

Dear Jane, David, and CC,

Thanks for another great meeting yesterday. I wholeheartedly concur with the comment made at the beginning of the meeting that you all are really doing a wonderful job with this process. I'm sure it can be trying at times!

As I mentioned yesterday, I feel that health should be elevated in the grant application scoring rubric, especially given the findings of our Parks and Public Health report last year (attached). Key findings of that report included the following:

1. Cities and communities across the county with less park space on average have higher rates of premature death from heart disease and stroke, and higher rates of childhood obesity than cities and communities with more park space.
2. A disproportionately high percentage of African Americans and Latinos live in cities and communities with less park space per capita.

Park amenities that encourage physical activity are particularly important. It is well established that physical activity helps prevent chronic diseases like heart disease and stroke. For this reason, we say that an investment in parks is an investment in public health.

I would appreciate it if you would share the Parks and Public Health Report with the Steering Committee in preparation for the meeting where we will discuss the scoring rubric again.

Thank you so much!

Jean

Jean Armbruster
Director, PLACE Program
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/place/>
jarmbruster@ph.lacounty.gov
213-351-1907

Parks and Public Health in Los Angeles County

A Cities and Communities Report



May 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The availability of parks and associated recreational programs can have important public health benefits, including increased physical activity and reduced obesity and chronic disease as well as other positive health and environmental impacts. Unfortunately, Los Angeles County is relatively park poor compared with many other urban jurisdictions in the United States. The objective of this study was to assess park space per capita in relation to premature mortality from cardiovascular disease (heart disease and stroke) and diabetes, childhood obesity prevalence, community level economic hardship, and race/ethnicity in cities and unincorporated communities across Los Angeles County. Large geographic disparities in park space per capita were observed. Cities and communities with less park space per capita on average had higher rates of premature mortality from cardiovascular disease and diabetes, higher prevalence of childhood obesity, and greater economic hardship compared with cities and communities with more park space per capita. African Americans and Latinos were more likely than Asians and Whites to live in cities and communities with less park space per capita. The findings highlight current socioeconomic and racial/ethnic inequities in park space availability across Los Angeles County and suggest that prioritization of resources for park expansion in communities with less park space could help reduce health disparities in the county.

INTRODUCTION

The availability of parks and associated recreational programs impacts the public's health. Parks can be a focal point for promoting physical activity among both children and adults through recreational programs and structured activities such as walking groups.¹ Evidence also suggests that people who live close to park and recreation facilities have lower rates of obesity, and engage in more physical activity than those who do not. For example, a ten-year study of over 3,000 children in southern California found that those living near parks and recreational programs had lower rates of obesity at 18 years of age than comparable children who lived further away.²



Regular physical activity, even at moderate levels (e.g., brisk walking or dancing), has profound health benefits, protecting against heart disease, stroke, diabetes, depression, and many types of cancer. These health benefits also accrue among persons who are overweight or obese, even when they are unable to lose weight. Because of these health benefits, physical activity can improve quality of life, increase productivity, and reduce health care costs.

Parks can also contribute to improved health in other important ways. For example, in communities beset by violence, parks can serve as a platform for violence prevention efforts. This is exemplified both by the City of Los Angeles' Summer Night Lights Program and the County's Parks After Dark (PAD) initiative, which provide expanded youth and adult programming at parks on summer evenings. These parks-related interventions have had documented success in reducing serious and violent crime in surrounding neighborhoods.³ In addition, evaluation of the PAD initiative has found it to be immensely popular among community members, having increased perceptions of safety, improved relations between law enforcement and community members, and increased community cohesion, which leads to stronger social support networks that further improve health.

Parks can also serve as locations for outreach to increase access to and enrollment in health and social services, youth development programs, employment events/job fairs, and nutrition assistance programs. Park facilities can serve as meeting places for local residents to address health and social issues in their communities. Parks can also provide space for community gardens and farmers' markets, thereby increasing community access to fresh produce, a major issue in many economically disadvantaged neighborhoods with high rates of obesity and diabetes.

Parks also have environmental benefits that can protect and improve health. For example, parks can reduce the impacts of heat waves by providing shade and ameliorating the “heat island effect” experienced in urban settings where asphalt and other hard surfaces reflect and intensify the heat.⁴ Trees in parks, in particular, can mitigate urban heat islands directly by shading heat-absorbing surfaces.⁵ Further, parks can be designed in ways that increase sustainability by creating permeable surfaces that absorb rain water and replenish groundwater; capturing rain water through cisterns or rain barrels so water can be used for grounds maintenance; allowing for habitat restoration; and reducing storm water run-off.^{6, 7}

Despite these abundant health and environmental benefits, Los Angeles County is relatively park poor compared to many other urban settings in the United States.⁸ Across the county, marked disparities have been reported in the amount of park space available for local residents.⁹ In addition, relatively little is known about the quality of facilities and availability of recreational programs in parks and how these may vary across cities and communities.

In 2015, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation initiated a countywide assessment of the need for parks and recreational facilities (Parks Needs Assessment) in both cities and unincorporated areas. The goal of the Parks Needs Assessment was to engage all communities within the county in a collaborative process to gather data and input for future decision-making on parks and recreation. The results of the assessment provide valuable information on existing park and recreation assets, and will help determine how to best improve and expand these assets and make them more accessible. The Parks Needs Assessment final report (May 2016) identifies, prioritizes, and provides estimated costs for potential park projects within each of the county’s study areas.

The County Department of Public Health has prepared this additional report to provide further information on the important relationships between parks and public health. The report provides data on selected health outcomes, demographic characteristics, and socioeconomic conditions in cities and communities across the county in relation to park space per capita. The report is intended as a complement to the Parks Needs Assessment Report. However, because different methodologies were used to calculate park space per capita, some results may not be directly comparable across the two reports.



STUDY METHODS

Defining cities and communities within Los Angeles County:

City boundaries were defined using the 2010 U.S. Census of Incorporated Places. Because of the large size of the City of Los Angeles, results were further broken down by Los Angeles City Council Districts. In areas of the County outside of cities (i.e., unincorporated areas), communities were defined using U.S. Census Designated Place boundaries. To ensure numerical stability of rate calculations, cities and communities with population below 10,000 were excluded from this study. Based on this methodology, a total of 120 geographic areas, including the 88 cities, Council Districts in the City of Los Angeles, and unincorporated communities, henceforth referred to as cities/communities, were included in the analysis.

Quantifying park space per capita:

Park space was approximated from the Land Types digital database (LA County GIS Data Portal <http://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2015/01/08/la-county-land-types/>) by selecting Regional Parks and Gardens and Recreational Centers features. Only park areas located within city or community boundaries were included. Natural areas and wildlife sanctuaries (including the Santa Monica and San Gabriel mountain recreational areas), beaches and marinas, and historical parks were excluded from the analysis.

Park space per capita was calculated to indicate park acres per 1,000 population (Census 2010). Each city and community was then assigned a rank based on its park space per capita ratio, with 1 having the most and 120 having the least park space per capita.

Quantifying premature mortality from cardiovascular disease and diabetes:

“Premature mortality” was defined as any death before the age of 75 years, a standard cut-off used in public health studies. Therefore, if a person died at age 45 years, he or she was considered to have lost 30 years of life. A person who died at age 72 years was considered to have lost three years.

All deaths in the County in 2009-2011 in which coronary heart disease (ICD10 codes I20-I25) or stroke (ICD10 codes I60-I69) was listed on the death certificate as the underlying cause of death were considered deaths from cardiovascular disease. Deaths from diabetes mellitus (ICD10 codes E10-E14) were those in which diabetes was listed as the underlying cause of death. The rate of premature death was calculated by dividing the total number of years of life lost in a given city or community, referred to as years of potential life lost (YPLLs), by the size of the population under the age of 75 years. The rates were annualized and age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population to account for differences in age distributions of different populations. Cities/communities were ranked, with a ranking of 1 corresponding to the lowest (or best) rate of premature mortality and a ranking of 120 corresponding to the highest (or worst) rate of premature mortality.

Quantifying the prevalence of childhood obesity:

The prevalence of childhood obesity was estimated using 2009-2010 school year data from the California Physical Fitness Testing Program on measured height and weight in 5th graders attending public schools in Los Angeles County. This data was obtained from the California Department of Education, and the location of the public school where the child was in attendance was used to determine the prevalence of obesity for a city or community. Body mass index (BMI) was calculated from the height and weight measurements. Children were classified as obese if their BMI was at or above the 95th percentile for their gender and age using growth charts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In cities or communities with less than 50 students with BMI data, results on childhood obesity prevalence were not considered reliable and are therefore not presented. Cities/communities were ranked in the same manner as was done with premature mortality described above.

Quantifying community economic hardship:

Social and economic conditions in a community have been shown to be a powerful influence on health. Therefore, to assess this potential health vulnerability, a measure called the Economic Hardship Index was used for the analysis. The Index is scored by combining six indicators:

- 1) crowded housing, defined as the percent of occupied housing units with more than one person per room
- 2) percent of population living below the federal poverty level
- 3) percent of persons over the age of 16 years that are unemployed
- 4) percent of persons over the age of 25 years with less than a high school education
- 5) dependency, defined as the percent of the population under 18 or over 64 years of age
- 6) income per capita.

The Index score represents the average of the standardized ratios of all six component variables. Data for these indicators were obtained from the U.S. Census' American Community Survey, 2008-2012 5-year estimates. Scores on the index can range from 1 to 100, with a higher index number representing a greater level of economic hardship. In the present analysis, scores for this compilation ranged from 13 to 83.

Estimating racial/ethnic variation in park space proximity:

Racial and ethnic groups display marked differences in life expectancy, disease burden, and health risks. To examine how racial/ethnic groups (White, African American, Asian, and Latino) may be disproportionately impacted by greater or lesser proximity to park space, cities/communities were aggregated into quartiles based on park space per capita (quartile 1 included cities/communities with the most park space per capita and quartile 4 included cities/communities with the least park space per capita). The percentage of each racial/ethnic population that resided in cities/communities within each quartile was then calculated and compared across racial/ethnic groups.

RESULTS

Park space per capita varied widely across the cities/communities, with San Dimas and Malibu having the most park space (56.0 and 55.5 acres per 1,000 population, respectively), and 17 cities/communities having less than 0.5 acres per 1,000 population (Table 1). Within the City of Los Angeles, Council Districts 11 and 4 had the most park space per capita (35.1 and 16.8 acres per 1,000, respectively), while Council Districts 5, 8, 9, 10, and 13 all had less than 1.0 acre per 1,000 population.



A negative correlation was found between city/community economic hardship and park space per capita (i.e., as economic hardship increased, park space per capita decreased).¹¹ The maps presented in Figure 1a and 1b provide a spatial representation of this correlation.

