m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information Sharing ● Concurrent Participatory Engagement Approach (done twice); OR Dedicated Participatory Engagement Approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concurrent distribution of the following materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Know your rights as a tenant ○ Foreclosure Rights ○ Flyers containing eligibility, services provided, and contact information on local economic security services and programs including tenant education, homeless, and affordable housing service providers and resources

<p>\$1m to \$2m</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information Sharing ● Dedicated Participatory Engagement Approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concurrent distribution of the following materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Know your rights as a tenant ○ Foreclosure Rights ○ Flyers containing eligibility, services provided, and contact information on local economic security services and programs including tenant education, homeless, and affordable housing service providers and resources ● At least 1 park related community meeting must include an educational component workshop on tenants' rights, foreclosure rights, and available programs and services for economic security, including homeless and affordable housing, to be held in partnership with local community based organizations that specialize in tenant education and relevant government agencies
<p>Over \$2m</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information Sharing ● Dedicated Participatory Engagement Approach (done two separate times) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concurrent distribution of the following materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Know your rights as a tenant ○ Foreclosure Rights ○ Flyers containing eligibility, services provided, and contact information on local economic security services and programs including tenant education, homeless, and affordable housing service providers and resources ● At least 2 park related community meetings must include an educational component on tenants' rights and/or a direct services clinic to provide residents with assistance on tenants' rights, foreclosure rights, and available programs and services for economic security programs, including homeless and affordable housing, to be held in partnership with local community based organizations that specialize in tenant education and relevant government agencies

June 18, 2018

Jane Beesley
District Administrator
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District
510 S. Vermont Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Dear Administrator Beesley:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Measure A Funding Guidelines (Guidelines) regarding Grant Administration & Project Delivery. We are excited about the opportunities presented by Measure A for communities throughout the county. We have summarized our comments below.

4.4 Grant Administration & Project Delivery

4.4.1. Application Requirements

4.4.1 Application Requirements- In order to request annual allocations or apply for competitive grant funds, applicants must complete RPOSD's enrollment process and receive a determination of eligibility. We suggest that applicants solely for competitive grants need not enroll as they may be applying for funding just once. If the enrollment requirement stays, we suggest that enrollment last for more than 3 years.

Competitive Grants (p.1) –While we encourage a reasonable amount of time for grant solicitations, we'd suggest 60-90 day solicitations rather than six months. 60-90 days is enough time for applicants to know about the solicitation and gather the appropriate materials.

Grant application meeting (p.2) - The requirement to attend a grant application meeting (and show proof at time of application) to apply to this program is unusual and feels onerous. We encourage the District to host meetings and workshops but suggest the removal of this requirement.

4.4.3 Grant Award and Contract (p.5) – We encourage you to consider reimbursements for outreach up to \$10k.

Table 4.1 ELIGIBLE COSTS, BY GRANT TYPE ELIGIBLE COSTS: DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

We see that “design documents up to 30% CD” is a soft cost and “Construction documents: Beyond 30% level” is listed as a hard cost. This is a somewhat confusing way to designate DD/CD. State parks uses the terms “pre-construction” and “construction” which we think could work better.

Will you require labor compliance programs? Are these fundable under the “construction management and labor” hard cost?

ELIGIBLE COSTS: ACQUISITION PROJECTS

Acquisition Costs-

- 1) We suggest adding other due diligence as required by the project (i.e. Phase I, II)
- 2) We suggest adding “signage” as an acquisition cost

ELIGIBLE COSTS: PLANNING & DESIGN FUNDS

We suggest adding “including related consultant fees” after the “design documents” hard cost.

ELIGIBLE COSTS: DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Can “project maintenance” be added as an eligible hard cost?

4.4.6 Reimbursements

Acquisition Projects

Supporting Documentation- Acquisition projects (p.8)

Appraisal Report: We suggest that the appraisal be required to be submitted before opening escrow. Because appraisals are only good for one year, we suggest that cost estimates be provided at the time of application, and appraisals after initial approval of the project.

Escrow Instructions: We suggest a change to *if escrow does not close within 45 days of RPOSD paying funds into escrow, such funds shall be invested in an interest-bearing account insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)*. The reason for this suggestion is that opening an interest-bearing account typically costs between \$50-\$75 depending on the title company and thus it may not make financial sense as that cost will be greater than the interest accrued. If this requirement moves forward, who fills out the W-9 and who pays the fee for opening the account?

Disclosure Form: We recommend that the District accept a title objections letter to the Seller and Seller and title company responses. In the alternative, we suggest that the District accept a list of exceptions that an applicant plans to take action on (so that the applicant does not need to list those exceptions that don't require action).

(p.10) Acquisition costs should not be called “reimbursements” - Isn't this an advance into escrow? We suggest that the District change this language to say:

Grantees may request acquisition costs when the Project Status Report and Deed Restrictions have been reviewed and approved. Acquisition documents should be submitted to the Program Manager at least 30 days before any requests for deposits to escrow or submittal of requests for reimbursement of acquisition costs.

4.4.9: Supporting Documentation: (p.11) – We suggest that the first paragraph regarding conducting a final site inspection, should be reworded to include “if necessary” to provide flexibility to the District.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the draft Measure A funding guidelines. We look forward to working with the District in the continued development of this important program for communities throughout Los Angeles.

Best regards,



Tori Kjer
Los Angeles Program Director
The Trust for Public Land

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 9, 2018
TO: Jane Beesley
FROM: Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer
RE: Comments on draft Proceedings

Please see below for comments on the draft Proceedings. For brevity, I am not including comments that MRCA previously made, except to reiterate that **the scoring criteria for all competitive grants should focus most on core project qualities and how well a project accomplishes the priorities of its funding category.**

Page 2-12, Section 2.13: Please address the frequency with which an agency must approve a transfer of M&S funds to another agency. Is such a transfer “good until cancelled?” or must it be renewed at a certain interval?

