

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

September 13, 2022

La Brea Tar Pits Master Plan Project

The La Brea Tar Pits and the George C. Page Museum (Page Museum), located in the mid-Wilshire area of Hancock Park, consists of a 13-acre park, including facilities, recreation areas, tar pits, and is an active paleontological research site. The complex is owned by Los Angeles County and is managed by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History Foundation (Foundation), a non-profit organization. The Foundation’s role includes providing services on the County’s behalf including public access, programming, administration, and operation of the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County, including Page Museum.

The proposed La Brea Tar Pits Master Plan Project (Project) will allow for the renovation of the current Page Museum, including the addition of a new one-story museum building. This new building will increase the total museum square footage from approximately 63,000 gross square feet (gsf) to approximately 105,000 gsf. The new building would include a lobby, exhibit space, two theaters, mechanical equipment room, research and collections rooms, administration spaces, and a loading dock. The

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renovation of the Page Museum will remove the vegetation in the existing central atrium and improve the facility to allow for additional exhibition, classroom, and laboratory spaces. It will also allow for reorganization of the existing collection space to provide an enhanced visual display of the collections available to the museum visitors.

Improvements will be made to the exterior including new landscaping, reconstruction of the parking lot to improve vehicle access lanes, and the addition of a pedestrian entrance to the museum. A new support building will be constructed for additional exhibits, presentations, storage, administration, and research space. In addition, a café will be added to the outdoor terrace area for museum and park visitors.

The Project's Master Plan also includes the following improvements to Hancock Park: a pedestrian path to improve pedestrian circulation within the project site, additional seating and rest areas, a Wilshire Gateway entry plaza at the southeastern corner of the site, a 6th Street Gateway entry plaza at the northwestern corner of the site, a pedestrian bridge over the Lake Pit, three pavilions with canopies, and improvements to the recreation areas. Enhanced landscaping will be provided, including native vegetation plantings and a garden bioswale to improve stormwater infiltration.

Project's total estimated cost is \$475 million. Proposition A Excess Funds in the amount of \$5 million available to the Third Supervisorial District are being requested for the Project. Additional anticipated funding sources include \$25 million from the State of California, \$75 million from the Federal Government, \$145 million from LA County, and \$225 million from Natural History Museum Foundation including philanthropic efforts.

Therefore, the recommendation is to allocate \$5,000,000 in Prop A Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District to the LA County Natural History

Museum Foundation for this Project.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors acting as the governing body of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District:

1. Find that the proposed actions are not subject to CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Section 15378 (b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines because the actions are continuing administrative activities of government grants;
2. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 in Prop A Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum Foundation for La Brea Tar Pits Master Plan Project; and
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or her designee, in her capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award grants when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grants as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Proposition A Grants Administration Manual for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.