



City of Arts & Innovation

Park and Recreation Commission

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS

DATE: JUNE 17, 2019

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY FOR THE RIVER-SIDE GATEWAY PROJECT SUITE, INCLUDING PARKLAND ACQUISITION, PLANNING, CONCEPTUAL DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE FOR MULTIPLE PARK PROJECTS ALONG THE SANTA ANA RIVER

ISSUE:

Receive an update regarding the filing of a grant application for funding from the California State Coastal Conservancy for the River-side Gateway Project Suite, including parkland acquisition, planning, conceptual design and environmental compliance for multiple park projects along the Santa Ana River.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission receive an update regarding filing of a grant application for funding from the California State Coastal Conservancy for the River-side Gateway Project Suite, including parkland acquisition, planning, conceptual design and environmental compliance for multiple park projects along the Santa Ana River.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, through Senate Bill 1390, the California state legislature created the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program within the State Coastal Conservancy. The program addresses the resource and recreational goals of the Santa Ana River region including open space, trails, wildlife habitat, agricultural land protection, water quality protection, educational use, and public access. The Conservancy has grant funding available to help agencies and non-profit organizations move forward with projects to meet these resource and recreational goals.

In 2003, the Santa Ana River Task Force developed a vision and concept plan for developing a parkway along the river in Riverside. The plan recommends nature trails, a boardwalk, and a nature center with programming in the area now proposed for Camp Evans at Fairmount Park. The plan further recommends recreation improvements in the area around Tequesquite Avenue and the Old Landfill, and that Martha McLean Anza Narrows Park be further improved and renovated to support the Santa Ana River Parkway concept.

In 2009, the Santa Ana River Task Force reconvened to review and update their prior recommendations based on work accomplished and other changes since 2003. The recommended project areas remained the same.

DISCUSSION:

The River-side Gateway project suite supports the Santa Ana River Task Force's vision and concept plan for developing a Santa Ana River parkway. The project suite includes several parks and open spaces within a half-mile of the Santa Ana River that are eligible for grant funding through the State Coastal Conservancy. The following park properties are included in the application for grant funding (see attached presentation for location maps and preliminary draft concepts/improvement ideas):

1. Fairmount Park - Camp Evans Master Plan (area behind the dam where the fires have occurred);
2. Loring Park - Master Plan;
3. Carlson Park - St. Francis Falls Restoration;
4. Santa Ana River Greenway – Recreational Trail Improvements;
5. Tequesquite North Extension - Master Plan and Trailhead Improvements;
6. 5200 Tequesquite Avenue (APN 187-080-008) - Purchase of 4 acres of private property adjacent to Ryan Bonaminio Park at the Tequesquite Arroyo;
7. Tequesquite South Extension - Master Plan and Santa Ana River Trail Improvements;
8. Martha McLean Anza Narrows Park - Riverside Gateway Master Plan; and,
9. Jurupa Avenue Trailhead (near Van Buren).

The grant funding will be used to develop a Santa Ana River-side Park Master Plan that will provide a detailed inventory of environmental resources, opportunities and constraints, as well as, develop concept plans, gain input and support from the community and prepare the appropriate environmental documents.

Completing the planning and environmental scope of work for these projects will allow the City to submit competitive applications for construction grants. Proposition 68 (the 2018 Parks, Environment, and Water Bond) is a prime funding opportunity for these projects. Prop. 68 funding is being distributed through competitive grant programs by several agencies, including California State Parks, the California Natural Resources Agency, and the Coastal Conservancy. Each agency has slightly different goals, objectives, and grant criteria; therefore, once the planning and environmental work is done, individual projects from the Project Suite will be submitted to different agencies as appropriate.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If awarded, grant funds in the amount of \$2,358,500 will be appropriated into the Santa Ana River Coastal Conservancy account. An additional \$402,000 in matching contributions will be provided to the project, as outlined in the table below.

Grant Request	\$2,358,500.00
City Match - Regional Park Special Capital Improvement (413) Fund	\$390,000.00
City Match - In-kind Labor (120 hours @ approximately \$100/hour)	\$12,000.00
Total Project	\$2,760,500.00

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Attachment: River-side Gateway Project Suite Presentation