Page 3-26, Table 3-5: There was discussion at the final Steering Committee meeting about eliminating “Construction documents: Beyond 30% CD level” from the Hard Costs category. MRCA does not agree with this change and the table should be kept as is.

Page 3-33, Section 3.4.5: Many construction contracts are still active several months after construction is completed on a project, as the parties negotiate change orders, delay costs, subcontractor disputes, etc. Therefore closing documentation is not able to be provided within 3 months of a project’s completion. The Guidelines should indicate that “completion” (and the 3 month window) occurs only after all open contracts are resolved.

Page 3-36, Section 3.4.5, Unutilized Funds: The District’s share of excess escrow amounts should be directly proportional to the District’s contribution, in situations where the District is not the only funder.

Section 4.3.1.3, Acquisition-only Programs: All comments MRCA previously made about scoring criteria also apply to this section, which was not previously available for review. Most of the criteria do not seem to be applicable for many acquisitions and this will not be a useful tool for the District to evaluate acquisition proposals. Only 35% of the points provided are even related to qualities of the property proposed for acquisition, except its location.

Page 4-61: Pre-acquisition costs for labor and property reports should be noted as eligible, as should sites that have not yet been studied for adverse site conditions.

Section 4.3.2, Recreation Access Program: The scoring criteria contain nothing about the uniqueness or relevance of the location/subject matter of the program. As written, a bus pass might score as well as a program that provides access to unique and valuable resources and personal interpretation that is proven to instill environmental stewardship.



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE



2760 N. Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815-1697
(562) 570-3100 • FAX (562) 570-3109
www.LBParks.org

selected
best in the nation

July 9, 2018

Jane Beesley, District Administrator
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District
c/o Department of Parks and Recreation
1000 S. Fremont Ave, Unit #40
Building A-9 East, Ground Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803

Re: City of Long Beach Comments on Los Angeles County Measure A Implementation Guidelines

Dear Ms. Beesley:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, I write to thank the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) for your work in implementing the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure (County Measure A). The City additionally appreciates the funding opportunities that is made possible through this parcel tax measure for Long Beach's parks system.

As the Implementation Guidelines have now been released for County Measure A, Long Beach is very supportive of RPOSD's overhaul of the application and administration processes and the use of an online grant management system. This advancement will be key to providing an accessible and efficient funding process for all agencies that hope to improve their parks. The City is also supportive of the new element of community outreach and engagement that is a mandatory part of the County funding process. The City of Long Beach routinely incorporates strong community outreach and engagement in our park planning and development process, and has a Council-approved Language Access Policy that ensures City materials are accessible in the City's four main languages. Finally, the City is pleased that County Measure A continues to include maintenance and servicing funds, which supports critical maintenance needs that are triggered by the new improvements and continue to cover improvements from the previous funding measures.

The City also continues to have questions and concerns with certain key areas of how implementation will occur. Generally, the City is looking for a greater commitment to funds being prioritized in low and very low need areas, especially in supervisorial and variable allocations, consistent with the purpose of the Needs Assessment; a greater degree of clarity on certain areas of RPOSD administration, such as how RPOSD will be determining agency standing or what is expected in adhering to the displacement avoidance policy when it is acknowledged that this is a state-wide issue outside of the purview of park

Los Angeles County Measure A Implementation Guidelines: Long Beach Comments

July 9, 2018

Page 2

agencies; and the City has a series of recommended changes, such as extending the timeline for submittal of grant contracts to allow for municipal approvals, how to most effectively and appropriately identify project phases to ensure appropriate eligible costs can be captured, and require that local school districts and non-profits partner with local agencies to implement mutually-beneficial projects. After a thorough review of the Implementation Guidelines, specific comments and recommendations, organized by Chapter, are included as Attachment A. A previous comment letter submitted by Long Beach City Manager Pat West is also included as Attachment B. The City is requesting a response to the comments and recommendations submitted herein by Monday July 23, prior to the July 26 Board of Supervisors Meeting.

The City recognizes that County Measure A is fundamental to providing public investment for parks in high need areas of the County, including areas in Long Beach identified in the Needs Assessment. We urge the County to work with Long Beach and other stakeholders to provide additional clarity on the outstanding questions and resolve outstanding issues of concern so Long Beach and other agencies are set up to successfully navigate and implement County Measure A in partnership with the County.

Should you have any questions, please contact Meredith Reynolds, Park Development Officer with the City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine at (562) 570-3165 or Meredith.Reynolds@longbeach.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and for working with the City of Long Beach on this important countywide initiative.

Sincerely,



Gerardo Mouet
Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine

cc: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Patrick West, City Manager
Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager
Rebecca Garner, Assistant to the City Manager

Attachments: Attachment A - City of Long Beach Comments on County Measure A Implementation Guidelines
Attachment B - City of Long Beach City Manager Pat West Comment Letter on County Measure A

ATTACHMENT A – CITY OF LONG BEACH COMMENTS ON COUNTY MEASURE A IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

Chapter 1

1.1 The emphasis with high need and very high need should be consistent with Chapter 4.

Chapter 2

2.1 This chapter includes a provision where RPOSD can make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to increase or decrease the annual allocation for high and very high need areas, however the guidelines are unclear as to what criteria RPOSD are to use to make these recommendations and what impact this may have on other categories of funding. The City is recommending listing specific criteria RPOSD will use when making these recommendations to ensure recommendations are aligned with investing in low and very low need areas, which is the purpose of Measure A.

