



# Park and Recreation Commission

*City of Arts & Innovation*

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**TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS** **DATE: JANUARY 30, 2019**

**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 to disburse information regarding the grant funding to be released. The State has released enough information to allow the PRCSD to identify grants that it will apply, develop a plan to meet the State's grant requirements, and prepare for the application process. The most competitive projects will 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, are accessible to the public with generous open hours, and are free or low cost.

On December 12, 2018 PRCSD presented an update to the Community Services and Youth Committee (CSYC) where CSYC members recommended grant applications be submitted for various districts to evenly distribute funds throughout all districts for the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant. Many of the most competitive parks are concentrated in the Eastside area of Riverside. Wards 6 and 7 lack competitive parks, and the parks available are not large enough to accommodate additional recreational features. Director

Cruz is committed to investigating all possibilities to evenly distribute funds, but the Department will select the projects that are most likely to be successful, as this grant is highly competitive.

On December 17, 2018, the PRCSD presented the Park and Recreation Commission with an initial update on Proposition 68. The PRCSD is committed to keep the Commission updated on the progress made on the grant application process for Proposition 68 funds.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program**

In order to address the CSYC concerns on evenly distributing the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization grant funds throughout the districts, the PRCSD has contacted the Community and Economic Development Department for possible land parcels available for sale in ward 6 or 7 that meet the grant criteria. The purpose would be to purchase and create a new park to address the recreational needs in wards 6 and 7. This would assist in grant funds being evenly distributed throughout the City of Riverside. Once the parcels for sale are researched to determine if they are eligible for funds, the PRCSD will make a decision on which parks to select for the first round of grant funding.

### **Cultural Community and Natural Resources Program**

The solicitation period is open for the Cultural, Community and Natural Resources Grant Program until February 13, 2019. The PRCSD will be submitting a concept proposal for a trail improvements project along a portion of the Gage Canal (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 way finding signs, and other related support amenities. If the concept proposal is a viable project and accepted, the California Natural Resources Agency will approve the PRCSD to move on to the application process.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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