



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT



# Citizens Oversight Advisory Board

## Commission Annual Report Fiscal Year 2024-2025

### ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

- 1<sup>st</sup> District: Bruce Saito (Vice Chair)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> District: Reginald Johnson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> District: Yvette Lopez-Ledesma
- 4<sup>th</sup> District: Oscar Flores
- 5<sup>th</sup> District: Mark Mariscal (Chair)



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[rposd.lacounty.gov/advisory-board](https://rposd.lacounty.gov/advisory-board)

## Mission Statement

The Measure A Citizens Oversight Advisory Board (Advisory Board) provides public accountability and transparency in the use of Measure A funds. Approved by 75% of voters in 2016, Measure A established an annual tax on the improved square footage of most real property in Los Angeles County (County) to provide dedicated funding for parks, open spaces, and recreation programs. The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) administers these funds as grants, while the Advisory Board ensures expenditures are allocated and expended in alignment with the Measure A Resolution (Resolution).

Measure A supports the following goals outlined in the County's 2024-2030 Strategic Plan. Through Measure A, funds are used to repair and upgrade parks and recreational facilities, create new parks, protect open spaces and beaches, and provide recreation programs. These investments improve County residents' health and lifestyle, equip youth and veterans with education and skills for job opportunities, and help build stronger, more connected communities.

### North Star 1: Make Investments that Transforms Lives

- **Goal A: Healthy Individuals and Families**

Parks play a vital role in fostering healthier, more connected communities by providing free and accessible spaces for physical activity, including walking, running, and sports. Parks also support mental wellness by offering opportunities for residents to engage with nature, find respite, and participate in recreational and social activities. By funding parks, Measure A ensures that all residents have access to green spaces that promote healthier, more active, and connected lives.

- **Goal B: Employment and Sustainable Wages**

Through Measure A, the Youth and Veteran Job Training & Placement grants have supported programs that provide education, skills training, certification, and job placement opportunities within the parks and recreation sector. Targeting youth ages 18 to 25 and veterans, these programs foster meaningful career pathways while simultaneously cultivating a skilled workforce to maintain these spaces for everyone to enjoy. By investing in workforce development, Measure A advances both economic opportunity and the long-term sustainability of our park infrastructure.

### North Star 2: Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities

- **Goal F: Community Connections**

Measure A supports the development and maintenance of parks, open spaces, trails, beaches, and recreation programs that foster:

- Welcoming and accessible public spaces
- Opportunities for residents to connect and build relationships
- Inclusive recreational experiences for all

Every grant agreement includes a nondiscrimination clause, ensuring equal access to Measure A-funded amenities and programs for all County residents, regardless of background, identity, or place of residence.

## Historical Background

Measure A mandated the formation of the Advisory Board under Section 7: Community Oversight and Accountability. The Advisory Board consists of five members appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Directors\* (BOD), which acts as the governing body of RPOSD.

Appointed members are community representatives with knowledge or expertise in parks, park development, financial transactions, and/or program cost-effectiveness. Each member serves a four-year term at the pleasure of the BOD and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. In the event of a vacancy, the BOD appoints a successor to complete the unexpired term.

## Board Members

The Advisory Board's second term runs from January 2024 through October 2027, and consists of the following appointed members:



**First District**

Bruce  
Saito



**Second District**

Reginald  
Johnson



**Third District**

Yvette  
Lopez-Ledesma



**Fourth District**

Oscar  
Flores



**Fifth District**

Mark  
Mariscal

At the February 2025 meeting, the Advisory Board elected Mark Mariscal as Chair and Bruce Saito as Vice Chair. They will serve in these roles through December 2025.

\*Board of Supervisors serve ex officio as RPOSD's Board of Directors.

## Annual Work Plan

The Advisory Board has an established schedule of regular meetings on a quarterly basis, specifically in January, April, July, and October.

The Advisory Board's duties include:

- Reviewing all expenditures from the special tax on a quarterly basis;
- Ensuring Measure A is incorporated into RPOSD's annual independent audit;
- Publishing a yearly accounting of all allocations, including information about each project's location, footprint, objective, status, outcome, matching funds, and the applicable program(s) from the Resolution's expenditure plan, on RPOSD's website;
- At the direction of the BOD, periodically evaluate Measure A, which may be undertaken by independent researchers, and identify any changes needed to meet the objectives of the Resolution; and
- Disseminating information about available funding opportunities and represent the Advisory Board at events.