2.2 Section 2.3 includes a provision that the Board of Supervisors can reconsider allocation and is allowed to give 2% of funds to specific projects. The City is recommending listing specific criteria that ensures changes in allocation and funding for special projects are aligned with investing in low and very low need areas, which is the purpose of Measure A.

2.3 Section 2.6 includes non-profit maintenance and servicing allocation policy, but it does not list maintenance and servicing policy for municipalities. The City recommends including the maintenance and servicing policy for municipalities or referencing this program to differentiate the funding available for agencies.

2.4 Section 2.9 has a subsection on park inventory data. While the City would like to provide park inventory data annually, this requirement is extremely onerous with the current level of staff and resources available. The City recommends changing this provision to provide updates every two years, consistent with the County's stated timeline for such updates. It is also recommended that this level of staff effort (or consultant cost for cities that do not have staff) be a reimbursable expense by per capital or other Measure A funds. Without funding, this requirement is a disadvantage to cities that do not have staff or resources.

2.5 Section 2.12 Displacement Avoidance Policy suggests that agencies will need to consider strategies intended to directly address and lessen the likelihood of displacement and gentrification as a result of park enhancement projects. Furthermore, each competitive grant funding category includes points for displacement avoidance, despite displacement and gentrification being acknowledged to have many causes and cannot be addressed by RPOSD and funding recipients alone. While the City supports larger efforts to comprehensively address displacement and gentrification, it is unclear how this policy will be implemented in the context of County Measure A competitive grant programs. The City recommends reducing the amount of points issues for this category in the competitive grant applications and specifically listing appropriate strategies that would be considered for points.

2.6 Section 2.13 Sharing Funds Policy includes that RPOSD would need to make a finding that the sharing of funds will benefit residents of "sending" Study Area. The City recommends listing specific criteria by which RPOSD will make their findings in this instance.

Chapter 3

3.1 Section 3.2 lists that RPOSD will make a determination regarding eligibility. The City recommends 1) adding criteria by which RPOSD will make this determination; 2) the range of time an applicant can expect for RPOSD to make this decision; and 3) the appeal process an applicant can choose to pursue should they disagree with RPOSD's determination.

3.2 Section 3.2.1 It has been suggested that eligible applicants should include non-profit developers. While the City can understand the desire to include non-profit developers for their ability to add new park space, the City has concerns over instances where developers may use Measure A funds to fund their open space requirements, which should be in addition to public park improvements. This is also inconsistent with other County Measure A Guideline sections that do not include non-profit developers in the list of eligible entities.

3.3 Section 3.2.1 also includes schools as eligible applicants. This section should be strengthened to specifically state that 1) Any funding to schools would require these improvements to be open and available to the public in perpetuity (consistent with other Chapter sections of the guidelines) and be available equally without unreasonable fees or reservation tiers to ensure equity; 2) Require any school funding application include an acknowledgement by the local government, and include the school's plan for how they will partner and include the municipality in key planning and decisions on the project to eliminate developing projects in school silos; and 3) Require any school funding application to include a mandatory joint use agreement with the local government that provides at least equal use by both parties.

3.4 Section 3.3.1 includes minimum outreach and engagement requirements. The City highly recommends defining the steps required for minimum outreach and engagement for each level of engagement so all applicants have an equal understanding of requirements.

3.5 Section 3.4 discusses the Allocations Application Workshop. The City recommends that participants are able to participate remotely (e.g. via Skype meeting or GoTo Meeting online), to avoid unnecessary travel, and be provided the opportunity to watch a video of the workshop as a way to refresh knowledge provided in the workshop.

3.6 Section 3.4.2 indicates RPOSD will create a competitive grants panel. The City highly recommends this panel reflect, in all aspects, the County's areas of low and very low need. It is also recommended that panel participants are disclosed periodically for a level of transparency, a cornerstone of the Needs Assessment and County Measure A efforts.

3.7 Section 3.4.3 indicates grant contracts must be signed and returned to RPOSD within 45 days of receipt. The City recommends extending this timeline to 60 days, to account for City Council approval, which takes a minimum of six weeks to agendaize in Long Beach. The online grant management system should also allow for the uploading of the executed grant contract, with a hard copy to be submitted via mail, to meet this requirement.

3.8 The City concurs with stakeholder feedback that projects should be broken into design (or preconstruction) and construction phases, and eligible and ineligible costs listed under each phase in Section 3.4 and Table 3-5. This enables cost limitations to be applied to the appropriate phase of a project.

3.9 Section 3.4.4.3 includes a provision of signage as supporting documentation. The City recommends including a signage example, with required sign language, as well as instructions for when and where signage is to be placed on a project.

3.10 Section 3.4.4.3 includes a subsection on Development Project contracts, which suggests that all projects must be performed under a competitive bid. The City recommends including alternative procurement processes allowed by municipalities, including on-call contractors, job order contractors, joint purchasing and co-op agreements, contract piggybacking, and sole source (where appropriate), as municipalities use these procurement methods regularly to save time, reduce costs and procure specialized or proprietary items.

3.12 Section 3.4.5 includes a provision that the grantee cannot discriminate based on place of residence, which includes non-resident fees. While the City supports allowing access to park for all, there are instances where municipalities enact non-resident fees to create space in parks for local residents, particularly those in need of park space, instead of having parks solely reserved by people or groups from outside of the area denying access to those who need it most. It is recommended this provision be modified to allow for local jurisdictions to enact location-based fees where waiver processes for out of town groups exist.

3.13 Section 3.4.8 includes a description of "good standing". The City highly recommends listing the criteria by which each City will be evaluated against to achieve good standing, which provides the necessary clarity each agency needs to understand this provision, and ensures all agencies are assessed equally and fairly. The City also recommends clarifying if each agency will begin with good standing, or if the criteria applies immediately to each applicant where past grants may affect standing.