Rates of premature mortality from cardiovascular disease and diabetes and prevalence of childhood obesity were inversely related to park space per capita (i.e., as park space per capita decreased, premature mortality from cardiovascular disease and diabetes and prevalence of childhood obesity increased; Table 2). This relationship was most pronounced for diabetes premature mortality, with those living in cities/communities with the least park space per capita having nearly double the rate of premature mortality (189 years of potential life lost per 100,000 population) as those living in cities/communities with the most park space per capita (96 years of potential life lost per 100,000 population).

Park space per capita was also associated with race/ethnicity (Figure 2). African Americans and Latinos were more likely to reside in cities/communities with less park space per capita (56% and 50%, respectively, resided in cities/communities in quartiles 3 and 4) compared to Whites and Asians (27% and 36%, respectively, resided in cities/communities in quartiles 3 and 4).



TABLE 1: Park space per capita, premature mortality from cardiovascular disease and diabetes, childhood obesity prevalence, and economic hardship, by city/community, Los Angeles County.

CITY OR COMMUNITY	PARK SPACE		CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE PREMATURE MORTALITY		DIABETES PREMATURE MORTALITY		CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVALENCE		ECONOMIC HARDSHIP INDEX	
	ACRES per 1,000	RANK (N=120)	YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST PER 100,000	RANK (N=120)	YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST PER 100,000	RANK (N=120)	PERCENT	RANK (N=113)	PERCENT	RANK (N=120)
Agoura Hills	2.4	35	246.6	4	17.4	9	7.3†	6	26.5	14
Alhambra	0.8	82	438.0	28	98.5	46	19.6	37	41.1	48
Altadena*	1.1	66	436.0	27	63.3	32	32.7†	84	37.5	46
Arcadia	2.0	43	431.9	25	49.1	20	9.1	9	31.5	27
Artesia	1.0	75	718.0	87	72.8	37	37.6†	111	44.2	56
Avocado Heights*	1.6	49	738.7	89	260.4	104	26.1†	58	56.0	82
Azusa	1.1	67	640.3	68	181.3	83	28.1	65	50.2	68
Baldwin Park	0.3	110	718.5	88	139.6	60	31.0	76	65.3	99
Bell	0.2	114	541.4	50	271.6	107	33.2	92	77.6	112
Bell Gardens	1.7	47	747.7	92	266.0	106	39.5	112	78.6	114
Bellflower	0.6	90	1062.2	116	192.5	86	25.9	57	52.3	74
Beverly Hills	2.8	29	322.1	12	23.5	11	6.1	4	27.1	17
Burbank	8.5	10	494.2	40	59.4	28	--	--	34.6	33
Calabasas	3.5	23	276.8	8	1.3	2	4.0	2	24.1	10
Carson	1.6	50	698.2	83	239.1	101	30.3	74	46.9	60
Castaic*	2.1	42	679.5	79	184.9	84	11.3	16	30.1	25
Cerritos	3.6	21	377.9	20	36.8	16	13.9	22	33.5	31
Citrus*	0.5	100	382.0	23	169.6	77	--	--	45.4	58
Claremont	3.6	22	714.5	86	48.8	19	16.3	30	34.6	32
Commerce	2.4	36	836.0	101	310.6	112	32.7†	86	69.7	105
Compton	0.6	88	974.5	111	289.8	110	33.0	90	74.2	109
Covina	1.2	64	784.8	96	245.4	102	25.4	56	45.0	57
Cudahy	0.7	86	474.8	34	175.2	80	31.4	78	82.2	119
Culver City	2.9	26	471.3	32	61.2	30	16.8	31	29.2	23
Del Aire*	0.7	87	552.2	53	102.1	47	21.7†	41	34.8	34
Diamond Bar	5.2	14	336.8	14	50.4	21	17.6	33	28.1	20
Downey	0.9	76	583.8	58	142.2	61	23.9	50	48.5	66
Duarte	2.2	40	679.1	78	157.3	69	19.0†	35	43.6	55
East Los Angeles*	0.7	85	653.6	71	324.7	115	34.3	101	75.1	110

East Rancho Dominguez*	0.4	108	●	993.2	112	●	408.1	117	●	--	--	73.1	107	●	
East San Gabriel*	0	119	●	433.7	26	●	103.0	49	●	11.6†	18	●	32.7	29	●
El Monte	0.4	105	●	771.6	94	●	171.5	78	●	33.5	96	●	67.5	101	●
El Segundo	2.5	33	●	366.9	19	●	5.0	4	●	14.4†	24	●	23.5	9	●
Florence-Graham*	1.1	70	●	800.5	98	●	157.9	70	●	36.1	105	●	78.2	113	●
Gardena	0.9	77	●	870.0	103	●	166.1	76	●	28.0	64	●	48.0	64	●
Glendale	8.8	7	●	488.3	38	●	48.0	18	●	25.3	55	●	41.5	50	●
Glendora	1.4	57	●	340.2	15	●	116.9	52	●	15.7	28	●	35.4	36	●
Hacienda Heights*	5.4	13	●	287.4	9	●	127.4	57	●	22.4	44	●	36.3	38	●
Hawaiian Gardens	0.1	115	●	495.5	41	●	436.6	119	●	27.4†	63	●	61.5	92	●
Hawthorne	0.4	102	●	773.7	95	●	160.8	73	●	31.5	79	●	51.5	72	●
Hermosa Beach	2.4	38	●	329.4	13	●	77.9	39	●	11.0†	15	●	13.2	1	●
Huntington Park	0.9	80	●	546.3	51	●	190.1	85	●	31.2	77	●	81.8	118	●
Inglewood	0.8	81	●	914.8	106	●	172.9	79	●	30.1	72	●	55.2	80	●
La Canada Flintridge	7.4	11	●	275.1	6	●	28.9	13	●	8.8	8	●	21.2	6	●
La Crescenta-Montrose*	0.4	103	●	614.6	61	●	18.3	10	●	12.0	19	●	29.0	22	●
La Mirada	4.0	18	●	625.4	63	●	60.9	29	●	23.1	45	●	38.8	47	●
La Puente	0.6	94	●	513.7	42	●	232.2	98	●	28.4	68	●	56.1	83	●
La Verne	2.9	27	●	566.2	55	●	160.0	72	●	14.5	25	●	35.4	35	●
Lake Los Angeles*	8.8	8	●	1128.1	118	●	212.9	91	●	--	--	63.1	98	●	
Lakewood	2.3	39	●	645.8	70	●	126.0	56	●	23.4	47	●	36.8	41	●
Lancaster	1.5	55	●	966.7	110	●	289.7	109	●	25.1	53	●	50.5	70	●
Lawndale	0.4	109	●	528.0	46	●	206.7	90	●	26.8	61	●	55.1	79	●
Lennox*	0.2	113	●	663.2	73	●	180.2	82	●	--	--	76.1	111	●	
Lomita	0.5	97	●	558.6	54	●	96.9	45	●	30.4	75	●	36.5	40	●
Long Beach	2.8	30	●	937.4	109	●	155.7	65	●	26.4	59	●	50.1	67	●
Los Angeles City, All Districts															
LACD 1	2.9	25	●	640.2	66	●	151.3	62	●	33.0	88	●	72.5	106	●
LACD 2	1.5	52	●	665.2	74	●	102.8	48	●	34.3	100	●	47.5	61	●
LACD 3	2.5	34	●	531.4	47	●	84.9	43	●	23.7	48	●	43.4	54	●
LACD 4	16.8	4	●	473.0	33	●	66.7	34	●	22.2	43	●	27.7	19	●

* indicates unincorporated city as defined by the US Census Designated Place boundaries

-- indicates the data were not available, or results were suppressed due to number of students with BMI-related information being <50

† Estimate may be unstable and should be interpreted with caution due to small number of students with BMI-related information in this stratum.

NOTE: YPLL-75 rates are derived from multi-year 2009-2011 death data, and 2010 population estimates.

● 1st quartile (rank 1-30) ● 2nd quartile (rank 31-60)
● 3rd quartile (rank 61-90) ● 4th quartile (rank 91-120)

TABLE 1: Park space per capita, premature mortality from cardiovascular disease and diabetes, childhood obesity prevalence, and economic hardship, by city/community, Los Angeles County.

CITY OR COMMUNITY	PARK SPACE		CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE PREMATURE MORTALITY		DIABETES PREMATURE MORTALITY		CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVALENCE		ECONOMIC HARDSHIP INDEX	
	ACRES per 1,000	RANK (N=120)	YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST PER 100,000	RANK (N=120)	YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST PER 100,000	RANK (N=120)	PERCENT	RANK (N=113)	PERCENT	RANK (N=120)
LACD 5	0.6	93	341.0	16	51.3	24	12.5	20	26.7	16
LACD 6	1.9	45	835.2	100	123.7	55	34.4	102	62.6	95
LACD 7	2.9	24	672.2	75	151.5	63	32.5	82	56.1	84
LACD 8	0.5	96	1199.1	119	318.1	114	35.5	104	67.3	100
LACD 9	0.4	107	1027.3	114	235.7	99	33.3	93	82.9	120
LACD 10	0.6	89	893.3	104	157.2	68	32.4	81	58.1	88
LACD 11	35.1	3	379.5	22	54.3	27	19.9	38	25.8	11
LACD 12	2.6	32	551.1	52	109.9	50	23.2	46	36.5	39
LACD 13	0.9	78	740.2	90	153.6	64	34.2	99	57.1	86
LACD 14	1.1	68	787.0	97	216.1	93	33.4	95	61.1	91
LACD 15	2.4	37	841.3	102	179.4	81	32.6	83	61.6	94
Lynwood	0.6	91	919.6	107	165.5	74	--	--	73.9	108
Malibu	55.5	2	354.7	18	0	1	8.3†	7	20.5	4
Manhattan Beach	2.1	41	291.6	10	2.6	3	2.9	1	15.9	2
Maywood	0.3	112	491.3	39	334.1	116	33.3	94	79.3	116
Monrovia	1.0	72	644.6	69	95.6	44	24.9	52	35.5	37
Montebello	1.3	58	640.2	67	197.4	87	29.2	69	52.2	73
Monterey Park	1.5	54	444.3	29	62.1	31	14.8	27	48.4	65
Norwalk	0.9	79	750.3	93	165.8	75	29.3	70	54.1	77
Palmdale	1.7	48	694.8	81	236.2	100	24.4	51	56.9	85
Palos Verdes Estates	0.1	117	146.7	1	11.8	7	5.5	3	18.3	3
Paramount	1.0	74	805.5	99	301.0	111	31.8	80	68.5	103
Pasadena	2.8	28	567.4	56	51.3	25	28.4	66	37.2	44
Pico Rivera	1.3	60	620.9	62	112.6	51	29.4	71	54.0	76
Pomona	1.5	53	902.4	105	159.2	71	32.8	87	61.6	93
Quartz Hill*	1.3	63	1062.7	117	228.7	96	9.6†	10	47.6	62
Rancho Palos Verdes	10.0	5	295.3	11	10.8	6	11.6	17	26.3	13
Redondo Beach	1.3	62	483.4	37	46.3	17	16.0	29	21.7	7
Rosemead	1.1	69	569.5	57	33.8	15	21.1	39	57.4	87

