



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

*"Parks Make Life Better!"*

Norma E. García-González, Director

Alina Bokde, Chief Deputy Director

January 13, 2026

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

Dear Supervisors:

**EL CARISO PARK TEEN OUR SPOT AND WELL-BEING PROJECT  
ESTABLISH AND APPROVE CAPITAL PROJECT  
APPROVE PROJECT SCOPE AND BUDGET  
APPROVE APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT  
AUTHORIZE USE OF JOB ORDER CONTRACT  
CAPITAL PROJECT NO. 8A174  
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 3) (FY2025-26, 4-VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Approval of the recommended actions will find the proposed El Cariso Park Teen Our SPOT and Well-Being Project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act; establish and approve the proposed capital project; approve the project scope, budget, and appropriation adjustment; and authorize the Director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, or her designee, to deliver the proposed project through a Board-approved Job Order Contract.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find the proposed El Cariso Park Teen Our SPOT and Well-Being Project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for the reasons stated in this Board letter and in the records of the project.
2. Establish and approve the proposed El Cariso Park Teen Our SPOT and Well-Being Project, Capital Project No. 8A174, with a total project budget of \$1,100,000.
3. Approve an appropriation adjustment to reflect an increase of \$634,000 in appropriation for capital costs related to the proposed El Cariso Park Teen Our SPOT and Well-Being Project, Capital Project

No. 8A174, fully offset with the use of the obligated fund balance - Committed for Capital Facilities & Technological Needs in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Fund.

4. Authorize the Director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, or her designee, to deliver the proposed El Cariso Park Teen Our SPOT and Well-Being Project through a Board-approved Job Order Contract.

#### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will find the proposed El Cariso Park Teen Our SPOT and Well-Being Project (Project) exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); establish and approve Capital Project (CP) No. 8A174; approve the proposed Project's scope, budget, and appropriation adjustment, and authorize the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County Parks) to implement the proposed Project through a Board-approved Job Order Contract (JOC).

El Cariso Community Regional Park (Park) is a 79.97-acre park located at 13100 Hubbard Avenue, in the Sylmar district of Los Angeles. According to the 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Park and Recreation Needs Assessment, the Park is located within an area of moderate park need and features tennis, basketball and pickleball courts, a baseball and football field, a multipurpose building with a gymnasium, a swimming pool, playground, and many other amenities.

In 2024, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) approached LA County Parks to collaborate on an ambitious two-year, \$15 million Countywide program to create public spaces that promote social interactions and inspire community well-being in County parks. LA County Parks and DMH selected 14 parks based on several factors including existing year-round Our SPOT Teen Centers, park need based on the Countywide Park Needs Assessment, Office of Violence Prevention high violence scores, DMH equity data, and Los Angeles County Equity Explorer Index data.

LA County Parks and DMH partnered on a robust, multi-phase, year-long community engagement process at each selected park to inform the development of design elements to promote well-being. LA County Parks and their design team conducted onsite interviews with Our SPOT teens as well as popup engagements with seniors and park visitors to define each park's project scope while creating a shared, program wide design vision. Subsequently, LA County Parks presented the resulting Our SPOT and wellbeing space designs for each park to DMH, Our SPOT teens, and local community members, leading to further design enhancements. The final designs emphasize accessibility, landscaping, seating, safety, shade and effective use of color.

Each park's scope of work will include renovation of an existing outdoor open space as a new well-being space, including accessibility upgrades; trees and landscaping with irrigation; lighting and shade; seating elements including benches designated in an "Open to Chat" style to encourage conversation; informational signage; and, related improvements. Each park will also include the renovation of an existing unprogrammed area into an outdoor Our SPOT space that includes paving, landscaping, shade, lighting, security fencing, seating, and related improvements. While the thematic design elements and enhancements are similar program wide, each Well-being and Our SPOT space varies in design, shape, and size to reflect community input. The difference in project budgets at each park reflect these variances, including diverse site conditions and utility infrastructure needs.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The proposed recommendations will further the County Strategic Plan Goals to make investments that transform lives (North Star 1) (Strategy 1.D.v) by providing alternative recreational and social gathering opportunities for adolescent individuals; foster vibrant and resilient communities (North Star 2) and enhance public safety (Strategy 2.F.i-iv) by infrastructure within the community for engagement, community participation education support and environmental justice by improving LA County Parks' ability to deliver programming and create public spaces that are welcoming and accessible, and realizing tomorrow's government today (North Star 3) by modernizing infrastructure (Strategy 3.F.ii).