Chapter 4

4.1 Chapter 4 discusses the Technical Assistance program, which the City recommends further clarification on how and by which criteria decisions about these funds will be made, ensuring those that need the funds for low and very low need projects can reasonably secure these funds.

4.2 Section 4.1.5.5 includes details on eligibility, which should be based on agencies with projects in low and very low need areas.

4.3 Section 4.2.4 indicates the allocation will be available to DBH, intended for grants for the listed purpose. The City recommends clarifying that these funds are 1) made available to DBH by RPOSD to provide grants to eligible projects; and 100% of total allocation amount is to be used for grants (no DBH overhead permitted).

4.4 Section 4.2.5 indicates the allocation will be available to DPR, intended for grants for the listed purpose. The City recommends clarifying that these funds are 1) made available to DPR by RPOSD to provide grants to eligible projects; and 100% of total allocation amount is to be used for grants (no DPR overhead permitted).

4.5 Section 4.2.6 indicates up to 10% of the allocation shall be allocated to County cultural facilities. The City recommends defining what is a County cultural facility to, at minimum, include historic Ranchos and other landmarked and to-be-landmarked park facilities, Los Angeles County Measure A Implementation Guidelines: Long Beach Comments

July 9, 2018

Page 6

municipal facilities that support arts, dance, and culture programs and not be limited to County ownership.

Appendix A

App 1 Appendix appears to have redundant/duplicative pages.

App2 Page 7 of 12 lists Cambodian as a language with isolation for the City of Long Beach West, South and North study areas. The language should be listed as Khmer – Cambodian is the ethnicity, Khmer is the language.

Additional Timing Concerns

As stated in the County meeting held on June 28, 2018, it was communicated that translated Measure A Implementation Guidelines will not be available for 8-12 weeks, which is after the item is scheduled to go to the Board of Supervisors on July 26, 2018. Long Beach is concerned that this approach is not aligned with the robust community engagement process followed thus far, and is inconsistent with County Measure A community engagement requirements, which places the County's credibility in jeopardy. The City supports fast tracking the translation of the Implementation Guidelines, allowing appropriate time for stakeholders to review, prior to scheduling this item for Board consideration. Given that the Measure is currently in the midst of litigation, and stakeholders have concerns over the risk associated with spending collected funds under the uncertainty of the situation, taking the important step of providing a public translated version with time to review would be prudent.

July 9, 2018
Page 7

**ATTACHMENT B – CITY OF LONG BEACH CITY MANAGER PAT WEST
COMMENT LETTER ON COUNTY MEASURE A**



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

333 WEST OCEAN BOULEVARD • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802 • (562) 570-6711 • FAX (562) 570-6583

PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

April 12, 2018

Jane Beesley, District Administrator
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District
c/o Department of Parks and Recreation
1000 S. Fremont Ave, Unit #40
Building A-9 East, Ground Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803

Re: Los Angeles County Measure A Competitive Grant Program Guidelines

Dear Ms. Beesley:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to thank the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) for your work in implementing the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure (Measure A). The City additionally appreciates the opportunity to apply for grant funding that is made possible through this parcel tax measure. With that said, since draft grant guidelines have been released for Measure A competitive grant programs, Long Beach is significantly concerned with changes that are being made with respect to investments in disadvantaged communities.

Specifically, the City was expecting to see "Level of Need" weighted at 25 points for three grant programs: (1) Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection, (2) Regional Recreation, Multi-Use Trails and Accessibility, and (3) Acquisition-only, as presented by the RPOSD as draft evaluation criteria scoring themes on March 1, 2018. Long Beach was surprised to see the number of points for these programs reduced to 10 points in documents dated March 29, 2018. **The City strongly opposes this change, and urges the RPOSD to restore "Level of Need" to 25 points in the final grant evaluation criteria.**

For years, there have been inequitable investments made towards improvements within disadvantaged communities. It is essential that funding is available to cities and the county through Measure A to help support equitable access to safe and healthy green space in these neighborhoods. In our City, there exists a significant need for future acquisition and remediation of former oil operation and brownfield locations in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Long Beach was expecting to use Measure A funding to support these green space developments in these areas, as well as additional critical park projects in high need areas where improvements to park space would truly improve the quality of life.

Los Angeles County Measure A Competitive Grant Program Guideline

April 12, 2018

Page 2

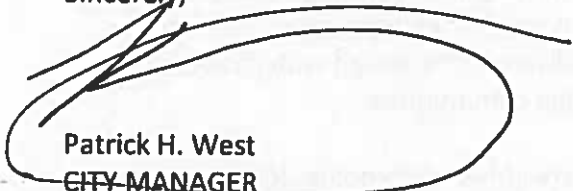
Measure A is fundamental to providing public investment for parks in high need areas of the County, including areas in Long Beach identified during the robust public engagement process conducted in preparation for Measure A. Should RPOSD elect not to restore the "Level of Need" to the original 25 points, areas of need within the County will be unable to address historic issues of inequity. In Long Beach, high need areas that have averages below 1 acre of park, per 1,000 residents will be unable to see meaningful public investment to increase the number of acres to Long Beach's citywide average of 5.6 park acres per 1,000 residents.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach strongly opposes any decrease in weight placed on "Level of Need" in the evaluation criteria to award Measure A funding. We urge the RPOSD to restore 25 points for "Level of Need", and continue to place a strong emphasis on park equity while also making funds available for park improvements countywide.

