AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER MARCH 17, 2026

BALDWIN LAKE AND TULE POND RESTORATION PROJECT

Located within the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden (Arboretum) in Arcadia, Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond are two historically and ecologically significant water features. Baldwin Lake, a spring-fed sag pond with deep cultural roots dating back to Native American settlements and the Rancho Santa Anita era, has long served as a vital habitat and water source. Tule Pond, once an upstream extension of Baldwin Lake, became hydrologically isolated in the 1950s and has since lost its flood management function. Over time, both areas have suffered from sediment buildup, poor water quality, shoreline erosion, and overgrown vegetation, leading to declining biodiversity and habitat degradation, particularly for migratory birds that rely on this site along the Pacific Flyway. Despite previous interventions, the continued deterioration underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive restoration effort.

The proposed Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration Project (Project) aims to remove sediment, improve dissolved oxygen levels through aeration and algae control systems, and implement stormwater management infrastructure including realigned drain outlets, and erosion control measures at Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond. Shoreline stabilization and historic wall rehabilitation at Baldwin Lake will preserve its structural and cultural integrity, while enhanced landscaping, a new viewing deck, and interpretive signage will enrich visitor experience and public education. Prioritized for its ecological, cultural, and educational value, the Project would enhance flood resilience, restore natural habitats, and revitalize a unique community landmark, ensuring its preservation for future generations.

The estimated construction contract cost to complete this Project is in the range of $20,000,000 to $30,000,000. The total project cost is estimated to be $63,714,000. In addition to the construction contract cost, the total project cost includes the preparation of plans and specifications, construction engineering, inspection, contract administration, change order contingency, environmental compliance, and other County services.

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MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
SOLIS	_____

Prior to the start of construction, the Flood Control District (District) will return to the Board for authority to execute a Funding, Use, and Maintenance Agreement between the Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County Parks) and the District establishing the parties' respective roles and responsibilities related to funding, construction, operation and maintenance of the Project along with the authority to enter into agreement(s) with Waste Management to accept material excavated from the project site.

Funding for this proposed Project is available in the Flood Control District Fund Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget. Funding to finance future contract years will be requested through the annual budget process. There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

In February 2025, the District, as lead agency under CEQA, prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed Project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The IS/MND identified potentially significant effects of the Project in the following environmental resources: aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, and tribal cultural resources. The IS/MND concludes that all identified environmental effects of the Project can be avoided or reduced to less than significant through the implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) consistent with the conclusions and recommendations of the IS/MND has been prepared which identifies in detail the manner in which compliance with the measures adopted to mitigate or avoid potential adverse impacts of the Project to the environment is ensured and its requirements have been incorporated into the conditions of approval for this Project.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt the IS/MND was filed and provided to public agencies and others in accordance with the requirements of CEQA. The NOI was published in the Los Angeles Times on November 1, 2024, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 21092 and posted pursuant to Section 21092.3. The IS/MND and associated technical reports were posted online on the Public Works web page at: https://pw.lacounty.gov/projects/baldwin-lake-tule-pond-restoration/. The 30-day public review period for the IS/MND began on November 1, 2024, and closed on December 2, 2024.

A total of four comment letters were received – one was from an organization, and three were from individuals. Comments received were primarily concerned with impacts to tribal cultural resources, traffic/transportation, and biological resources. All comments received during the public review period have been addressed and are included in the Final IS/MND. The Final IS/MND and the MMRP are also included in the above link.

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In addition, all tribal cultural resources consultation requirements of CEQA have been met and documented.

- The Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation requested consultation, and the consultation was completed by a good faith determination after reasonable efforts that an agreement could not be reached. Where feasible, mitigation measures have been considered and incorporated to avoid or minimize damaging effect on any tribal cultural resource. A letter closing the AB 52 consultation with the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation was sent to Mr. Andrew Salas on October 28, 2024.

- The Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California requested consultation, and the consultation was completed through agreement. A letter closing the AB 52 consultation with the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California was sent to Ms. Christina Conley on October 28, 2024.

The location of the documents and other materials constituting the record of the proceedings upon which your Board's decision is based in this matter is the Los Angeles County Public Works Stormwater Planning Division at 900 South Fremont Avenue, 11th floor in Alhambra, CA 91803. The custodian of such documents and materials is the Senior Civil Engineer in charge of the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Section in the Stormwater Planning Division of Public Works.

The Project is not exempt from payment of a fee to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife pursuant to section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code to defray the costs of fish and wildlife protection and management incurred by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Construction for the Project is anticipated to begin in July 2026, with completion targeted by December 2027. The District will work closely with the Arboretum and LA County Parks to minimize construction impacts to facility programs, operations, and visitors, while still allowing for accelerated construction necessary to maintain the project schedule. Phasing, site access, and activity sequencing will be coordinated with Arboretum staff to ensure that essential functions and public access are preserved to the greatest extent feasible.

