

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: <u>10/22/12</u>		Item Number: <u>C-1</u>	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: 1) Adoption of a Resolution Approving the Application for Grant Funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Grant Program in the Amount of \$250,000 for the Syd Kronenthal Park Playground Rehabilitation Project; and, 2) Approval of a Budget Amendment to Appropriate the Funding for this Project Upon Receipt of the Fully Executed Grant Agreement.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Dan Hernandez, PRCS Director		Phone Number: (310) 253-6655	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☐	Attachments: ☒
Public Notification: (Email) Meetings and Agendas – City Council (10/18/12).			
Department Approval: Dan Hernandez (10/10/12)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (10/15/12)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by K. Marsden) (10/17/12)		City Manager Approval: John Nachbar (10/17/12)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council 1) Adopt a Resolution approving the application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Grant Program in the amount of \$250,000 for the Syd Kronenthal Park Playground Rehabilitation Project; and, 2) Approve a Budget Amendment to appropriate the funding for this Project upon receipt of the fully executed Grant Agreement. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> On Wednesday, September 12, 2012, Daniel Hernandez, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, received a copy of a letter that had been sent to the City Manager's Office from the Office of Second District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Board of Supervisors – Los Angeles County. The letter was sent in partnership with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) and in it, the City was notified of an opportunity to submit one or more proposals for Cities/County Excess Funds for capital improvement projects in an amount not to exceed \$250,000. The types of projects that will be considered include the development, expansion or refurbishment of community park nodes/pocket parks, trails, community gardens and outdoor fitness zones. Proposals may be submitted with Application Packets and must be received no later than November 16, 2012. It is anticipated that the funding will be awarded by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on or before February 1, 2012.			

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DISCUSSION:

City Council Approved List of Priority Projects

This request for proposals from the Supervisor's Office, in partnership with the RPOSD, is similar (although not identical) to some that were previously received by the City. For example, in early 2008, the City was notified by Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke's Office that Culver City had been awarded \$250,000 in Cities Excess Funds. At the April 1, 2008 PRCS Commission meeting, after extensive public outreach and input, the Commission made a recommendation to the City Council that the \$250,000 be used toward the construction of a new playground in Culver City Park. On April 21, 2008, the City Council adopted the Resolution authorizing staff to submit the application for that project as recommended by the Commission. The new Culver City Park Playground was completed in the July 2012; it is being heavily utilized and has been receiving rave reviews from both children and their parents/caregivers.

The extensive public outreach noted above is relevant to this discussion because the Syd Kronenthal (SK) Park Playground Rehabilitation is the only unfunded project/unmet need left on Culver City's "Wish-List of City Park Related Projects Eligible for Los Angeles County Proposition A Excess Funds" as approved at the September 22, 2008 City Council meeting. This priority project list was created in response to a September 2008 letter from the Office of Supervisor Burke inviting the City to submit a "Call-for-Projects" wish-list of potential Proposition A compliant city park-related projects.

At a Special PRCS Commission Meeting held on September 19, 2008, the Commission created a Project Wish-List that was then presented to the City Council, along with staff's recommendation. The Commission's Wish-List was compiled from the following sources:

- Comments of eighteen (18) public speakers received at the April 1, 2008 Commission meeting
- A summary of thirty-eight (38) emailed Proposition A project suggestions
- One DVD submission
- Recommendations from PRCS and Public Works Department staff
- The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Deferred Maintenance List

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Below is the Wish-List approved by the City Council on September 22, 2008, based on the PRCS Commission's recommendation, and then submitted to Supervisor Burke's Office on September 28, 2008:

Rank	Project	2008 Prop A Request	Current Status
1	Fox Hills Park Playground Rehabilitation	Unfunded	In the process of going out to bid; funded by a combination of Park Facility (Quimby) funds and Capital Improvement and Acquisition (General) funds.
2	Veterans Memorial Park Playground Improvements	Partially Funded	Project completed; funded through a combination of a KaBOOM! project, Proposition A Excess Funds, Proposition 40 funds and the Parks Division Budget.
3	Syd Kronenthal Park Playground Rehabilitation	Unfunded	A high-priority unmet need; please see detail below.
4	Bill Botts Field Improvements (Little League Field Leveling)	Fully Funded	Project completed; funded through a combination of Proposition A Excess Funds, Proposition 40 funds and League donations.