Should you have any questions, please contact Stephen Scott, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine with the City of Long Beach at (562) 570-3200 or Stephen.Scott@longbeach.gov. Please also see attached for more specific comments regarding the RPOSD's draft Measure A grant guidelines.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and for working with the City of Long Beach on this important countywide initiative.

Sincerely,



Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

cc: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Measure A Competitive Grant Scoring Rubrics Summary

	Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection	Regional Recreation, Multi-use Trails, and Accessibility	Acquisition-only	Recreation Access Program	Youth and Veteran Job Training and Placement	Planning & Design Funds
Level of Need	10	10	10	25	15	20
Regional Benefits	10	30	20	-	-	-
Community Involvement Beyond Minimum Requirements	10	10	-	30	-	10
Community Partnerships	-	-	-	-	20	-
Social Multi-Benefits	10	10	10	-	-	-
Community Health Multi-Benefits	10	10	-	-	-	-
Environmental Multi-Benefits	40	20	10	-	-	-
Leveraging of Funds	5	5	5	-	-	-
Connectivity and Accessibility	15	15	-	-	-	-
Program Benefits	-	-	-	30	50	-
Timeliness and Urgency <i>→ Define with RFP</i>	20	20	30	-	-	20
Existing P&D Challenges	-	-	-	-	-	30
TOTAL POINTS	130	130	85	85	85	80

Contact: osdinfo@parks.lacounty.gov | 626.588.5060 | Website: RPOSD.LAcounty.gov

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

NATURAL LANDS, LOCAL BEACHES, WATER CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM SCORING RUBRIC

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Level of Need	10
Regional Benefits	10
Community Involvement Beyond Minimum Requirements	10
Social Multi-Benefits	10
Community Health Multi-Benefits	10
Environmental Multi-Benefits	40
Leveraging of Funds	5
Connectivity and Accessibility	15
Timeliness and Urgency	20
TOTAL POINTS	130

Points Points

*75% MINOR
→ 9/8 MINOR*

LEVEL OF NEED LEVEL OF NEED IS BASED ON THE CURRENT COUNTYWIDE PHA DETERMINATION. PROJECTS SERVING OR BENEFITTING STUDY AREAS WITH HIGH OR VERY HIGH NEED WILL RECEIVE MORE POINTS THAN PROJECTS THAT DO NOT. Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.	10 MAX.
(A) Project attracts visitors who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas. More points will be awarded to projects that can provide statistical information that a high number of residents from High or Very High Need Study Areas visit/use the project.	0-6
(B) Project demonstrates access from High or Very High Need Study Areas to the project site. Access can include connections by existing or planned trails, bikeways, pathways, transit routes, or shuttle service to and from High or Very High Need Study Areas. Best practices include convenience in access, frequency in service, visibility, safety, and/or provision of the most effective and/or efficient means of transportation between the project site and High or Very High Need Study Area. Other best practices include providing signage, using social media, and other marketing on how to navigate to the project.	0-4
(C) Project includes elements that support the language needs of people who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas, including multilingual wayfinding, informational signage, interpretive programs, and educational materials.	0-2

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>REGIONAL BENEFITS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE REGIONAL BENEFITS OR SERVE REGIONAL NEED WILL RECEIVE POINTS¹.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>10 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Project provides regional benefits by rehabilitating, adding, or improving a unique facility, amenity, or natural resource within the region it serves.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>
<p><i>(B) Project meets regional need by adding, rehabilitating or improving any facility, amenity, or natural resource for which regional demand/use is high.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>
<p><i>(C) Project accommodates regional access by providing trail connectivity, transit connections beyond the local vicinity, trailhead and/or parking improvements, or ADA improvements.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>
<p><i>(D) Project includes interpretive, educational, programmatic, or other components that encourage regional visitation.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>
<p><i>(E) Project involves the collaboration of multiple agencies, or organizations.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>
<p><i>(F) Project increases community value (natural or built) by filling a gap in regional facilities, amenities, or natural resources.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>

Will be determined by RPOSD

¹ Definition of "regional benefit" and "regional need" will be determined by RPOSD through the future development of a Countywide Regional and Open Space Assessment.
 Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Competitive Grant Program Scoring Rubric
 March 23, 2018

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>SOCIAL MULTI-BENEFITS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE OTHER BENEFITS BESIDES RECREATION THAT RELATE TO SOCIAL ISSUES.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 10 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>10 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) Community Safety, Gang Activity Reduction, and Violence Prevention</i> Project includes features that improve safety conditions and visibility through the provision of safe equipment and facilities, and thereby reduce or prevent of gang activity, violence, and crime. Best practices include using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies, such as increasing natural surveillance, reducing isolated spaces, increasing sight lines, and providing adequate lighting. Projects located in areas of high gang activity and violence and incorporate safe design, and/or engage former and current gang members or gang reduction community groups to ensure park safety.</p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p><i>(B) Anti-displacement Mitigation</i> Project includes advance displacement avoidance strategies to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with the project creates a significant increase in the cost of housing. More points will be scored based on how realistic and proactive the strategies are.</p>	<p>0-3 0-3 based on lack of control over market forces</p>
<p><i>(C) Cultural and Language Sensitivity</i> Project incorporates elements that accommodate the cultural and language needs of the served populations, such as multilingual wayfinding and other signage and informational signs or public art related to the surrounding history and culture of the project and area. More points will be scored on the quantity and quality of the proposed cultural and language elements.</p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p><i>(D) Interpretive Programs and Education</i> Project incorporates elements that provide interpretation and education to foster user connection and awareness of the environment, the outdoors, and/or recreation, such as incorporating informative signage explaining the project's location, landscape, wildlife, plants, background, and history. More points will be scored on the appropriateness of the proposed interpretive programs and education elements.</p>	<p>0-3</p>