Completing the Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration Project prior to the 2028 Summer Olympics is critical to showcasing Los Angeles County's commitment to sustainability, cultural heritage, and ecological stewardship on a global stage. With millions of visitors expected during the Olympic Games, the Arboretum will serve as a prominent destination, and restoring these historic water features ensures they reflect the region's natural beauty and resilience, while protecting vital habitats and improving flood management, in addition to creating an enhanced visitor experience.

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I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Project, together with the comments received during the public review process; find that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the Board; adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, finding that the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is adequately designed to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures during project implementation; find on the basis of the whole record before the Board that there is no substantial evidence the project may have a significant effect on the environment; adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and direct the Director of Public Works to file a Notice of Determination (NOD) in accordance with Section 21152 of the California Public Resources Code, post the NOD to Public Works' website and pay the required filing fees to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.
2. Approve the Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration Project and delegate authority to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee to adopt the plans and specifications and advertise for bids at an estimated construction cost between $20,000,000 to $30,000,000.
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee to instruct the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors to advertise for bids in accordance with the Instruction Sheet for Publishing Legal Advertisement with the Notice Inviting Bids when ready to advertise this project.
4. Find pursuant to California Public Contract Code Section 3400 (c) (2), that it is necessary to specify designated items by specific brand name in order to match other products in use on a particular public improvement either completed or in the course of completion (Enclosure A).
5. Delegate authority to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee to determine whether the bid of the apparent responsible contractor with the lowest apparent responsive bid is, in fact, responsive and, if not responsive, to determine which apparent responsible contractor submitted the lowest responsive bid.
6. Delegate authority to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee to award and execute a construction contract for the Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration Project to the responsible contractor with the lowest apparent responsive bid within or less than the estimated cost range of $20,000,000 to $30,000,000 or that exceeds the estimated cost range by no more than 15 percent if additional funds have been identified.

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7. Delegate to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee the following authority in connection with this contract: (a) extend the date and time for the receipt of bids consistent with the requirements of California Public Contract Code Section 4104.5; (b) allow substitution of subcontractors and relief of bidders upon demonstration of the grounds set forth in California Public Contract Code Sections 4100 et seq. and 5100 et seq., respectively; (c) approve and execute change orders within the same monetary limits delegated to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee under Section 20998 of the California Public Contract Code; (d) accept the Project upon its final completion; and (e) make required findings and release retention money withheld consistent with the requirements of California Public Contract Code Sections 7107 and 9203.

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ENCLOSURE A

PROJECT NAME: Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration Project
PROJECT ID NO.: FCC0001341

List of specific brand names in accordance with State Public Contract Code Section 3400:

	Item/Category	Manufacturer	Model	PCC 3400 Justification*	Detailed Justification
1	MASTER VALVE	SUPERIOR	3200	2	Equipment to match existing irrigation equipment on site.
2	FLOW SENSOR	CST	FSI-T	2	Equipment to match existing irrigation equipment on site.
3	CONTROL VALVE	RAIN BIRD	EFB-CP-PRS-D	2	Equipment to match existing irrigation equipment on site.
4	QUICK COUPLER	RAIN BIRD	33-DLRC	2	Equipment to match existing irrigation equipment on site.
5	GATE VALVE	NIBCO	T-113-K	2	Equipment to match existing irrigation equipment on site.
6	CONTROLLER	WEATHERTRAK	ET PRO3	2	Equipment to match existing irrigation equipment on site.
7	AIR RELIEF	JAIN	ARV-2	2	Equipment to match existing irrigation equipment on site.
8	TREE ROOT WATERING SYSTEMS	RAIN BIRD	RWS-B-C-1401-RWS-SOCK	2	Equipment to match existing irrigation equipment on site.
9	CONTROLLER	WEATHERTRAK	ET PRO3	2	Equipment to match existing irrigation equipment on site.
10	RAIN SENSOR	HUNTER	MINI-CLIK	2	Equipment to match existing irrigation equipment on site.
11	TURF ROTATOR	RAIN BIRD	RD-06-S-P45-F	2	Equipment to match existing irrigation equipment on site.
12	SHRUB ROTATOR	RAIN BIRD	RD-12-S-P45-F	2	Equipment to match existing irrigation equipment on site.
13	SHRUB ROTOR	RAIN BIRD	5000+S PC-SAM-R	2	Equipment to match existing irrigation equipment on site.
14	BENCH - TYPE 1	LANDSCAPE FORMS	Trapecio Wood Bench	2	This specific bench is to match existing bench at the entrance.

*(1) In order that a field test or experiment may be made to determine the product s suitability for future use. (2) In order to match other products in use on a particular public improvement either completed or in the course of completion. (3) In order to obtain a necessary item that is only available from one source. (4) (A) In order to respond to an emergency declared by a local agency, but only if the declaration is approved by a four-fifths vote of the governing board of the local agency issuing the invitation for bid or request for proposals. (B) In order to respond to an emergency declared by the state, a state agency, or political subdivision of the state, but only if the facts setting forth the reasons for the finding of the emergency are contained in the public records of the authority issuing the invitation for bid or request for proposals.