

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

JUNE 16, 2026

BALDWIN LAKE AND TULE POND RESTORATION PROJECT

The proposed Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration Project (Project) will restore Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond within the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden. The restoration project includes sediment removal, shoreline stabilization, rehabilitation of the lake's historic wall, water quality features, realigned drain outlets and erosion control measures, landscaping, a viewing deck, and interpretive signage.

On March 17th, 2026, the Board approved the Project, adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), and Directed the filing of the Notice of Determination with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. Additionally, authority was delegated to the Chief Engineer to advertise for bids, award, and execute the construction contract in the estimated amount of \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000, specify sole sourced items, and handle contract administration through Project completion.

The total estimated cost for the Project is \$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.

The Project is funded by: 1. the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District) in the amount of \$8,000,000; 2. Safe Clean Water Regional Program in the amount of \$8,500,000 (\$3,770,000 approved in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 and \$4,730,000 to be received upon California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) approval); 3. Safe Clean Water District Program in the amount up to \$46,214,000; and 4. Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (Proposition A) grant to the Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County Parks) in the amount of \$1,000,000 to be contributed toward construction cost of the historic wall surrounding Baldwin Lake.

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LA County Parks will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the recreational amenities within the Project including, but not limited to, the landscaping, irrigation, pond, and lake aeration and algae remediation system.

The District will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the stormwater facilities within the Project, including but not limited to, the storm drainpipes, manholes, and catch basins. The District will enter into a separate agreement with LA County Parks related to funding, operations and maintenance for the Project's useful life, including providing an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 toward the wall rehabilitation portion of the project.

Material excavated from the Project site will be hauled to Waste Management facilities in Simi Valley and Kettleman City for disposal. These two locations were selected due to availability, location, and cost. The Industrial Waste and Disposal Services Agreements with Waste Management will be approved as to form by County Counsel prior to execution by the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee.

In 2009, the Board, acting as the governing body of RPOSD, adopted a procedural guide for projects funded by Proposition A. RPOSD's policy requires that the grantee's governing body adopt a Youth Employment Plan (YEP) (Enclosure A) for each Proposition A funded project at a duly noticed public meeting. Approval of the recommended actions will adopt a YEP for the proposed Project to comply with the requirements of RPOSD's policy. Youth will not be employed for the Project due to the specialized nature of the work.

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. Find on behalf of the District, as lead agency for preparation of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the previously approved Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration Project, that the actions herein are within the scope of the MND previously adopted by the Board. The MMP (or MMRP) will continue to apply. There are no changes to the Project or to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken that require further review under the California Environmental Quality Act. The location of the documents and materials constituting the record of the proceedings upon which your Board's decision 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 records is the Senior Civil Engineer in charge of the Los Angeles River Watershed Section in the Stormwater Planning Division, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. Upon the Board's approval of the current directives, Public Works will file a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21152 and will post the Notice to Public Works' website in accordance with section 21092.2.
2. Acting as a responsible agency on behalf of the County for the Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration Project, consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared and adopted by the District, as lead agency,; certify that the Board has independently reviewed and considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the environmental effects of the approvals related to the project as shown in the MND; adopt the MMRP, as applicable, for the project, finding that the MMRP is adequately designed to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures during project implementation; find the actions here are within the scope of the MND and that no further findings under CEQA are required. The location of the documents and materials constituting the record of the proceedings upon which your Board's decision 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 documents are also available electronically at <https://pw.lacounty.gov/projects/baldwin-lake-tule-pond-restoration/> The custodian of such documents and records is the Senior Civil Engineer in charge of the Los Angeles River Watershed Section in the Stormwater Planning Division, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. Upon the Board's approval of the current directives, Public Works will file a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21152 and will post the Notice to Parks' website in accordance with section 21092.2.

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3. Delegate authority to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee and to the Director of LA County Parks, or her designee, to execute a Funding, Use and Maintenance Agreement, after approval as to form by County Counsel, establishing the parties' respective roles and responsibilities related to the funding, operation and maintenance of the Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration Project in the Los Angeles County Arboretum, including establishing an initial 50-year term for the use and maintenance portion of the Agreement with extensions in 10-year increments not to exceed a total term of 100 years.
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee to enter into Industrial Waste and Disposal Services Agreements with Waste Management to accept excavated material from the project site for a total amount not to exceed \$7,000,000; and to execute amendments to the agreements as necessary to complete the project, including extensions of time, operational adjustments, and minor changes in the scope of work, provided the additional cost to the District does not exceed \$500,000.
5. Adopt the Youth Employment Plan as required by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (Enclosure A).

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**ENCLOSURE A
BALDWIN LAKE WALL REHABILITATION AT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM AND BOTANIC GARDEN FOR THE
BALDWIN LAKE AND TULE POND RESTORATION PROJECT

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PLAN**

BACKGROUND:

The Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 and 1996 will provide \$1,000,000 to the County of Los Angeles for improvements for the rehabilitation of the wall that surrounds Baldwin Lake as part of the Baldwin Lake and Tule Pond Restoration Project (Project), located in the Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Garden (Arboretum) at 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA. The Arboretum is a 127-acre natural and historic facility with plant collections, including rare and endangered species from all over the world.

The Baldwin Lake wall rehabilitation will replace and rehabilitate the wall that surrounds Baldwin Lake, located in the Arboretum. This work will be funded by \$1,000,000 of Proposition A Excess Funds, funds from the Safe, Clean Water Program, and Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District). The District will deliver the proposed Project.

Tasks that may be performed by At-Risk Youth

Due to the specialized nature of the Project, there is no work for youth to perform.

Estimated Cost of Youth Employment

Not applicable

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Not applicable

Youth Employment Goal:

The Youth Employment Goal (YEG) established for the County of Los Angeles was \$15,739,750. The County has exceeded this goal.