Rowland Heights*	9.5	6	17	350.5	79.8	41	21.2	40	37.4	45
San Dimas	56.0	1	80	694.7	50.9	23	19.6	36	32.0	28
San Fernando	1.0	71	45	527.1	131.2	58	36.9	109	62.7	97
San Gabriel	0.4	106	65	635.1	79.8	40	17.4	32	42.5	53
San Marino	2.0	44	5	261.3	9.3	5	6.6†	5	21.0	5
Santa Clarita	4.4	16	36	480.9	53.5	26	14.2	23	37.1	43
Santa Fe Springs	4.2	17	91	743.2	213.3	92	33.9	97	54.1	78
Santa Monica	1.3	61	43	515.0	84.6	42	9.8	11	25.9	12
Sierra Madre	3.9	19	2	193.7	28.1	12	13.1†	21	30.5	26
Signal Hill	4.5	15	108	936.3	0	1	23.9†	49	41.2	49
South El Monte	1.1	65	64	625.6	318.1	113	33.9	98	62.7	96
South Gate	1.3	59	77	675.5	155.7	66	36.5	107	69.0	104
South Pasadena	1.6	51	30	450.3	13.0	8	10.7	13	26.6	15
South San Jose Hills*	0.3	111	85	714.1	123.1	53	26.8	60	59.8	90
South Whittier*	0.6	95	72	657.9	198.0	89	33.1	91	51.2	71
Stevenson Ranch*	2.6	31	3	201.4	31.1	14	10.1	12	28.4	21
Sun Village*	0.8	83	115	1033.9	280.0	108	25.2†	54	55.4	81
Temple City	0.5	98	21	378.0	68.7	35	19.0	34	36.9	42
Torrance	1.9	46	35	476.4	76.9	38	10.9	14	32.9	30
Valinda*	0.4	104	60	597.2	69.1	36	37.5	110	52.8	75
View Park-Windsor Hills*	8.7	9	48	536.6	197.9	88	21.8	42	29.9	24
Vincent*	0.6	92	44	526.6	64.5	33	36.9†	108	47.7	63
Walnut	7.0	12	7	275.4	50.6	22	14.6	26	27.7	18
Walnut Park*	0.1	116	24	420.7	247.7	103	35.0†	103	79.2	115
West Carson*	0	119	49	540.1	155.8	67	41.4†	113	42.1	52
West Covina	1.4	56	84	709.4	226.9	94	27.0	62	45.5	59
West Hollywood	0.5	99	31	451.7	131.6	59	--	--	22.2	8
West Puente Valley*	0.7	84	82	696.2	230.0	97	30.2	73	58.4	89
West Whittier-Los Nietos*	0.5	101	59	591.8	227.8	95	36.2	106	50.5	69
Westmont*	0.1	118	120	1368.1	417.6	118	33.0	89	68.2	102
Whittier	1.0	73	76	674.5	123.5	54	28.4	67	41.6	51
Willowbrook*	3.9	20	113	1022.7	265.1	105	32.7	85	81.6	117

* indicates unincorporated city as defined by the US Census Designated Place boundaries

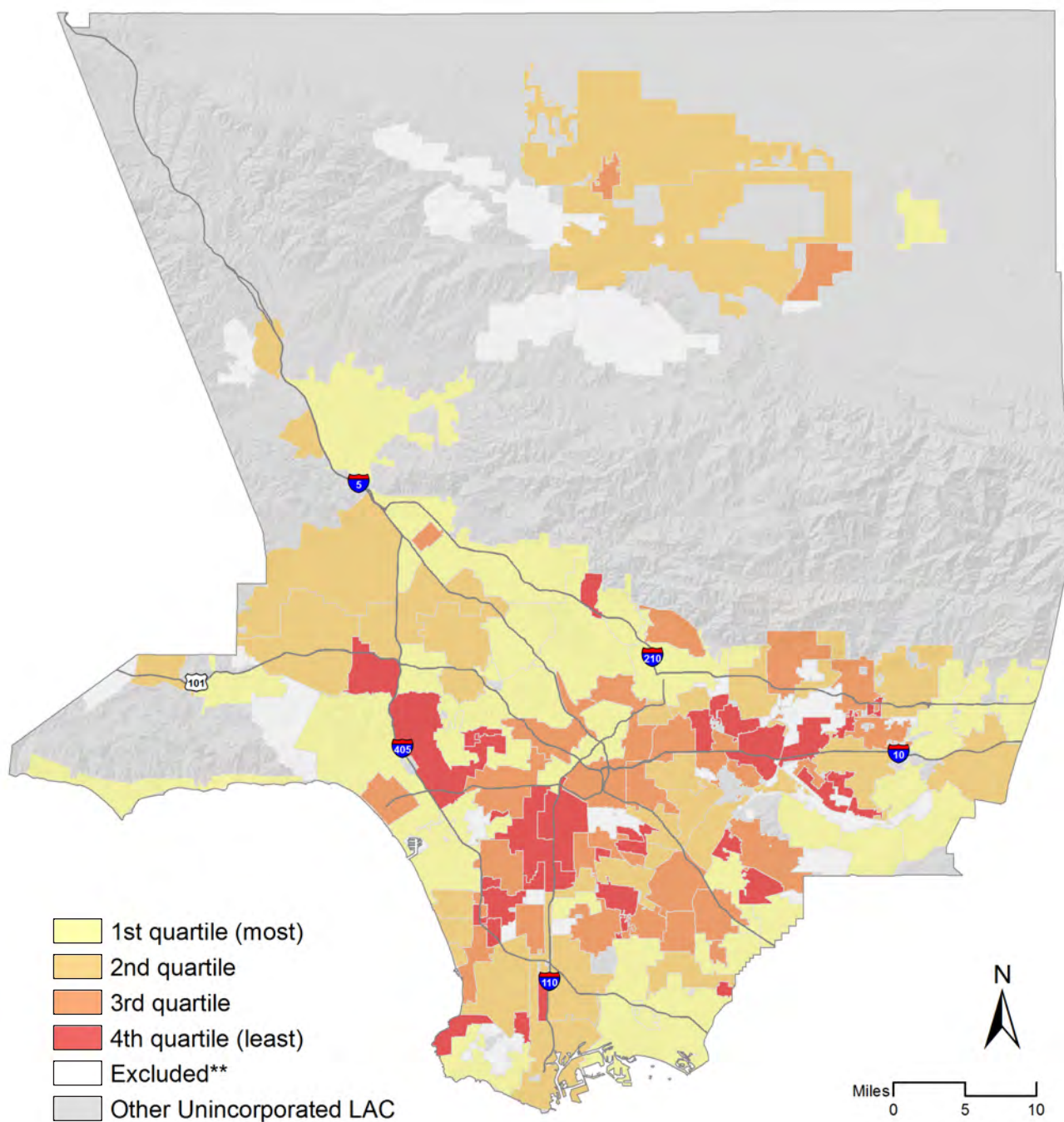
-- indicates the data were not available, or results were suppressed due to small number of students with BMI-related information in this stratum.

† Estimate may be unstable and should be interpreted with caution due to small number of students with BMI-related information in this stratum.

NOTE: YPLL-75 rates are derived from multi-year 2009-2011 death data, and 2010 population estimates.

● 1st quartile (rank 1-30) ● 2nd quartile (rank 31-60)
 ● 3rd quartile (rank 61-90) ● 4th quartile (rank 91-120)

FIGURE 1A. Map of park space* per capita by city and community, Los Angeles County.



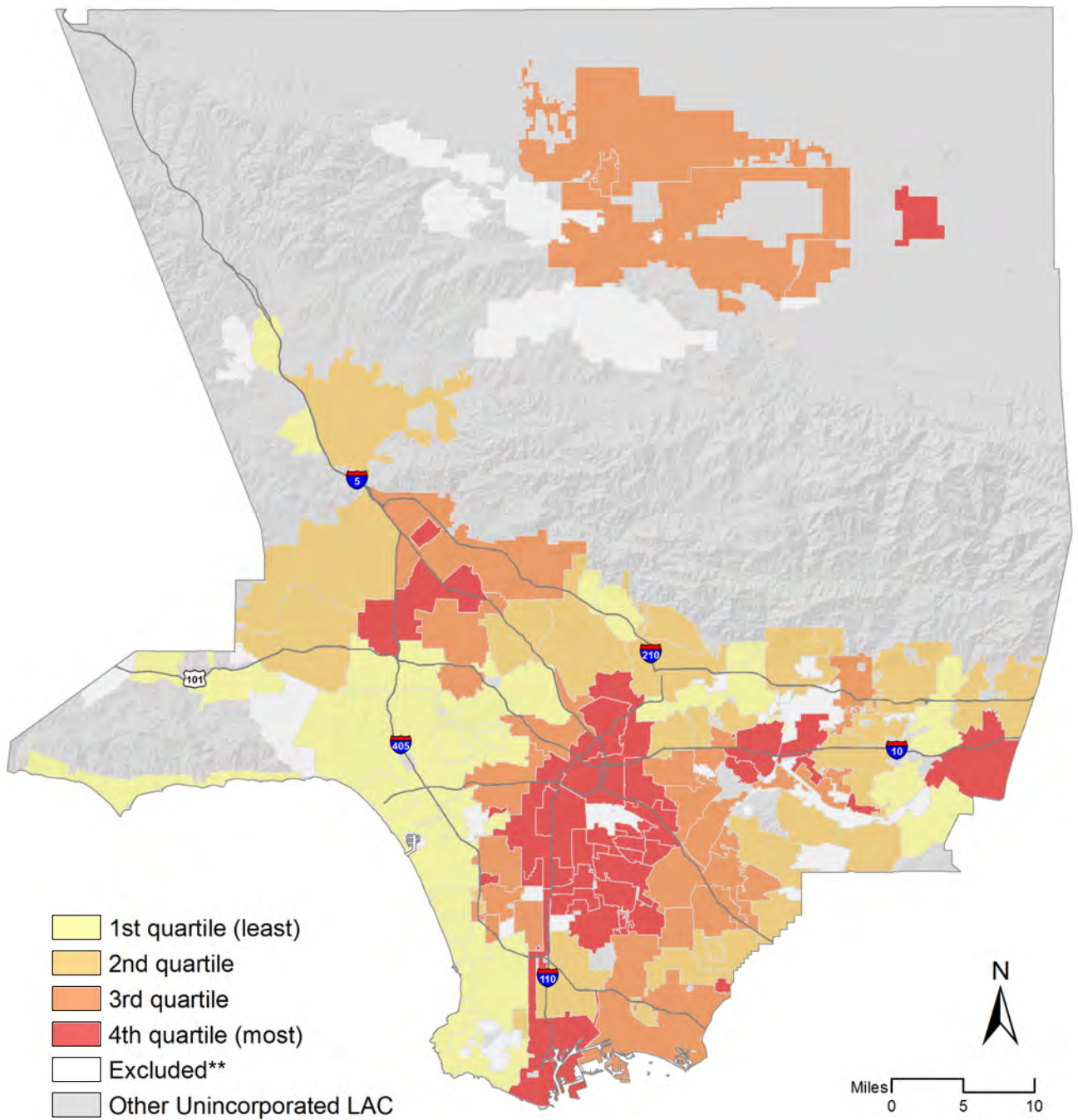
* Acres per 1,000 population
 ** Population below 10,000

Source: LA County GIS Data Portal, US Census Bureau



LA County DPH, Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology, 3/2016

FIGURE 1B. Map of economic hardship index* by city and community, Los Angeles County.