- (B) • Call out contribution - are more relevant
- (C) • Estimated benefit to be scored. Available more points

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>ENVIRONMENTAL MULTI-BENEFITS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE OTHER BENEFITS BESIDES RECREATION THAT RELATE TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 40 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>40 MAX.</p>
<p>(A) Stormwater Capture and Conservation Project includes features to capture stormwater and attenuate potential flood conditions which go beyond those required by State and local codes. Examples include swales, rain gardens, retention basins, pervious pavement, use of drought-tolerant plants, use of drip irrigation, etc.</p>	<p>0-10</p>
<p>(B) Water and Air Quality Improvements Project includes features to improve water quality which go beyond those required by State and local codes and features to reduce existing criterion air pollutant emissions that go beyond those required by current regulations. Examples include bioswales, use of recycled water, low allergen plant palette selection, sustainable irrigation practices, and reducing runoff.</p>	<p>0-10</p>
<p>(C) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reductions, including Carbon Sequestration Project includes features to reduce existing GHG emissions that go beyond those required by current regulations and features to sequester carbon that go beyond typical plantings found in park and open space projects. Examples include tree planting, active transportation options, and sustainable maintenance of amenities.</p>	<p>0-10</p>
<p>(D) Heat-Island Reductions Project includes features to reduce heat-island effects, in ways that go beyond typical plantings found in park and open space projects. Examples include use of light colored and/or reflective surfaces, planting trees, providing shade, and reducing hardscape.</p>	<p>0-10</p>
<p>(E) Habitat Protection and Biodiversity Project includes features to create and preserve important habitat areas and biodiversity. Examples include preserving critical habitat areas, using native plants that attract pollinators, and creating a diversity of spaces that can be used as habitat for a diversity of animals.</p>	<p>0-10</p>

- Some overlap of the criteria - some overlap of the criteria
- Also may employ additional measurements
- Take out language if you only meet requirements
- Similar benefit for all items related to air & water & water
- Good and high/very high needs points

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>LEVERAGING OF FUNDS MEASURE A ENCOURAGES PROJECTS THAT LEVERAGE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING FROM SEVERAL SPECIFIC TYPES OF BENEFIT PROGRAMS. PLEASE SUBMIT A BUDGET INDICATING SECURED FUNDING SOURCES AND AMOUNTS THAT WILL BE LEVERAGED FOR THE PROJECT. RELEVANT FUNDING SOURCES SPECIFICALLY CALLED OUT IN MEASURE A ARE THOSE THAT ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WATER CONSERVATION AND SUPPLY; WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS; FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT; • AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS; CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION OR ADAPTATION; CARBON SEQUESTRATION; HEAT-ISLAND REDUCTION; HABITAT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY; • PUBLIC HEALTH; ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 5 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>5 MAX.</p>
<p>(A) Project leverages a percentage of the project's cost. Only one of the following subcriteria may apply to each project. More points will be awarded to projects that use a higher percentage of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</p>	<p>4 max.</p>
<p>(A1) Project uses more than 80% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>(A2) Project uses 60%-80% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>(A3) Project uses 40%-59% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>(A4) Project uses 20%-39% of the project's cost as leveraged funds.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>(B) Project leverages funds in one or more of the following methods: (1) uses awarded Measure A competitive funds as a source of leveraged funding for other grant programs; (2) uses awarded Measure A competitive funds to complete funding for a project that is currently funded by other grant programs; and/or (3) uses Measure A Category 1 or 2 funds as a source of leveraged funds.</p>	<p>4</p>

Projects against need, info on hand - calc formula

LEVERAGING ADBILL POINTS - ISSUE WAS BILLS AND HOW POINTS RELATE TO LEVERAGING.

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

<p>TIMELINESS AND URGENCY THE INITIATION AND COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT IS NEEDED AND TIMELY IN THAT IT BUILDS ON, COMPLEMENTS, OR MOVES TOWARD IMPLEMENTING HIGH PRIORITY ACQUISITIONS, CONNECTIONS, AND/OR HABITAT PROTECTION PLANS WATER CONSERVATION OR PROTECTION .</p> <p>Only one of the following subcriteria will apply to each project, for a maximum of 20 points.</p>	<p>20 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) The completion of the project is timely and urgent and will result in additional acquisition, connections, habitat protection, water conservation or improvements, and/or there is an existing threat of imminent development on the project site.</i></p>	<p>11-20</p>
<p><i>(B) The completion of the project is timely, but not urgent, and/or will not necessarily advance other high priority acquisitions, connections, habitat protection plans, water conservation or protection improvements.</i></p>	<p>0-10</p>

Defund water? if you don't do it how - funded efforts diminish.

DRAFT

RECREATION ACCESS GRANT PROGRAM SCORING RUBRIC

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Level of Need	25
Community Involvement Beyond Minimum Requirements	30
Program Benefits	30
TOTAL POINTS	85

200 Social Activity - Benefit Points

<p>LEVEL OF NEED LEVEL OF NEED IS BASED ON THE CURRENT COUNTYWIDE PNA DETERMINATION. PROJECTS LOCATED WITHIN OR SERVING OR BENEFITTING STUDY AREAS WITH HIGH OR VERY HIGH NEED WILL RECEIVE MORE POINTS THAN PROJECTS THAT DO NOT.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 25 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	25 MAX.
(A) Program is located in a High or Very High Need Study Area or 90% of program participants live in a High or Very High Need Study Area.	25
(B) Program is not located in a High or Very High Need Study Area, but directly serves or benefits the residents of a High or Very High Need Study Area by achieving one or more of the subcriteria below.	20 max.
(B1) Program attracts participants who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas. More points will be awarded to projects that can provide statistical information that a high number of residents from High or Very High Need Study Areas will participate in the program.	0-10
(B2) Program demonstrates access from High or Very High Need Study Areas to the recreation site. Access can include connections by existing trails, bikeways, pathways, transit routes, or shuttle service to and from High or Very High Need Study Areas. Best practices include convenience in access, frequency in service, visibility, safety, and for provision of the most effective and/or efficient means of transportation between the program site and High or Very High Need Study Area.	0-15
(B3) Program includes elements that support the language needs of the participants and/or people who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas, including multilingual wayfinding, information signage, interpretive programs, and educational materials.	0-10