### **Implementation of County Sustainability Goals**

The OurCounty Sustainability Plan, adopted in 2019, establishes goals to address the environmental impacts of climate change and the subsequent social challenges. The proposed Project will achieve the goals of creating buildings and infrastructure that support human health and resilience (Goal 2) and creating accessible parks, public lands, and public spaces that create opportunities for respite, recreation, ecological discovery, and cultural activities (Goal 6).

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The total estimated cost for the proposed Project includes consultant services, plans and specifications, jurisdictional review, construction, change order/contingency, and Civic Art. The proposed Project Schedule and Budget Summary is included in Attachment I.

The proposed Project is fully funded by DMH in the amount of \$1,100,000. Attachment I includes the funding breakdown for the project.

LA County Parks accelerated the project timeline by completing community outreach, site assessments, surveys, construction documents and the acquisition of plant stock and landscape furniture for the Well-Being and Our SPOT Projects through Board-approved as-needed consultants and purchase orders in the amount of \$466,000 from LA County Parks Operating Budget. DMH will reimburse LA County Parks for approved expenditures.

Approval of the appropriation adjustment (Attachment II) will reflect an increase of \$634,000 in appropriation for the proposed project, fully offset with the use of the obligated fund balance - Committed for Capital Facilities & Technological Needs in the MHSA Fund to fully fund and implement the proposed Project.

### **OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT**

Based on the proposed Project's description, LA County Parks does not anticipate any one-time start-up or ongoing costs for the proposed Project.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Approval of the recommended actions will authorize LA County Parks to deliver the proposed Project utilizing Board-approved JOC, as the work involves repair, remodeling, and refurbishing of County facilities that may be used for Mental Health well-being activities, programs, and supports. The standard Board-directed clauses that provide for contract termination, renegotiation, and hiring qualified displaced County employees will be included in the JOC.

The JOC contractor who is awarded this contract will be required to fully comply with Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.200 (Child Support Compliance Program), Chapter 2.203 (Contractor Employee Jury Service Program), and Chapter 2.201 (Living Wage Program).

The proposed Project will proceed in accordance with the Board's consolidated Local and Targeted Worker Hire Policy (LTWHP) adopted on September 6, 2016, and last amended on June 11, 2019. It will include a best-efforts goal that at least 30 percent (30%) of the total California craft worker hours for refurbishment work on the project should be performed by local residents.

In accordance with the Board's Civic Art Policy, adopted on December 7, 2004, and last amended on August 4, 2020, the proposed project budget for the El Cariso Park Our SPOT and Well-Being Project, CP No. 8A174, include one percent (1%) of eligible design and construction costs, in the amount of \$6,000, to be allocated towards Civic Art.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from the CEQA. The proposed Project, which includes the Well-Being Spaces component, which will focus on improving paths of travel, installing planting, shade trees, and irrigation, installing site lighting, shade structures, seating elements including 'Happy to Chat' benches, informative signage, and related general improvements, and the Our SPOT Spaces component, which will involve renovating existing paving and landscaping, providing shade elements, installing security fencing and lighting, creating seating areas, and related improvements to existing park courtyards or unprogrammed spaces, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in sections 15301(h), 15303(d)(e) and 15304(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1(c), 3(a)(b) and 4(c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G. The project involves restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety; installation of small new structures; and new landscaping which will not involve the removal of healthy, mature and scenic trees.

In addition, based on the proposed Project's records, the Project will comply with all applicable regulations. It is not located in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, damage to scenic highways, listing on hazardous waste sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, or indications that it may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource that would make the exemption inapplicable.

Upon your Board's approval of the recommended actions, LA County Parks will file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk in accordance with section 21152 of the California Public Resources Code.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

Design plans and specifications, including construction documents, have been completed by Board-approved as-needed consultants.

LA County Parks will implement the improvements using a combination of a Board-approved JOC,

County Purchase Orders, and a Conservation Corps under a Board-approved as-needed agreement. The Conservation Corps will deliver landscaping and related scope items for the proposed Project. Board-approved JOCs will deliver the remaining scope. County Purchase Orders will be used for procuring selected long lead time fixtures. LA County Parks has made the determination that the combination of the delivery methods are the most appropriate methods for delivery of the proposed Project.