* Score based on ACS 2012 5-Year estimates
 ** Population below 10,000

Source: US Census Bureau



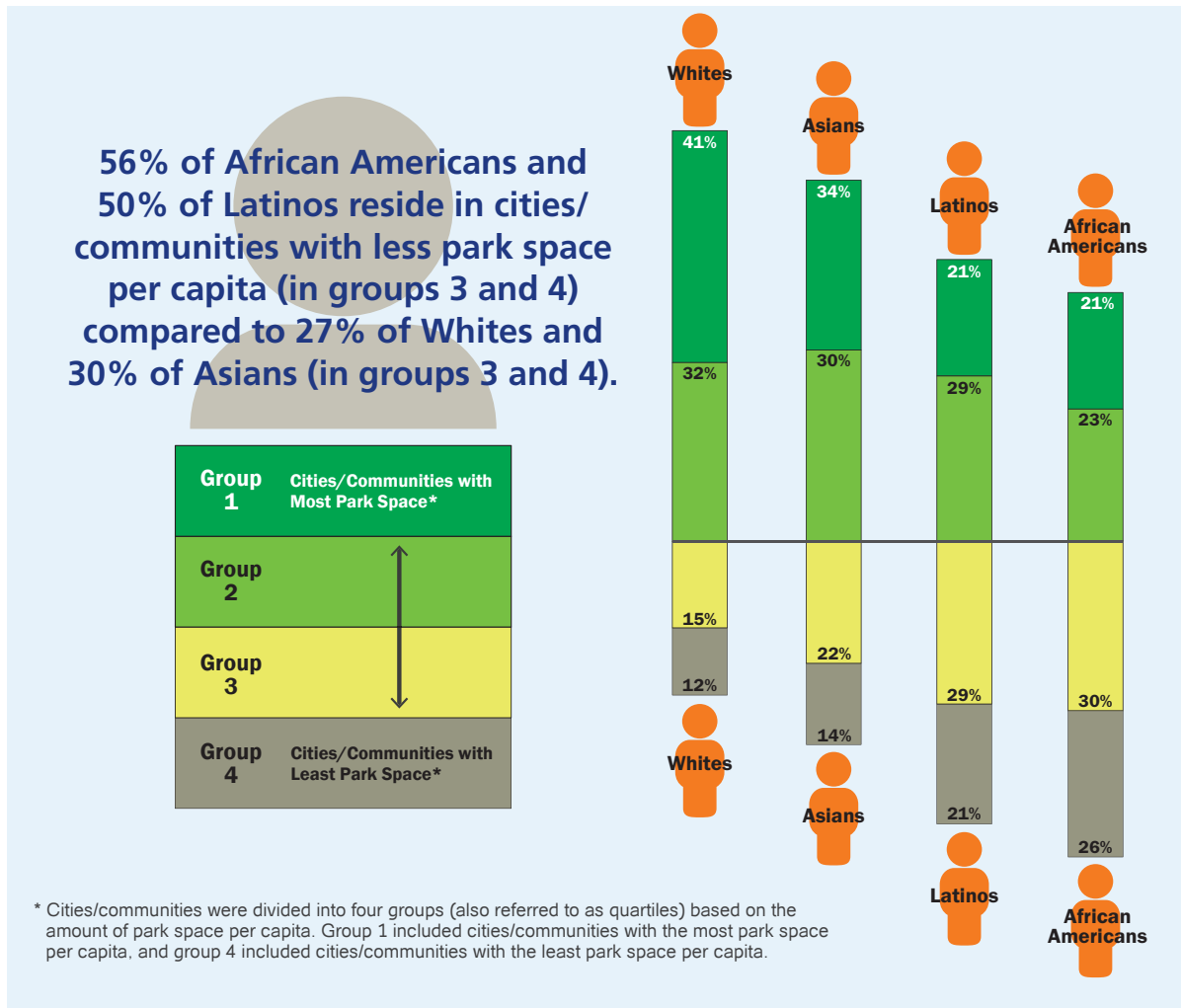
LA County DPH, Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology, 3/2016

TABLE 2: Rates of premature mortality from cardiovascular disease and diabetes and prevalence of childhood obesity, by park area per capita, Los Angeles County.

PARK AREA PER CAPITA (QUARTILES)	CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE PREMATURE MORTALITY (YPLLs* PER 100,000)	DIABETES PREMATURE MORTALITY (YPLLs* PER 100,000)	CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVALENCE
(Most Park Space per Capita) Quartile 1	588	96	24%
Quartile 2	667	144	26%
Quartile 3	735	174	30%
Quartile 4 (Least Park Space per Capita)	752	189	31%

*YPLLs - Years of Potential Life Lost

FIGURE 2: Race/ethnicity and park space per capita



DISCUSSION

Recent studies indicate that access to parks and recreational resources is more limited in poor and minority communities, and have highlighted park disparities by class, race, and ethnicity.^{9,12} Our study findings are consistent with this literature. We found large disparities in park space per capita across cities and communities in Los Angeles County. Cities and communities with less park space are in many cases further disadvantaged by high levels of economic hardship and high rates of childhood obesity and premature mortality from cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Further, a disproportionately high percentage of African Americans and Latinos live in cities and communities with less park space per capita.



These findings have significant public health implications given the high rates of chronic disease in low income communities and communities of color. Increasing levels of physical activity is an important public health strategy for preventing and managing chronic conditions. Hence, prioritization of park space that provides additional opportunities for physical activity in these communities would address a critical public health need. Expansion of parks in these cities and communities in coordination with other health promotion and disease prevention efforts could help improve the health of these populations and help reduce health inequities. In addition, given the contribution of parks programming in reducing violent crime in communities around parks, expansion of parks programming could also help reduce violence-related trauma.



This study has the following limitations. First, the analysis did not include the quality of existing park space or the availability of associated programming. These factors are clearly important in considering park equity and the potential for parks to improve the public's health. Second, indicators of community safety or measures of public perceptions of community safety were not assessed in the study. Safety is a major factor influencing the likelihood that parks will be accessible and utilized by those in the community. Third, the study did not measure

distances from individual residences to park space but, rather, used park area per capita at the city/ community level as a proxy for park proximity.

Lastly, the study was ecologic and cross-sectional in design and, therefore, the associations found between park space per capita and the health conditions included in the study should not be viewed as evidence that limited park space caused these conditions. Rather, these findings may reflect a constellation of conditions in these communities that give rise to health inequities.

For this reason, some cities and communities were found to have inconsistent results for park space per capita and the health conditions (e.g., some cities/communities had relatively large amounts of park space per capita but nonetheless had high rates of childhood obesity and premature mortality from cardiovascular disease and diabetes).

These limitations notwithstanding, the study highlights the presence of large inequities in park space across cities and unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County. The findings further underscore the importance of considering these inequities, as well as the burden of chronic disease, local economic conditions, and racial/ethnic population mix in prioritizing future park development and recreational programming.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Prioritize parks resources in the highest need areas

Differences in park distribution are driven, in part, by limited resources for parks in many municipal budgets as well as a dearth of state and federal funding sources for municipal park infrastructure, operations and maintenance, including programming. For example, a 2010 study in the Los Angeles region found that the poorest, most densely populated cities allocated the lowest levels of parks and recreation funding in the region, highlighting the importance of identifying additional funding for these cities.¹³ To address inequities, parks funding allocated via grant applications could forego requirements for matching funds from low income communities and technical assistance could be provided to increase the likelihood of success.

Provide recreational programming and include only healthy food and beverages at local parks

The presence of recreational programming has been shown to greatly increase the numbers of persons engaging in moderate to vigorous physical activity in parks and other recreational settings.¹⁴ In addition, by activating outdoor spaces via walking clubs, soccer games, youth sports, and other organized activities, programming can help parks feel safer in communities where the presence of violence and crime are a deterrent to recreational activity. Programming can therefore increase social cohesion as well as increase physical activity. In parks that have vending machines or snack shops, or serve food as part of their programming, provision of foods and beverages meeting specified nutrition standards can help promote healthy diets.¹⁵



Design parks for safety

The design of parks and recreation facilities can have a direct impact on people's perceptions of safety and their willingness to use a space. Park design should take advantage of opportunities for informal surveillance by people in the area and should reduce the number of isolated places where crime can take place unseen. For example, activity areas can be clustered together with clear sightlines between areas and with washrooms located nearby. The layout of the park should be easily understood, with



entrances and exits clearly marked and pathways well connected to destinations. Lighting should help direct pedestrian movement along well-illuminated and frequently-used routes at night. The park perimeter should be inviting so that people can observe pleasing activities visible from the street and are encouraged to enter. Vegetation should be selected so as to not block sightlines once mature.

Provide safe bike and pedestrian access to and between parks

Parks and the streets around them should be designed to encourage easy and comfortable access for all types of users, including those without a car. Bike and pedestrian paths within the park should connect and integrate with public transit stations and the transportation patterns of the surrounding community to encourage maximum use. Primary access routes should be clearly identifiable from the street. Access routes should follow “desire lines,” e.g., easy and safe bike and pedestrian access where people want to walk and bike. If possible, the park should function as a shortcut between major destination points to increase visible activity and informal surveillance.

Design parks to increase sustainability

When designing new parks or retrofitting existing parks, every opportunity should be taken to integrate multiple benefits associated with green infrastructure. For example, parks should be designed in ways that increase sustainability by creating permeable surfaces that replenish groundwater sources and reduce storm water run-off or capture rainfall to be used for maintenance. Park design should also reduce greenhouse gas emissions; increase carbon sequestration; reduce the heat island effect; protect habitat and biodiversity; and promote urban agriculture.

Use best-practice mitigation for parks in proximity to freeways and high-volume roadways

Placing parks and active recreational facilities near freeways and high volume roadways may increase health risks associated with exposure to traffic-related pollution. However, there are also substantial health benefits associated with the physical activity that can be undertaken in parks. To address exposure concerns, new parks with playgrounds, athletic fields, courts, and other outdoor facilities designed for moderate to vigorous physical activity, should be sited as far as possible from freeways and high-traffic roads. Parks within 1,500 feet of freeways should adhere to best-practice mitigation measures that minimize exposure to air pollution. These include placing playgrounds, athletic fields, and other outdoor active recreation venues as far as possible from traffic, and planting trees and other vegetation between these venues and traffic sources.