MEASURE A: SAFE, CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OPEN SPACE, BEACHES, RIVERS PROTECTION, AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURE

YOUTH AND VETERAN JOB TRAINING AND PLACEMENT GRANT PROGRAM SCORING RUBRIC

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Level of Need	15
Community Partnerships	20
Program Benefits	50
TOTAL POINTS	85

*→ Add Points for Program Benefits
11/17/18*

LEVEL OF NEED	
<p>THE PROGRAM PROVIDER PROVIDES SERVICES TO AND/OR RECRUITS A MAJORITY OF ITS PARTICIPANTS FROM HIGH OR VERY HIGH NEED STUDY AREAS.</p> <p>Program providers may receive up to a maximum of 15 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	<p>15 MAX.</p>
<p><i>(A) The program provider recruits a majority of its participants from High or Very High Need Study Areas, or has a concrete plan to do so (for new programs). More points will be awarded for higher recruitment rates from High or Very High Need Study Areas.</i></p>	<p>0-10</p>
<p><i>(B) The program provider's program(s) helps implement park projects and creates jobs and careers in the Parks and Recreation field within High or Very High Need Study Areas, or has a plan to do so (for new programs).</i></p>	<p>0-10</p>

**PLANNING AND DESIGN FUNDS (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE)
SCORING RUBRIC**

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Level of Need	20
Community Involvement Beyond Minimum Requirements*	10
Timeliness and Urgency	20
Existing Planning and Design Challenges	30
TOTAL POINTS	80

*→ projects in existing category
may still receive points
to meet challenges.*

<p>LEVEL OF NEED LEVEL OF NEED IS BASED ON THE CURRENT COUNTYWIDE PMA DETERMINATION. PROJECTS LOCATED WITHIN OR SERVING OR BENEFITTING STUDY AREAS WITH HIGH OR VERY HIGH NEED WILL RECEIVE MORE POINTS THAN PROJECTS THAT DO NOT.</p> <p>Projects may receive up to a maximum of 20 points by meeting one or more of the subcriteria below.</p>	20 MAX.
(A) Project to be planned or designed is located in a High or Very High Need Study Area.	20
(B) Project to be planned or designed is not located in a High or Very High Need Study Area, but will directly serve or benefit the residents of a High or Very High Need Study Area by achieving one or more of the subcriteria below.	10 max.
(B1) The described planning or design process includes a plan for inclusion of participants/future park users who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas. More points will be awarded to projects that can provide statistical information that a high number of residents from High or Very High Need Study Areas currently visit nearby sites or will visit/use the proposed project.	0-6
(B2) The described planning or design process includes meeting the language needs of the participants in the process and/or the future park users who live in High or Very High Need Study Areas.	0-4

* The evaluation criterion of "Community Involvement Beyond Minimum Requirements" will not be applicable to those projects that are more exploratory and/or technical in nature such as adverse site condition assessments or development of construction documents. These types of projects will be scored out of a total of 70 points.

All projects will be scored and ranked based on a percentage of how many points are earned out of a respective total number of points, either 70 or 80 points. For example, a project that earns 56 out of a total of 70 points will be assigned a final percentage of 80 percent to be ranked against other projects within the same award size bracket.



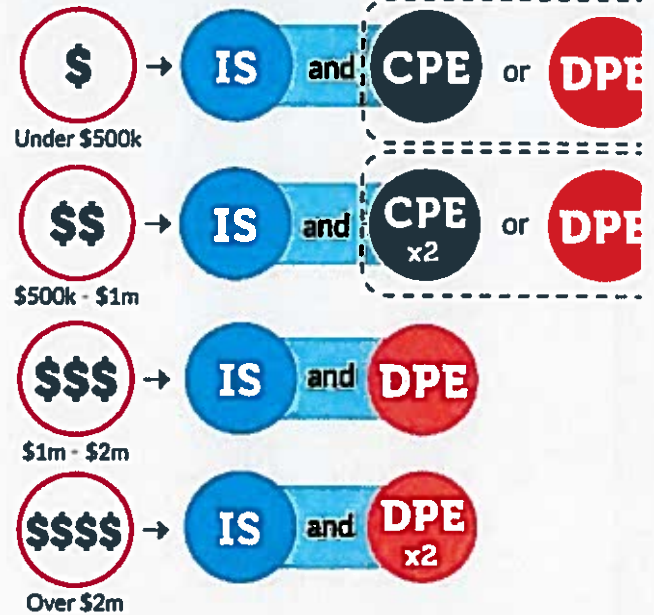
Minimum Engagement Requirements

Find your funding type and total project budget to determine minimum community engagement requirements:

Annual Allocations*



Competitive Grants**



* Applies to all annual allocations, including Categories 1 and 2, as well as Category 3 Department of Beaches and Harbor (DBH) and Category 4 Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR).

** Unique requirements apply to Category 5 Youth and Veteran Job Training and Placement Program

- IS** Information Sharing Approach
- CPE** Concurrent Participatory Engagement Approach
- DPE** Dedicated Participatory Engagement Approach
- x2** Engagement Approach to be Completed at Two Separate Times
- Total Project Budget

Maintenance & Servicing (M&S) Funds



Note: Engagement conducted prior to grant award must have occurred no more than 36 months prior to application date.