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Its members represent a cross section of the County's population, Supervisorial Districts (SD), and professional and lived experiences. This diversity ensures that every SD has a voice and that RPOSD benefits from diverse perspectives when addressing park needs of all communities, especially those that are identified as high park-need. Through these differing perspectives, RPOSD is able to advance Measure A's mission of providing equitable and inclusive access to parks and open space.

To promote equal access and opportunities for public participation, the Advisory Board holds hybrid meetings where the public can attend and participate in person or virtually. This approach maximizes public accessibility and accommodates those unable to attend in person.

Each meeting also includes a public comment period that allows the public to share and express their opinions on matters within the Advisory Board's purview. To accommodate diverse communication styles, the Advisory Board offers two ways for the public to address the Advisory Board:

1. Written comments can be submitted prior to the meeting via email to [info@rposd.lacounty.gov](mailto:info@rposd.lacounty.gov) or online on RPOSD's [Advisory Board webpage](#), and are read aloud by RPOSD staff during the meeting.



2. The public can present its comments live, or by writing in the chat box and the comments are read aloud by RPOSD staff.

## Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was a breakthrough year for RPOSD. Beyond funding parks, RPOSD supported communities in recovering from disasters, launched careers in conservation, connected thousands of County residents to nature, and modernized its grantmaking processes. As community members and experts in their respective fields, the Board Members provided personal and professional insights that guided RPOSD in achieving the following accomplishments this fiscal year:

### Investing in Parks, Trails, and Open Space

- RPOSD awarded more than \$50 million in new non-competitive Measure A grants, fueling transformative park and open space projects across the County. These grant awards funded new shade structures and playgrounds, planning of large park facilities, and even the acquisition of major parks in high park-need communities, marking significant progress in RPOSD's mission to improve access for all.
- Over 600 acres of new park land was acquired through the awarding of \$17 million in competitive Measure A funding, securing vital open space for future generations. Half of the funds were awarded to communities with high park-need, a direct result of the RPOSD Technical Assistance Program's outreach efforts. The award ceremony, hosted by Board Chair Supervisor Barger in February 2025, brought together all members of the BOD, County leaders, awardees, elected officials, city managers, and members of the philanthropic and environmental communities to celebrate this historic investment. Chair Mariscal opened the ceremony on behalf of the Advisory Board, highlighting its mission to ensure Measure A funds are spent in accordance with the voters' mandate.
- 69 Measure A-funded park projects were completed, delivering real, visible improvements in communities countywide.

### Rebuilding After Disaster

- RPOSD launched the Recovery and Emergency Support for Trails, Open Space, and Recreation (RESTORE) Program this fiscal year to support recovery in communities impacted by the January 2025 wildfires. By investing in park, trail, and open space recovery, RPOSD furthers its mission to equitably support the long-term health and accessibility of public lands, ensuring that wildfire-impacted communities are not left behind.
- \$4.25 million in RESTORE funding was allocated to help devastated communities recover, rebuild, and reimagine public parks and natural areas.

### **Connecting Communities to Nature**

- Over 22,000 Los Angeles County residents, including many children and families, were connected to nature through the Recreation Access Program, with trips to the Angeles National Forest, LA Zoo, County beaches, local parks, and cultural destinations.
- Over 150 youth and veterans trained in conservation and parks careers, earning hands-on experience, certifications, and access to life-changing apprenticeship opportunities.

### **Supporting Park Agencies in High and Very High Need Areas**

- The first cycle of the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) wrapped in March 2025, marking a major milestone in RPOSD's mission to expand park access in communities with limited green spaces. In that round, RPOSD allocated over \$9 million in technical assistance funding to 30 TAP eligible agencies, funding a total of 42 projects to increase park access in high park-need communities.
- The second cycle of TAP funding launched in mid-June 2025, providing an additional \$6.4 million for planning, design, and acquisition projects that help agencies in high park-need areas:
  - Unlock stalled projects;
  - Secure additional funding from external sources; and
  - Acquire new park land and plan community-driven improvements.

### **Strengthening Systems & Streamlining Grantmaking**

- Launched a streamlined grantmaking process, making it easier for agencies to plan, submit, and receive Measure A funding.
- Initiated a full-scale redevelopment of the Grants Management System, setting the stage for a faster, more accessible, and more transparent grant experience from application to reimbursement.



This report was compiled on behalf of the Advisory Board by

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**