REFERENCES

1. Cohen D, et al. Contribution of public parks to physical activity. *Am J Public Health* 2007;97:509-514.
2. Wolch J, et al. Childhood obesity and proximity to urban parks and recreational resources: A longitudinal cohort study. *Health and Place* 2010;16(3):137-57.
3. Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The potential costs and health benefits of Parks After Dark: rapid health impact assessment (executive summary). September, 2014 (available at: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/pa/reports/PAD_Policy_Brief.pdf).
4. American Planning Association. How cities use parks for climate change management (executive summary). 2007 (available at: <https://www.planning.org/cityparks/briefingpapers/pdf/climatechangemanagement.pdf>).
5. McPherson, EG. Cooling urban heat islands with sustainable landscapes. In: Platt, Rutherford H.; Rowntree, Rowan A.; Muick, Pamela C.; eds. *The ecological city: preserving and restoring urban biodiversity*. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press 1994;151-171.
6. Sayre, JM, et al. Green Visions Plan for 21st Century Southern California: A Guide for Habitat Conservation, Watershed Health, and Recreational Open Space. 11. Best Management Practices (BMP) for the Treatment of Stormwater Runoff, University of Southern California GIS Research Laboratory and Center for Sustainable Cities, Los Angeles, California, 2006.
7. Pincetl, S & Gearin, E. The Reinvention of Public Green Space. *Urban Geography*, 2005;26, 5:365–384.
8. The Trust for Public Land. No place to play: a comparative analysis of park access in seven major cities. November, 2004.
9. Wolch J R et al. Parks and park funding in Los Angeles: an equity mapping approach. *Urban Geography* 2005;26:4-25.
10. Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (see <http://lacountyparkneeds.org/>).
11. Correlation coefficient 0.45; p-value < 0.001.
12. Lindsey J et al. Access, equity, and urban greenways: an exploratory investigation. *Professional Geographer* 2001; 53:332-346.
13. Joassart-Marcelli P. Leveling the playing field? Urban disparities in funding for local parks and recreation in the Los Angeles region. *Environment and Planning* 2010;42:1171-1192.
14. Lafleur M, Gonzalez E, Schwarte L, Banthia R, Kuo T, Verderber J, Simon P. Increasing physical activity in under-resourced communities through school-based, joint use agreements, Los Angeles County, 2010-2012. *Prev Chron Dis* 2013;10:120270. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd10.120270>.
15. Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Creating healthy food environments: healthy food procurement practices in the County of Los Angeles. Available at: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/chronic/docs/20131227_Creating_Health_Food.pdf.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention
3530 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(213) 351 - 7825

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Sheila Kuehl
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Cynthia Harding, MPH
Interim Director

Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, MD, MPH
Interim Health Officer

The following staff contributed to this report:

Division of Assessment, Quality, and Planning

Paul Simon, MD, MPH, Division Director and Chief Science Officer

Douglas Frye, MD, MPH, Interim Director, Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology

Alex Ho, MD, MPH, Supervising Epidemiologist

Aida Angelescu, MS, Senior Geographic Information Systems Analyst

Louise Rollin-Alamillo, MS, Research Analyst

Heena Hameed, MPH, Research Analyst

Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention

Tony Kuo, MD, MSHS, Acting Division Director

Linda Aragon, MPH, Director of Policy and Programs

Jean Armbruster, MA, Director, PLACE Program

Andrea Welsing, MPH, Director, Injury and Violence Prevention Program

Jocelyn Estiandan, MPH, Policy Analyst, PLACE Program

Rachel Tyree, MPH, Director of Communications

Amy Truong, Graphic Artist, Communications

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%20 InclusiveOutreachandPublicEngagement.pdf](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/inf142aao.aspx?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 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.

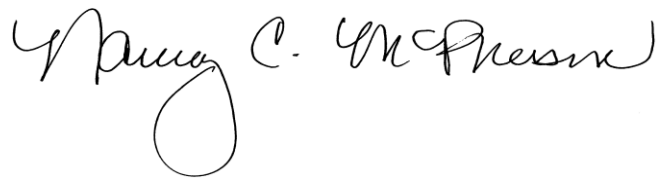
In the United States, we are also seeing our older adult population grow rapidly as people are staying healthy and active longer. As recently as 2010, people ages 65 and older represented 13 percent of the population. But by 2030, those older adults will represent 20 percent of the population, more than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



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



WWW.COMMUNITYNATURECONNECTION.ORG

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



REG PK & OPEN SPACE DIST
RECEIVED
City of El Segundo
18 FEB 14 12:52

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
Suzanne Fuentes
Mayor

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 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



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

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

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.

TABLE 3-1: GENERAL COMPETITIVE GRANTS (CATEGORIES 3 & 4)

	2018										2019	
	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
Application available												
Application due							SEP 1					
Application evaluation												
Notification of grant award												FEB 1

TABLE 3-2: RECREATION ACCESS GRANTS (CATEGORIES 3&4)

	2018				2019							
	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
Application available												
Application due							MAR 1					
Application evaluation												
Notification of grant award												AUG 1

TABLE 3-3: YOUTH AND VETERAN GRANTS (CATEGORY 5)

	2018	2019										
	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Application available												
Application due							JUN 1					
Application evaluation												
Notification of grant award												NOV 1

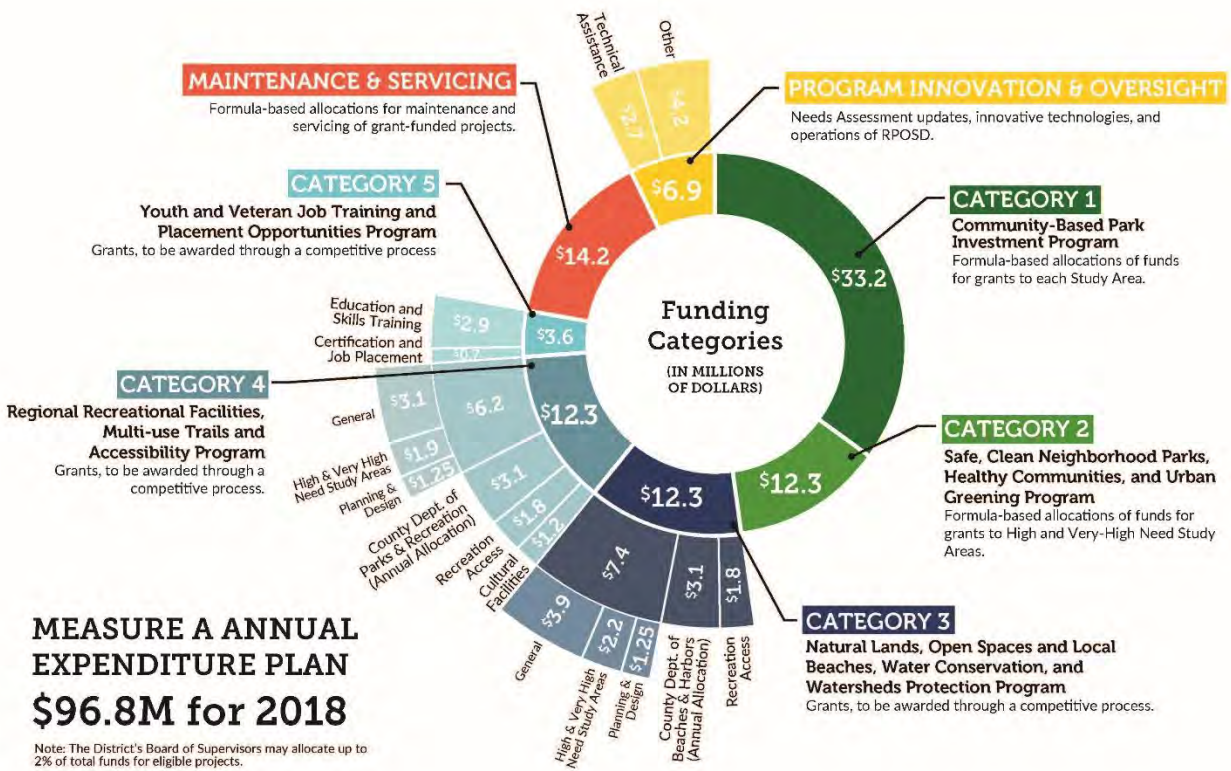
TABLE 3-4: CULTURAL FACILITIES GRANTS (CATEGORY 4)

	2020	2021										
	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Application available												
Application due							JUN 1					
Application evaluation												
Notification of grant award												NOV 1

3.1.2 EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR CURRENT FUNDING CYCLE

The Measure A Annual Expenditure Plan, shown in Figure 3-1, shows dollar amounts allocated to each funding category in 2018. The amounts allocated to each funding category will change from year to year due to factors such as increases in tax revenue and policy changes. Funds allocated for competitive grants will be held until the grant program opens.

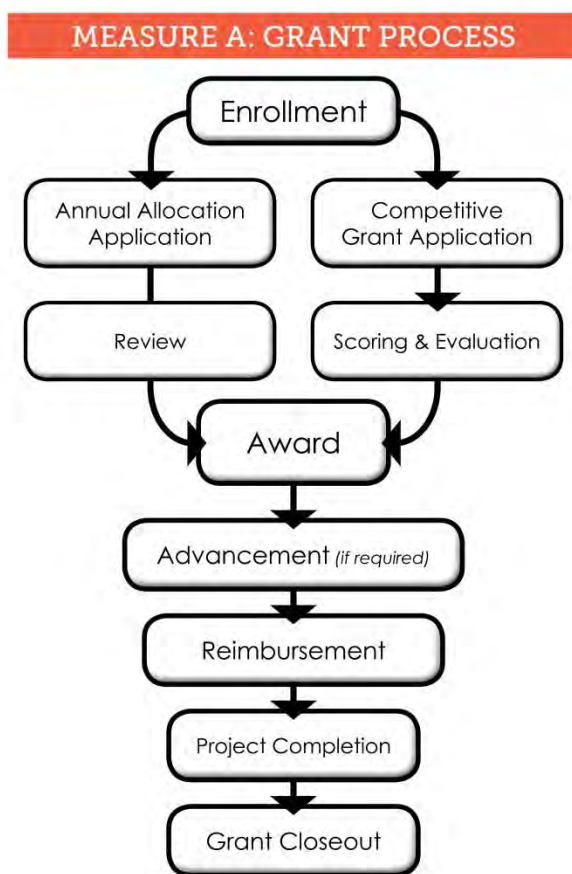
Figure 3-1: Measure A Annual Expenditure Plan



3.1.3 PROCESS FOR RECEIVING GRANT FUNDS

Figure 3-2 shows the sequential grant process of receiving Measure A grant funding. This chapter contains guidance and information on navigating the initial steps of the grant process prior to the award of a grant, including enrollment, grant requirements, and evaluation. Chapter 4, Project Delivery/Grant Administration, addresses the elements of the grant process following grant award, including application approval, advancement, reimbursement, project completion, and grant closeout.