To the Placeworks, and RPOSD;

Please find attached a memorandum outlining some of the needs, opportunities and recommendations that Promesa Boyle Heights, InnerCity Struggle and would like to submit as an addition to the Appendix of the Measure A Steering Committee Guidelines documents that will be delivered to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for review.

We have monitored the entire 'Measure A' Steering Committee process, and would like to submit this for the record as part of that package.

Appendix Memo – to the Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles.

“Equity: Systems and Process designed to ensure just and fair access to resources and opportunities in order to promote an inclusionary society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. (Adapted from PolicyLink Equity Manifesto)”

THE NEED

The *Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (Park Needs Assessment)* published in May 2016 identified that 32% of the county population lives in a **very high need** area, with another 24% living in a *high need* area for park need level. The assessment used metrics such as park land, access, pressure, condition, and amenities.

The *Parks Needs Assessment* study areas for Unincorporated East Los Angeles (Northwest/Southeast) are identified as Study Area Profiles #70 and #30 and both East LA Study Areas are categorized as **very high need**.

Further demographics information from the *Parks Needs Assessment* indicate that the East LA Study Areas have a very high rate of occurrence for obesity as measured by the California Physical Fitness Testing Program administered to 5th graders attending public schools in Los Angeles County.

In addition, the Best Start East LA Community Partnership conducted a Community-Based Action Research entitled, the *East Los Angeles Environmental Brief*, which highlighted that lack of access to parks and green spaces as a key issue as well as the underutilization of existing parks in East LA. For example, 62% of residents live near a park but do not use it. Another 20% of survey respondents said their children go to the park less than once a month. Further, 50%

believe that East LA parks are not safe for them and their children and 70% believe that park facilities are poorly maintained.

At least three of ELA parks are within 1,000 feet of a major freeway – thereby exacerbating the negative health impacts due to high levels of contaminants and particulate matter spewing from the hundreds of thousands of vehicles and semi-trucks traversing across ELA on the 10 FWY, 5 FWY, 710 FWY, and the 60 FWY. Due to these high levels of traffic pollution, research by scientists at the Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center and University of South California’s Children’s Environmental Health Center advise not to live, go to school or recreate as it is considered a health risk.

THE OPPORTUNITY

East LA residents are organized and ready to improve park equity in their community and other low-income communities of color. Resident leaders from the Best Start East LA Partnership formed the Parks and Open Space Committee (POSC) with support from Promesa Boyle Heights, InnerCity Struggle, and Proyecto Pastoral. The POSC has been leading efforts to learn, engage other residents, conduct community-based action research, and develop a vision for improving park access and utilization that reflect the needs of surrounding families.

In East LA, parks also help mitigate the impact of environmental health hazards and issues currently impacting our community. According to the East LA Community Parks and Recreation Plan, the environmental benefits of existing parks include: Stormwater annual capture of 1.7 million gallons; 1,600 pounds of reduced air pollutants annually; and 153,000 tons of CO₂ annually sequestered.

Lastly and of important significance for East LA, families with children ages 0-5 rely heavily on parks and other community spaces for socialization and learning opportunities because of the lack of formal early education opportunities in the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Ensure equitable funding of Measure A allocations by setting aside a minimum of 30% of Competitive Funds for projects located in High Need and Very High Need Study Areas.
2. Develop a strong plan for resident leadership, engagement and participation in all aspects of Measure A implementation, including proposal review and oversight committees. These bodies should be representative of residents from each of the 5 supervisory districts, and live in high need/very high need areas and represent at least 50% of the voting power. Allocation of 15% of available points to Community Engagement to ensure those projects that engage in meaningful and robust community engagement receive more points.
3. Ensure a plan that doesn’t lead to displacement; project scoring criteria should encourage and incentivize practical strategies for improving park access while addressing issues of gentrification and displacement.

4. Ensure community priorities are addressed both through Measure A and through ongoing LA County Parks investments and decisions. The POSC is working to address both the structural and programmatic needs at six of the parks within the BSELA community; Salazar, Obregon, Belvedere, City Terrace, Atlantic and Saybrook and have developed the following recommendations;

- a. Infant and Toddler Park Zones: East LA Parks need to expand and create more infant and toddler age-appropriate play areas for babies, *including those with disabilities*, at existing parks, and incorporate these zones in any new park development. Toddler-Infant appropriate play zones might include tunnel mazes and activity panels with “pull up” handles for infants, as well as small multi-level play structures, with crawl tunnels and slides of modest height. Buffer zones should be implemented to between age-specific play areas for safety.
- b. Invest in community-identified infrastructure needs: The POSC in ELA has a set of specific community-identified infrastructure needs that were prioritized through the asset mapping surveying walk-throughs at the above mentioned ELA parks. Some of these needs may align with the Los Angeles County Parks plans, but there needs to be a process that cross-references and outlines which of the community-identified infrastructure needs were not aligned.
- c. Invest in community-identified programming needs: The POSC has also identified a set of programmatic needs that would enhance and enrich the current programs offered at ELA parks. An example would be organized resident-led child development activities and workshops, as well as more programming for children with disabilities. According to the National Recreation and Parks Association, these type of organized activities can increase park use by up to 25%.
- d. Investments that mitigate the environmental hazards in ELA: This includes urban greening projects such as installation of tree canopies, especially along the edges of parks closest or parallel to freeways. Other multi-benefit projects, such as water conservation projects that utilize current and future park space to capture more storm water. A particular identified water project by community was to create green areas with plenty of shade and seating near landscape elements such as ‘bioswales’ and gardens at parks.

For any questions, please contact:

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