Syd Kronenthal Park Playground

The playground areas at Syd Kronenthal Park are heavily utilized as there are approximately 2,400 Culver City households within a one-mile radius service area of the Park; about 63% of this one-mile radius service area benefits our Second District neighbors. In addition, the McManus (East Culver City) neighborhood has a higher percentage of households with children than Culver City as a whole (married-couple families with children: 27.5% versus 17.8%; single-mother households: 9.9% versus 7.7%; source: City-Data.com).

The Syd Kronenthal Park playground area for children ages 5 – 12 has not been updated since 1990; the area for children ages 2 – 5 was updated in 2006 and will not be included in this proposed project. In the 5 – 12 playground area, the existing play equipment is outdated and replacement parts are no longer available. In addition to new physically challenging and safe play structures, the area is in need of both Federal ADA-compliant surfacing and ramps. Currently, the surface material is 100% sand, which no longer meets playground Federal ADA accessibility standards.

Staff proposes to: (a) replace the outdated playground equipment with sculptural elements that are both physically and mentally challenging; (b) replace the sand surfacing using 100% engineered wood fiber; (c) incorporate needed features such as an accessible ramp; and (d) provide a path of travel to and from the parking area to the playground area that will bring the entire playground into 100% Federal ADA compliance.

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The Excess Funds Grant Program

The category of Proposition A funding that the City has been invited to apply for is described as follows:

I.C.2. Cities Excess Funds & County Excess Funds – Cities Excess Funds and County Excess Funds are allocated to Cities and the County, respectively, for Projects at regional park and recreation facilities, pursuant to Section 24(b) of the 1996 Proposition.

Because this is not a competitive grant, since the City has not been given a specific allocation amount (as with the \$250,000 in funding that was used for the Culver City Park Playground), it could be that the request for \$250,000 for the SK Park Playground Rehabilitation may not be fully-funded by the Board of Supervisors. The Excess Funds will be allocated between all of the Second Supervisorial District which includes the following:

- **9 Cities** – including Carson, Compton and Lawndale
- **18 Unincorporated Areas of Los Angeles County** – including Baldwin Hills, Lennox and a portion of Marina Del Rey
- **24 Areas within the City of Los Angeles** – including Crenshaw, a portion of Hollywood and Watts

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Recommendation

At the October 2, 2012 Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission meeting, the Commission unanimously approved a recommendation to the City Council to adopt a Resolution authorizing the submission of a proposal/application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Grant Program in the amount of \$250,000 for the Syd Kronenthal Park Playground Rehabilitation.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Grant Program does not require a local match. In addition, staff has determined that there are no available City matching funds that can be utilized to enhance the project. If the full request for funding from the Grant Program is reduced for any reason, the scope of the Syd Kronenthal Park Playground Rehabilitation will be decreased to fit within the available grant funds.

Staff is requesting that the City Council approve a budget amendment to be processed upon receipt of the fully executed Grant Agreement to add both the grant revenue and appropriation in an amount not-to-exceed \$250,000. The exact amount of the allocation will be based on the recommendation of the Director of the Los

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Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation as approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, acting in its capacity as the Board of Directors of the Regional Park and Open Space District. *NOTE: This budget amendment will only be processed when a fully executed grant agreement is received. If for some reason, the fully executed grant agreement is not received, the budget amendment will not be processed.*

ATTACHMENT

Proposed Resolution

MOTION:

That the City Council:

1. Adopt a Resolution approving the application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Grant Program in the amount of \$250,000 for the Syd Kronenthal Park Playground Rehabilitation Project; and,
2. Approve a Budget Amendment to appropriate the funding for this Project upon receipt of the fully executed Grant Agreement.