Figure 3-2: Grant Process



3.2 ENROLLMENT AND ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES

In order to request and receive any type of Measure A funding, agencies and organizations are required to complete the enrollment and eligibility process online via the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD's or District's) website prior to applying for Measure A funds. After enrollment is completed, agencies and organizations will be notified by RPOSD of their eligibility to request Measure A funds. The following section provides more detail on requirements for enrollment and eligibility.

Once initial enrollment is complete and eligibility is established, agencies and organizations are required to renew their enrollment information annually by verifying their agency's or organization's status and the validity of their submitted materials through the RPOSD website.

3.2.1 QUALIFIED AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

Only qualified agencies and organizations are able to enroll with RPOSD and establish eligibility to request and receive Measure A funds. Agency qualifications for annual allocations and competitive grants are

further explained below. Program managers (RPOSD staff) will be available to assist agencies and organizations in determining their qualification to complete the enrollment process.

PUBLIC AGENCIES

Qualifying public agencies include any governmental agency, special district, or joint powers authority (JPA) that is authorized to acquire, develop, improve and restore real property for beach, wildlife, park, recreation, community, cultural, open space, water quality, flood control, or gang prevention and intervention purposes.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Nonprofit organizations that own land or park facilities or have existing agreements or letters of intent to operate and maintain facilities are qualified to enroll with RPOSD and may apply independently for competitive grants or may pair with a governmental agency.

Qualifying nonprofit organizations must have a mission related to one or more of the following focus areas:

- Environmental protection and preservation
- Park, recreation, community services, or facilities
- Gang prevention and intervention
- Environmental education and interpretation
- Tree-planting
- Conservation and preservation of wetlands or of lands predominantly in their natural, scenic, historical, forested, or open-space condition
- Restoration of lands to a natural, scenic, historical, forested, or open space condition
- Job skills training and educational opportunities to young adults and/or veterans

SCHOOLS

Public and private nonprofit schools are qualified to enroll with RPOSD, provided that they allow public use of school facilities during non-school hours. Alternatively, schools can offer education/training programs or certification placement services to youth and veterans in lieu of allowing public use of school facilities during non-school hours, but are only eligible to apply for programmatic grants (e.g., Youth and Veteran and Recreation Access grants).

3.2.2 ENROLLMENT AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Qualified agencies and organizations are required to provide additional information/documentation during the online enrollment process via RPOSD's website to establish eligibility to request Measure A funds. If the agency or organization is eligible to request Measure A funds, RPOSD will notify the agency or organization and inform them what types of grants the agency or organization is eligible to apply for. If the agency or organization is not eligible to request Measure A funds, RPOSD will follow up and provide guidance/feedback.

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, the Parks and Recreation department head, City Council, Board of Directors, or other person, as 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?

funds must provide an explanation that describes why they are not requesting the funds and identifies when they plan to request the funds.

- **Financial Audits.** Public agencies must provide documentation of completed financial audits to provide assurance that the agencies' financial statements are accurate and complete.
- **Capacity Review.** Public agencies must provide information demonstrating their organizational capacity, including their financial audit statement and operating structure showing number of staff, staff roles, labor hours, etc.

3.2.2.3 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Nonprofit organizations are required to satisfy the following as part of the enrollment process:

- **Verify Organization Mission and Operations Comply with Requirements.** Nonprofit organizations must provide documentation to prove their organization's mission statement and that it relates to those topics listed under Section 3.2.1. Organizations must also submit information about their capacity to operate a grant with items such as financials and operating structure, showing the number of staff, staff roles, labor hours, etc.
- **Verify Proof of 501(c)3 Status.** Nonprofit organizations must provide documentation to prove their 501(c)3 status, Conservation Corps certification (if applicable), and proof that the training/education and/or certification/placement services provided meet requirements (if applicable).
- **Verify Proof of Good Tax Standing.** Nonprofit organizations must submit proof of good tax standing (IRS Form 990).
- **Financial Audits.** Nonprofit organizations must provide documentation of completed financial audits to provide assurance that the organizations' financial statements are accurate and complete.
- **Capacity Review.** Nonprofit organizations must provide information demonstrating their organizational capacity to operate a grant and complete a project, including their financial audit statement and operating structure showing number of staff, staff roles, labor hours, etc.

3.2.2.4 SCHOOLS

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

- **Provide Joint-use Agreement.** If the school has a joint-use agreement, they must provide proof that their joint-use agreements comply with the following requirements:
 - Allows for public use and access of the site;
 - Must be in place for a minimum number of years from date of application, and provides an option and/or method to extend;
 - Includes the use of indoor and/or outdoor facilities;
 - Allows third parties to operate programs; and
 - If there are fees for site use or participation, there may be no differential fees that allow one group to receive a lower fee due to their membership, affiliation, place of residence, etc.

- **Verify Training/Education and Certification/Placement Services Provided Meet Requirements.** If a school does not have a joint-use agreement, they must provide proof that the training/education and certification/placement services provided meet requirements. This requirement is only applicable to schools applying for Youth and Veteran (Category 5) funds.

3.3 FUNDING TYPES

This section provides information about Measure A’s various funding types, which include annual allocations, competitive grants, M&S funds, and Planning & Design funds. Table 3-5 identifies the different types of annual allocations and competitive grants that fall under each grant category or program. Each category of funds is designated to a specific Measure A grant program as described below:

- Category 1: Community-Based Park Investment Program
- Category 2: Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Healthy Communities, and Urban Greening Program
- Category 3: Natural Lands, Open Spaces and Local Beaches, Water Conservation, and Watersheds Protection Program
- Category 4: Regional Recreational Facilities, Multi-use Trails, and Accessibility Program
- Category 5: Youth and Veteran Job Training and Placement Opportunities Program

TABLE 3-5: OVERVIEW OF MEASURE A ANNUAL ALLOCATIONS AND COMPETITIVE GRANTS

ANNUAL ALLOCATIONS		COMPETITIVE GRANTS	
Category 1	All grants	Category 3	Recreation Access grants
Category 2	All grants	Category 3	General Competitive grants
Category 3	Grants to Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH)	Category 4	Recreation Access grants
Category 4	Grants to Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)	Category 4	Los Angeles County Cultural Facilities grants
		Category 4	General Competitive grants
		Category 5	All grants

M&S funds and Planning & Design grants are not shown in Table 3-5; the application process for these funds are discussed at the end of this chapter in Sections 3.3.4 and 3.3.5.

RPOSD will administer the application process electronically through a grant web portal for all grant funding types. Potential grantees will be able to submit all necessary application items, enrollment information, and eligibility materials through the website. More detail about the application submittal and grant administration requirements can be found in Chapter 4, Project Delivery/Grant Administration.

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



3.3.1.2 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance is available to potential grantees to help successfully navigate the grant process once eligibility is established. The purpose of providing technical assistance to potential grantees is to reduce barriers related to administrative capacity, and by doing so, contributing to the success of Measure A in addressing park need across the County. Potential grantees will be prompted during online enrollment to request different the types of technical assistance.

RPOSD staff will work closely with those applicants that request technical assistance through the TAP, which provides a strong suite of tools and strategies, appropriate for all stages of the grantmaking continuum, from project formulation to administration and implementation. More information about the TAP can be found in Chapter 5.

3.3.2 ANNUAL ALLOCATIONS

Allocations are available to all cities and unincorporated areas of the County, and should be used accordingly:

- Category 1: Annual allocations for all of Study Areas within the County
- Category 2: Annual allocations for only high and Very High need Study Areas within the County
- Category 3: Annual allocation for County Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH)
- Category 4: Annual allocation for County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

The use of annual allocation funds is either directly tied to an agency's designated Study Area(s), or is allocated to specific departments within the County. Refer to Section 1.1.1.2 for more information about Study Areas.

3.3.2.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Plans to Use Annual Allocations

Agencies who receive annual allocation funds have several options on how they can use their annual allocation:

Spend Annually

Agencies can choose to receive and spend their total or a portion of their annual allocation annually. An agency's annual allocation is determined by the Per Capita and Structural Improvements Formula of the agency's Study Area(s).

Save for Predetermined Amount of Time

Agencies can choose to not receive and spend their annual allocation annually, and instead, save and accumulate their annual allocations for a number of years. Agencies choosing to save their annual allocations must inform RPOSD of their plan for the funds, including the number of years they are planning on banking the funds and the probable use of the funds. Agencies can save their annual

allocations for a maximum of ten (10) years. Each agency will be required to provide a detailed report half-way through their identified saving period that will reflect the pre-project work completed or planned. If their allocations are not spent before the twelfth year, a RPOSD program manager will work with the agency to provide technical assistance or other support needed to successfully apply for the funds and complete projects.

Bond

An agency's Study Area annual allocation of revenue from Measure A's Categories 1 and 2 funds could be used to secure bond financing. Agencies wishing to participate in the bond issuance can expect to receive between 14.2 and 15.9 times their annual allocation, depending on the specifics of the bonding amount and maturity date. For example, a city with an annual allocation of \$100,000 could expect to receive between \$1.42 million and \$1.59 million if they participated in the bond issuance. RPOSD would then be responsible for making annual payments on these funds until the bond reaches maturity (20 to 25 years, depending on the specifics of the bond).

Agencies should take the following into consideration in regards to bonding:

- **Identification of Projects.** Projects must be specified prior to the issuance of bonds. The bond counsel will certify that the projects being funded qualify for the interest paid on the bonds to be exempted from taxes.
- **Timely Completion of Projects.** Proposed projects must be ready to proceed with construction, and must be completed and all funds expended within three years of bond issuance.
- **Pay-as-you-go Projects.** Even for Study Areas that use their entire Category 1 and 2 revenue stream for bonding, additional revenue may be available for pay-as-you-go projects in subsequent years if the countywide total improvement square footage increases and, hence, the Measure A special tax revenue increases.

For additional information on bonding policies, refer to Chapter 2, Policies.

Sharing/Transferring Annual Allocations

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 "sending" agency must present to RPOSD a certified copy of a resolution, duly adopted by the governing body, relinquishing the agency's right to all or a portion of the funds. The "receiving" agency may apply for and spend these funds only in accordance with the requirements identified in this chapter.

Application Process

Applicants must submit a complete online application for all projects seeking Measure A funding. Supporting documents must be uploaded to the online system prior to final submission of the application.

Applicants should work closely with their designated Program Manager (RPOSD staff member) to clarify any issues, questions, or anticipated delays prior to submission of the online application. Applicants failing to submit a complete application by the application deadline may be required to wait until the next grant cycle to reapply. For more information about the requirements for applications, see Section 4.1. Sample applications with questions for each grant funding type can be found in the appendix.