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

The recommended actions will have limited impact to County services at the facilities. LA County Parks will minimize and mitigate disruption by phasing work and providing advanced notification to the public.

### **CONCLUSION**

Upon approval by the Board, please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to forward one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and one adopted copy to the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation.

Should you have any questions, please contact Paul Young at (626) 588-5325 or [pyoung@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:pyoung@parks.lacounty.gov), Jorge Gutierrez at (626) 588-5304 or [JGutierrez2@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:JGutierrez2@parks.lacounty.gov), or Johanna Hernandez at (626) 588-5370 or [bll@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:bll@parks.lacounty.gov).

Respectfully submitted,



Norma E. Garcia-Gonzalez

Director

NEG:AB:CK:GB:JG:py

Enclosures

c: Auditor Controller  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Arts and Culture (Civic Art Division)  
LA County Parks

**ATTACHMENT I**

**EL CARISO PARK TEEN OUR SPOT AND WELL-BEING PROJECT  
ESTABLISH AND APPROVE CAPITAL PROJECT  
APPROVE PROJECT SCOPE AND BUDGET  
APPROVE APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT  
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(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 3) (FY2025-26, 4-VOTES)**

**I. PROJECT SCHEDULE SUMMARY**

<b>Project Activity</b>	<b>El Cariso Park Teen Our SPOT and Well-Being Project C.P. No. 8A174</b>
Board Approval	January, 2026
Design Services	December, 2025
Construction Award	March, 2026
Substantial Completion	August, 2026
Project Acceptance	August, 2026

**II. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY**

<b>Project Activity</b>	
Construction	
Construction	\$728,000
Change Orders	\$38,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$766,000</b>
Soft Costs	
Civic Arts	\$6,000
Plans and Specifications	\$136,000
Consultant Services	\$159,000
Miscellaneous Expenditures	\$0
Jurisdictional Approvals/Permits	\$0
County Services	\$33,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$334,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,100,000</b>

**ATTACHMENT II**

**EL CARISO PARK TEEN OUR SPOT AND WELL-BEING PROJECT  
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(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 3) (FY2025-26, 4-VOTES)**

**(SEE ATTACHED)**

PINK

BA FORM 10142022

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OFFICIAL COPY

January 13, 2026

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

DEPARTMENT of PARKS and RECREATION /MENTAL HEALTH

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:

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

ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFORE

FY 2025-26

4 - VOTES

SOURCES	USES
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) FUND BT1-304M COMMITTED FOR CAPITAL FACILITIES & TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS DECREASE OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE 634,000	MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) FUND BT1-MH-6100-41189 OTHER FINANCING USES INCREASE APPROPRIATION 634,000
MENTAL HEALTH EL CARISO PARK TEEN 'OUR SPOT' AND WELL-BEING PROJECT A01-CP-96-9919-65039-8A174 OPERATING TRANSFERS IN - CAPITAL PROJECTS INCREASE REVENUE 634,000	MENTAL HEALTH EL CARISO PARK TEEN 'OUR SPOT' AND WELL-BEING PROJECT A01-CP-6014-65039-8A174 CAPITAL ASSETS - B & I INCREASE APPROPRIATION 634,000
SOURCES TOTAL \$ 1,268,000	USES TOTAL \$ 1,268,000

JUSTIFICATION

Reflects an increase of \$634,000 in appropriation and revenues for the proposed Teen Our SPOT and Well-Being Project for Mental Health Wellbeing activities and program support in Supervisorial District 3, Capital Project No. 8A174 El Cariso Park, fully funded from the use of obligated fund balance- Committed for Capital Facilities and Technological Needs in the Mental Health Services Act fund.

Malou Rubio  
Digitally signed by Malou Rubio  
Date: 2025.12.24 14:37:14 -08'00'

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE MALOU RUBIO, PARKS /LISA H. WONG, DMH

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

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR---

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

B.A. NO. 083

☐ ACTION

☒ RECOMMENDATION  
Lan Sam  
Digitally signed by Lan Sam  
Date: 2025.12.24 13:52:27 -08'00'

DATE 12/24/25

☒ APPROVED AS REQUESTED

☐ APPROVED AS REVISED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Matthew J. Diaz  
Digitally signed by Matthew J. Diaz  
Date: 2025.12.24 15:14:28 -08'00'

DATE 12/24/25