



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2018**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 68 FUNDS

ISSUE:

Receive an update on the State of California Proposition 68 funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive an update and provide feedback on Proposition 68 funds.

BACKGROUND:

On June 5, 2018 California voters passed Proposition 68, the Parks, Environment and Water Bond. Proposition 68 authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for state and local parks, environmental protection projects, water infrastructure projects and flood protection projects. Multiple State agencies will administer and disburse funds generated through various grant programs. Agencies are in the process of developing draft grant program guidelines.

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCSD) has been actively researching and following the State of California's progress in developing the grant programs. PRCSD staff has reviewed draft grant guidelines that have been released on the State of California's website and attended meetings the State has held disbursing information in regards to the grant funding to be released. The State has released enough information to allow the PRCSD to identify grants that it will apply for and begin planning how to meet the State's grant guidelines, to prepare for the application process. The most competitive projects include community based planning and outreach, provide employment and volunteer opportunities, include partnerships or committed leveraged funding, are designed to utilize techniques that ensure efficient use of water and other natural resources, and are accessible to the public with generous open hours and are free or low cost.

DISCUSSION:

The PRCSD has identified three grants the department would qualify for based off of the information released:

1. The Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Plan Grant
2. Cultural, Community and Natural Resources Program
3. Coastal Conservancy-Santa Ana Conservancy

Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant

The purpose of the grant program is to create new parks, expand existing parks or renovate existing parks and create outdoor recreational opportunities in critically underserved communities. All projects must include outdoor recreational opportunities. A total of \$620,275,000 will be available through multiple rounds of grant funding. The current round of grant funding available to apply for in winter 2019 is \$254,942,000. An application of a minimum of \$200,000 and a maximum of \$8.5 million can be submitted for each qualifying park. Matching funds are not required to be eligible for grant funding, but projects must be able to be maintained or replaced for 30 years. Parks must have less than three acres of park land in a half mile radius, or have a median household income of \$51,026 or less to qualify for funding. If a park cannot meet at least one of the criteria it is ineligible for grant funding. Information in regards to the criteria is gathered from the Community Fact Finder website generated by the State of California. PRCSD staff has researched and identified eligible parks (attachment 2).

Cultural Community and Natural Resources Program

The purpose of the grant program is to fund projects that protect, restore and enhance California's cultural, community and natural resources. \$37 million will be made available through the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), and there is no minimum or maximum grant amount requested per project application. Eligibility and selection criteria are similar to the grant program described above, however, this program does not require that projects be located in a park-poor area. The most competitive projects will serve disadvantaged neighborhoods, and include leveraged funding, utilize the California Conservation or other local Corps, and include carbon sequestration features.

A potential project that PRCSD has identified for this grant is construction of trail improvements along the historic Gage Canal in areas where the canal water is currently piped underground resulting in an unobstructed corridor (generally from Arlington Avenue heading north to the City limits). The improvements would include a decomposed granite surfaced multi-purpose recreational trail with a parallel paved trail for higher speed and active transportation use, pedestrian and bike friendly access points, gates and fencing, trees, low water landscaping, irrigation, safety lighting, interpretive and wayfinding signs, and other related support amenities.

Coastal Conservancy-Santa Ana Coastal Conservancy

The Coastal Conservancy will allocate \$16,000,000 in grant funding for projects in the Santa Ana River Conservancy area, which encompasses the City Of Riverside. Program guidelines are in the early stages of development. Solicitation and final guidelines are planned for release in May or August of 2019.

A potential project that PRCSD has identified for this grant is development of Camp Evans at Fairmount Park. This project expands upon the historic Boy Scout Camp use of the wilderness area by adding: an archery/BB shooting range set within an oak woodland, a small amphitheater with restrooms and parking, a challenge course with a zip line, a nature trail, interpretive and educational outdoor exhibits, and a community garden. These improvements would be created to take advantage of educational and recreational opportunities created by habitat improvement work to take place as part of a larger regional multi-agency Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Gabby Garcia, Senior Administrative Analyst

Approved by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director

Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

Attachments:

1. PowerPoint Presentation
2. Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Eligible Parks List