3.3.2.2 CATEGORY 1

3.3.2.3 DESCRIPTION

Category 1 funding is available on an annual basis for eligible projects located in each Study Area, to all incorporated cities and unincorporated areas of the County located within the District.

To ensure that each community throughout the County will benefit from improvements consistent with those identified in the most current PNA, funds will be allocated to each Study Area based on the Per Capita and Structural Improvements Formula.

2018 Funding Amount

\$33,204,270 (35% of Measure A funds)

Project Types

Below is a non-exhaustive list of projects that may be eligible for grant funds under Category 1.

- Community and local parks, including pocket parks, playgrounds, playground equipment, dog parks, and picnic areas, especially those that connect and restore underutilized spaces
- Community and senior recreational centers
- Park safety, graffiti removal, facility safety lighting, safe routes to schools, and other safety improvements
- Greenspace and greenway development
- Gardens
- Urban canopy development to reduce the heat island effect, especially in heavily urbanized, tree-poor areas of the County

Project Requirements

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

Project Eligibility

- The project is located in the Study Area, or meets the requirements for shared funds.
- The project is a permanent capital project.
- The project is consistent with the most current PNA.

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.

Planning and Design

- Design documents of 30% or greater are complete;
- Agency 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
- 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
- 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 operation and maintenance of the completed project.

Community Engagement

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

3.3.2.4 CATEGORY 2

Description

Category 2 funding is available on an annual basis for projects in High and Very High need Study Areas as identified in the most current PNA, based on the Per Capita and Structural Improvements Formula.

Projects should involve the acquisition of real property, and the construction and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities that provide safe places and facilities for after-school, weekend, and holiday programs for local children, youth and families, provide opportunities for healthy living in all neighborhoods, and improve the quantity and quality of green spaces in the county.

Multi-benefit projects should seek to leverage public and private funding from water conservation and supply, water and air quality improvements, flood risk management, climate pollution reduction or adaptation, carbon sequestration, heat-island reduction, habitat protection and biodiversity, public health, and environmental justice benefit programs.

2018 Funding Amount

\$12,333,014 (13% of Measure A funds)

Project Types

Below is a non-exhaustive list of projects that may be eligible for grant funds under Category 2.

- Community and local parks, including pocket parks, playgrounds, playground equipment, dog parks, and picnic areas, especially those that connect and restore underutilized spaces
- Community and senior recreational centers
- Park safety, graffiti removal, facility safety lighting, safe routes to schools, and other safety improvements
- Greenspace and greenway development
- Gardens
- Urban canopy development to reduce the heat island effect, especially in heavily urbanized, tree-poor areas of the County

Project Requirements

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

Project Eligibility

- The project is located in the Study Area, or meets the requirements for shared funds.
- The project is a permanent capital project.
- The project is consistent with the most current PNA.

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.

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.

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
- 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 operation and maintenance of the completed project.

Community Engagement

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

3.3.2.5 ALLOCATION TO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF BEACHES AND HARBORS (CATEGORY 3)

Description

Measure A provides that the County Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) shall receive up to 25 percent (25%) of the total Category 3 funds. The funds to DBH will be treated as an annual allocation. 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.

Annual Funding Amount

\$3,083,253 (25% 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

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

Beaches

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

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.

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.

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
- 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 operation and maintenance of the completed project.

Community Engagement

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

3.3.2.6 ALLOCATION TO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (CATEGORY 4)

Description

Measure A provides that the County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) shall receive up to 25 percent (25%) of the total Category 4 funds. 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

\$3,083,253 (25% 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
- Gardens and arboreta facilities

Multi-use Trails

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

Accessibility

- ADA restroom upgrades
- ADA 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

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.

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.

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.

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
- 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 operation and maintenance of the completed project.

Community Engagement

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

3.3.3 COMPETITIVE GRANTS

3.3.3.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Letter of Intent

Potential grantees have the option of submitting an informal letter of interest to RPOSD, indicating the agency or organization's intention to submit a grant application for a project, a description of the project, and the desired grant award size. RPOSD staff will review these letters and provide agencies written guidance and suggestions for crafting a strong application for the project. Note that the application process would be open to all, including organizations that chose to forego the optional informal letter of interest.

Grant Application Meeting Requirement

All applicants of competitive grants are required to attend a grant application meeting. A grant application meeting will be held for each grant program. The grant application meetings will be held at a centrally located venue in each of the five Supervisorial Districts or be available for virtual attendance online. Applicants can choose to attend the meeting in-person or via a webinar. At the grant application meeting, RPOSD staff will walk applicants through the goals of the grant program, application requirements, and respond to questions. Proof of attendance at a grant application meeting or webinar will be required at the time of application submittal.

Award Process

All grant applications will be reviewed by RPOSD staff for completeness and eligibility. All complete and eligible competitive grant applications will be evaluated by a grant review panel. The grant review panel will be composed of internal and external representatives experienced with the grant subject matter, including academics, subject area experts, and jurisdictions and/or districts that are not eligible for the

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 an

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 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</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 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>	<p>1-4</p>
<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>	<p>20 max.</p>
<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>	<p>0-15</p>
<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>	<p>10-14</p>
<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>	<p>0-9</p>
<p><i>Project involves the collaboration of at least three or more adjacent Study Areas or cities.</i></p>	<p>5</p>
<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>	<p>20 max.</p>
<p>Habitat Protection and Biodiversity <i>Project includes features to preserve important habitat areas and biodiversity.</i></p>	<p>0-5</p>
<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>	<p>0-3</p>
<p>Water Quality Improvements <i>Project includes features to improve water quality which go beyond those required by State and local codes.</i></p>	<p>0-3</p>
<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>	<p>0-3</p>

<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
<p>Leveraging of Funds</p> <p>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; 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
<p>Creativity, Place-Making, and Design</p> <p>Projects will receive points for creativity, place-making, and high quality design.</p> <p>Points will be awarded based on the evaluators' assessment of the level of creativity and quality of the design.</p>	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 9.9.1.1.

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>	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 percentage of users that have 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.

<i>Project is located in a Study Area with between 40% and 49% 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
Total Points	100

3.3.3.4 COUNTY CULTURAL FACILITIES (CATEGORY 4)

Description

Of Category 4 funds, which are granted to projects that acquire, develop, improve and/or restore regional recreational facilities and multi-use trails, up to ten percent (10%), on an annual basis, shall be allocated to County cultural facilities.

2018 Funding Amount

\$1,233,301 available annually (Category 4 - 13% of Measure A funds, Cultural Facilities - 10% of Category 4 funds)

Project Types

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

- Development of new facilities
- Expansion of existing facilities
- Improvement or refurbishment of permanently installed exhibits
- Projects that provide increased access to cultural facilities
- Repairs or improvements to existing facilities

Project Requirements

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

Project Eligibility

- The project improves, refurbishes, enhances an existing County-owned cultural facility; creates a new County-owned cultural facility; or the project is developed on County-owned land and the owner is an agency of which the County is a partner.
- 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 \$1,200,000.

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.

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.

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
- 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 operation and maintenance of the completed project.

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: \$1,200,000

Brackets

Small: \$50,000 - \$249,999

Medium: \$250,000 - \$549,999

Large: \$550,000 - \$1,200,000

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
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. Only one of the following four subcriteria may apply to each project.	25
<i>(A) Project is located in a High or Very High need Study Area.</i>	25
<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> <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>	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>	<p>10</p>
<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>	<p>1-4</p>
<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>	<p>20 max.</p>
<p>Habitat Protection and Biodiversity <i>Project includes features to preserve important habitat areas and biodiversity.</i></p>	<p>0-5</p>
<p>Water Quality Improvements <i>Project includes features to improve water quality which go beyond those required by State and local codes.</i></p>	<p>0-3</p>
<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>	<p>0-3</p>
<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>	<p>0-3</p>
<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>	<p>0-3</p>
<p>Climate Resiliency <i>Project includes features to accommodate and adapt to climate change.</i></p>	<p>0-3</p>
<p>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reductions <i>Project includes features to reduce existing GHG emissions that go beyond those required by current regulations.</i></p>	<p>0-2</p>
<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>	<p>0-2</p>

<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 cultural facility 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 cultural facility 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>Accessibility Projects that provide accessibility for many users, including hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, seniors, and persons with disabilities, especially in urban areas.</p>	20
<p><i>Project provides access to many users, including hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, seniors, and persons with disabilities. More points will be awarded to projects that intentionally provide access to more types of users.</i></p>	0-20
<p><i>Project meets the subcriterion above <u>and</u> this access is provided within an urban area.</i></p>	5
<p>Creativity, Place-Making, and Design Projects will receive points for creativity, place-making, and high quality design. Between will be awarded based on the evaluators' assessment of the level of creativity and quality of the design.</p>	15
<p><i>Project includes a high level of creativity and quality of design and place-making.</i></p>	6-15
<p><i>Project includes a moderate level of creativity and quality of design and place-making.</i></p>	0-5

Total Points	100
--------------	-----

3.3.3.5 RECREATION ACCESS (CATEGORIES 3 & 4)

Description

Measure A allows for up to 15 percent (15%) of Category 3 and Category 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 and Very High need Study Areas.

2018 Funding Amount

\$3,699,904 available annually (Category 3 and Category 4 - 26% of Measure A funds; Recreation Access - 15% of Category 3 and Category 4 funds)

Program Types

Below is a non-exhaustive list of programs that may be eligible for Recreation Access grant funds under Category 3 and Category 4.

- 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

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

Program Eligibility

- 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 third-party program evaluation report.

Program Feasibility

The program must meet at least one of the following:

- The program has already been established.

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</p> <p>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

<p><i>Program 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>Program Benefits Programs that improve accessibility, connectivity, and safety, and provide opportunities for education, interpretive services, and active recreation.</p> <p>Programs may receive full or partial credit in each subcriterion below, totaling up to a maximum of 30 points.</p>	30 max.
<p>Goals and Objectives <i>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.</i></p>	0-5
<p>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.</i></p>	0-5
<p>Participant Recruitment <i>Agency or organization actively recruits and publicizes the program to a wide range of participants within the area served.</i></p>	0-5
<p>Connectivity <i>Program connects (or offers transportation from) 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>	0-3
<p>Interpretive Programs and Education <i>Program includes an educational component that promotes park use, the environment, the outdoors, and/or recreation.</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>Active Recreation and Fitness <i>Program includes components to promote active recreation (e.g., pedestrian and bicycle travel), health, and fitness.</i></p>	0-3
<p>Community Participation Programs must incorporate outreach to community members and interested stakeholders (participants) and will receive points based on the degree of and approach to community outreach conducted.</p> <p>Between 0 and 20 points will be awarded based on the evaluators' assessment of community participation.</p>	20
<p><i>Program incorporates robust and innovative outreach strategies that will engage the identified target audience.</i></p>	15-20
<p><i>Program incorporates sufficient outreach strategies that will engage the identified target audience.</i></p>	6-14
<p><i>Program incorporates minimal and limited outreach strategies that will engage the identified target audience.</i></p>	0-5

3.3.3.6 CATEGORY 5 YOUTH AND VETERAN JOB TRAINING AND PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

Description

Category 5 grants provide funds for two types of programs:

- **Education and Skills Training Program.** Organizations, including certified conservation corps, are eligible for funds if they administer a program within the County that provides education, skills training, and career pathway development to young adults, aged 18 to 25, or veterans, to implement park projects.
- **Certification and Job Placement Program.** Organizations, including conservation corps, are eligible for funds if they administer a program within the County 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.

2018 Funding Amount

Education and Skills Training Program

\$2,884,028 (80% of Category 5 funds)

Certification and Job Placement Program

\$721,007 (20% of Category 5 funds)

Program Types

Below is a non-exhaustive list of programs that may be eligible for grant funds under Category 5.

Education and Skills Training Program

- Apprenticeship programs
- Certification programs
- Educational seminars
- Formal coursework
- Internship/entry level job placement
- Job skills classes that focus on education and training needed to work in the Parks and Recreation field
- Trade schools that focus on skills needed to work in the Parks and Recreation Field
- Tuition grants/stipends

Certification and Job Placement Program

- Apprenticeship programs

- Arborist training and certification for tree planting and maintenance in parks
- Landscape architecture certification with emphasis on parks and recreation
- Sustainability/LEED accreditation with emphasis on parks and recreation facilities

Program Requirements

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

Program Eligibility

The program must meet at least one of the following:

- The applicant is an eligible organization within the County, including certified conservation corps, that provides education, skills training, and career pathway development to young adults, aged 18 to 25, or veterans, to implement park projects; and

The program's requested grant award size is a minimum of \$50,000 and maximum of \$1,400,000.

- The applicant is an eligible organization within the County 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; and

The program's requested grant award size is a minimum of \$50,000 and maximum of \$350,000.

The program must also provide an annual third-party program evaluation report.

Program Feasibility

The program must meet at least one of the following:

- The program has already been established.
- 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.

Education and Skills Training Program

Minimum: \$50,000

Maximum: \$1,400,000

Brackets

Small: \$50,000 - \$249,999

Medium: \$250,000 - \$549,999

Large: \$550,000 - \$1,400,000

Certification and Job Placement Program

Minimum: \$50,000

Maximum: \$350,000

Brackets

Small: \$50,000 - \$99,999

Medium: \$100,000 - \$199,999

Large: \$200,000 - \$350,000

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
Level of Need Organizations that provide services to, or recruit a majority of their participants from, the areas of High and Very High need, as identified in the current Countywide PNA. Only one of the following three subcriteria may apply to each project.	20
<i>Organization provides services to, or recruits more than 75% of their participants from, a High or Very High need Study Area.</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Organization provides services to, or recruits 50% to 75% of their participants from, a High or Very High need Study Area.</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Organization provides services to, or recruits 25% to 49% of their participants from, a High or Very High need Study Area.</i>	<i>5</i>
Program Benefits Organization's provides 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. Programs may receive full or partial credit in each subcriterion below, totaling up to a maximum of 30 points. Please provide supporting documentation to demonstrate the aforementioned.	30 max.

<p>Program Quality <i>Program provided by the organization is of high quality, including having an efficient and effective organizational structure, being staffed by highly trained individuals, providing a wealth of useful resources, fostering invested mentorship relationships, etc.</i></p>	0-5
<p>Program Variety <i>Organization provides a variety of program types (e.g., education, skills training, career pathway development, job training, certification, apprenticeship, etc.) to its participants and serves a variety of participant types (e.g., youth, veterans, seniors, students, etc.).</i></p>	0-5
<p>Goals and Objectives <i>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.</i></p>	0-5
<p>Participant Recruitment and Retention <i>Organization actively recruits and publicizes its programs to a wide range of participants, including in High and Very High need Study Areas, and has a successful track record of retaining participants.</i></p>	0-5
<p>Follow-up Services <i>Organization effectively and efficiently tracks the status and outcomes of past program participants.</i></p>	0-5
<p>History of Success and Outcomes <i>Organization has defined expectations of participants, developed evaluation tools, and has a history of success through their programs that help participants thrive in their future careers, earn a steady income, and be employed with jobs that promote parks and the environment.</i></p>	0-5
<p>Community Participation Organizations must incorporate outreach to community members and interested stakeholders as a part of their program to recruit participants and will receive points based on the degree of and approach to community engagement conducted. Between 0 and 20 points will be awarded based on the evaluators' assessment of community participation.</p>	20
<p><i>Organization incorporates robust and innovative outreach strategies into its program(s) to engage the identified target audience.</i></p>	15-20
<p><i>Organization incorporates sufficient outreach strategies into its program(s) to engage the identified target audience.</i></p>	6-14
<p><i>Organization incorporates minimal and limited outreach strategies into its program(s) to engage the identified target audience.</i></p>	0-5
<p>Total Points</p>	70

3.3.4 MAINTENANCE & SERVICING FUNDS

Description

M&S funds provide maintenance and servicing funds to offset increased maintenance costs resulting from RPOSD-funded projects. M&S funds shall be allocated annually to each recipient within the District, and shall be made only to those entities which certify that:

- Such funds shall be used only to maintain and service projects funded by the District, inclusive of grants issued pursuant to the 1992 and 1996 Propositions and Measure A, and
- Such funds shall not be used to fund existing levels of service, but rather only to supplement or enhance existing service levels.

M&S funds shall be used only to maintain and service, including resource protection activities for the capital outlay projects funded by RPOSD and are administered separately from RPOSD's grant program. M&S funds are held in trust by RPOSD until a request from an eligible entity is made.

2018 Funding Amount

\$14,230,401 (15% of Measure A funds)

M&S funds are annually allocated as follows:

- Fifty point eighty-five percent (50.85%) to cities
- Ten point fifty percent (10.50%) to the Department of Beaches and Harbors
- Thirteen point five percent (13.50%) to the Department of Parks and Recreation
- Three percent (3.00%) to the Department of Public Works
- One percent (1.0%) to the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority
- Point five percent (0.5%) to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority
- Eight percent (8.0%) to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
- Two percent (2.0%) to the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
- One percent (1.0%) to the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority
- Five point fifteen percent (5.15%) to the Watershed Conservation Authority; and
- Four point five percent (4.5%) unallocated for eligible nonprofit organizations that own, operate, or both, parklands consistent with this resolution.

3.3.4.2 EXPENDITURE ELIGIBILITY

M&S funds may only be used by grantees to offset increased maintenance and servicing costs resulting from RPOSD-funded projects, including from Measure A and Proposition A. M&S funds allocated to the County Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) shall be used for projects that repair and replace

facilities impacted from high user activity and weatherization from being located near the ocean, such funds shall be used to supplement existing levels of service.

In most cases, an agency will not apply for M&S funds until the project that qualifies payment of these funds has been completed and the grant has been closed (see Section 4.3 for details about grant closeout).

However, if the project consists of development in several phases, acquisition and development, or acquisition of land from several land owners, some M&S funds may be claimed if eligible expenses are incurred prior to the entire project's completion.

"Maintenance" and "servicing" costs are as defined in the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 (Section 22500 et seq. of the Streets and Highways Code) as follows:

Section 22531. Maintain or Maintenance

"Maintain" or "maintenance" means the furnishing of services and materials for the ordinary and usual maintenance, operation, and servicing of any improvement, including:

- Repair, removal, or replacement of all or any part of any improvement.
- Providing for the life, growth, health, and beauty of landscaping, including cultivation, irrigation, trimming, spraying, fertilizing, or treating for disease or injury.
- The removal of trimmings, rubbish, debris, and other solid waste.
- The cleaning, sandblasting, and painting of walls and other improvements to remove or cover graffiti.

Section 22538. Service or Servicing

"Service" or "servicing" means the furnishing of:

- Electric current or energy, gas, or other illuminating agent for any public lighting facilities or for the lighting or operation of any other improvements.
- Water for the irrigation of any landscaping, the operation of any fountains, or the maintenance of any other improvements.
- Security services for the completed project.

3.3.4.3 APPLICATION PROCESS

An eligible agency may apply for M&S funds upon approval of the following two items:

- Budget that shows the increased costs of maintaining the facility acquired, developed, improved, or refurbished with grant funds; and/or
- Request for unanticipated and/or extraordinary expenses.

3.3.4.4 SHARING/TRANSFERRING OF FUNDS

An agency may, with consent of its governing body, transfer its right to all or a portion of its M&S monies to another agency eligible to receive the funds, provided that:

- The “receiving” agency uses the “sending” agency’s M&S funds to operate a completed RPOSD-funded project(s) whose grant(s) are closed; or
- The RPOSD finds, through an administrative review process, that the intended use of the “receiving” agency’s M&S funds will benefit the residents of the “sending” agency.

In such cases, the “sending” agency must present to RPOSD a certified copy of a resolution, duly adopted by the governing body, relinquishing the agency's right to all or a portion of the funds for such time as the agency determines. The “receiving” agency may apply for and spend these funds only in accordance with the requirements identified in this chapter.

An agency that wishes to assign its M&S monies to an agency that does not receive M&S allocations should contact its Program Manager (RPOSD staff). The agency assigning the funds shall obtain pre-approval from RPOSD.

3.3.5 PLANNING & DESIGN FUNDS (CATEGORIES 3 & 4)

TBD

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.

- **Monitoring and Correction** – RPOSD will consistently monitor, track, and if necessary, adjust the administration of both competitive funding and annual allocations, to ensure that the goals of Measure A are being met.
- **Technical Assistance** – RPOSD will provide technical assistance to potential applicants and grantees throughout the stages of the grant process to ensure that barriers to applying for, receiving, and administering funding are reduced.

2.3 BONDING POLICY

TBD

2.4 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ANNUAL DESIGNATED PARK PROJECT POLICY

TBD

2.5 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX UPDATE POLICY

TBD

2.6 VARIABLE ALLOCATIONS POLICY

TBD

2.7 OVERSIGHT AND INNOVATION POLICY

TBD

2.8 MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION POLICY

TBD

2.9 COUNTYWIDE PARKS NEEDS ASSESSMENT MAINTENANCE POLICY

TBD

2.10 ADDITIONAL POLICIES

TBD

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)



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



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.

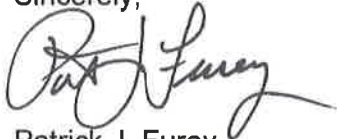
Measure A asked voters to continue their support for local parks, beaches, open space, and water resources by approving an annual parcel tax of 1.5 cents per square foot of development for recreational improvements in Los Angeles County.

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.

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