

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

February 15, 2006

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
FROM: *Robert Jensen (ba)*
JON KIRK MUKRI, General Manager
SUBJECT: PROPOSITION 50 AND PROPOSITION O – STATUS UPDATE OF GRANT SUBMISSIONS

PROPOSITION 50

California voters passed Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, that provided \$3.44 billion in state funding for projects to protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and reduce dependence on imported water. Proposition 50 is comprised of eleven (11) separate chapters and the City has submitted funding applications under several of those chapters.

CHAPTER 5 - THE CALIFORNIA RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM

The legislature was authorized to appropriate \$100 million for the acquisition, restoration, protection, and development of River Parkways. A total of \$40.5 million dollars was appropriated for this first funding cycle. The California River Parkways Grant Program is administered by the State Resources Agency.

At the direction of the City Council, the Department of Recreation and Parks, in conjunction with the Bureau of Sanitation, Bureau of Engineering, and the Chief Legislative Analyst, coordinated the City's review of potential river parkways projects in order to develop a list of the most eligible and competitive projects for the California River Parkways Grant Program. Additionally, the Chief Legislative Analyst facilitated meetings with the Council offices to solicit potential projects, opportunities, and priorities in each Council District. On October 18, 2005, the Department of Recreation and Parks, as the lead agency for the City, submitted four (4) applications to the State Resources Agency. The four projects submitted were:

1. Taylor Yard (Rio de Los Angeles State Park) – Wetland & Interpretation Project (\$0.86 million)
2. LA River Greenway – Parkway Improvements (\$5.93 million)
3. North Atwater Park – Nature Expansion (\$0.60 million)
4. Peck Park – Canyon Enhancement Project (\$1.92 million)

The State Resources Agency is currently in the process of reviewing submitted applications. They have indicated that they plan to notify applicants about the status of their submittals by the end of February 2006 and advise them as to the next steps in the process.

CHAPTER 7 – AGRICULTURAL AND URBAN WATER USE EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

The legislature was authorized to appropriate a total of \$120 million for agricultural and urban water use efficiency implementation projects or studies that carry out the goals of the California Bay-Delta Program's Water Use Efficiency Program. A total of \$34 million dollars was appropriated for the 2004-05 funding cycle. The California Department of Water Resources administers the Agricultural and Urban Water Use Efficiency Program.

On January 11, 2005, the Department of Water and Power, in conjunction with the Department of Recreation and Parks, submitted an application to the California Department of Water Resources for the installation of smart irrigation systems at fifteen (15) of the City's parks and recreational facilities. Potential water savings in excess of 46 million gallons per year could be realized from the installation of smart irrigation systems at these sites. However, it should be noted that though the submitted application was for fifteen (15) parks sites, the list of potential project sites has undergone several revisions and a final list has not yet been determined. The grant application, for \$362,000, was selected for funding, and a proposed scope of work has been received from the California Department of Water Resources. Upon completion of the review process, the Board of Water and Power Commissioners will develop an agreement for consideration. Upon approval, the agreement will then be executed by the California Department of Water Resources, after which park improvements can begin. The Department of Water and Power anticipates that the development of these irrigation system improvements could begin as early as the end of March 2006. The Department of Water and Power will provide funding for the project and will receive reimbursement from the grant. Further, the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Water and Power will be investing resources in addition to the grant funding for the project.

CHAPTER 8 – INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Legislature was authorized to appropriate a total of \$500 million for planning grants and implementation grants for regional water management plans and projects that integrate water quality, water supply, water conservation, habitat restoration, and recreational/open space elements. Approximately \$148 million dollars is available for the initial implementation grant funding cycle. The California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board administer the Integrated Regional Water Management Program jointly.

The Greater Los Angeles County Region, which includes the City of Los Angeles, was recently awarded a \$1.5 million planning grant from this program to develop a region-wide water management strategic plan. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) has been designated as the program manager for the Greater Los Angeles County Region, and will manage the grant agreement with the State. A final Integrated Regional Water Management Strategic Plan must be adopted by January 1, 2007, in order for the Region to be eligible for implementation grant funds. LACFCD is in the process of forming a Leadership Committee and five sub-regional steering committees to serve as the overarching decision-making bodies for the entire region. The Department of Recreation and Parks has been asked to represent the City as a member of the Upper Los Angeles River sub-region steering committee.

PROPOSITION O

On November 2, 2004, the voters of the City of Los Angeles overwhelmingly passed Proposition O, which authorized the City to issue a series of general obligation bonds for up to \$500 million for projects that would reduce and clean up pollution in the City's watercourses, beaches, and ocean, in order to meet federal Clean Water Act Requirements. The primary purpose of projects is to improve water quality by reducing pollutant loads to the City's impaired water bodies. In addition, whenever feasible, projects are to be designed to satisfy multiple objectives and purposes including conservation and protection of drinking water, improved flood management, enhancing natural habitat, and providing open space and recreation areas. Proposition O provides the City and Department with a potential source for funding park improvement, development, and acquisition projects. Under the terms of the ballot proposition, an Administrative Oversight Committee (AOC) and a Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC) oversee the use of Proposition O funds.

On December 16, 2005, the Department of Recreation and Parks submitted seven (7) project applications requesting approximately \$120 million in funding from Proposition O. The seven (7) projects submitted by the Department were:

1. Taylor Yard (Rio de Los Angeles State Park) – Synthetic Field (\$2.31 million)
2. Elysian Park – Weather Smart Irrigation Systems (\$2.9 million)
3. Echo Park – Lake Restoration (\$39.05 million)
4. Rosecrans Recreation Center – Storm Water Enhancements (\$3.8 million)
5. Harbor Regional Park – Lake Machado Ecosystem Improvements (\$61.6 million)
6. Various Facilities – Weather Smart Irrigation Systems (\$9.93 million)
7. Various Facilities – Golf Course Wash Rack Systems (\$0.45 million)

In addition, there were seven (7) project submissions submitted by other City departments, community groups, or non-profit organizations that proposed projects that would be located at, or adjacent to eight (8) of the Department's facilities. A summary of these projects is attached (see Attachment A).

A Project Review Committee comprised of City representatives from the Departments of Recreation and Parks, Public Works, Environmental Affairs, and Water and Power has completed its evaluation of the submitted proposals using the set of criteria adopted by the COAC. The results of this evaluation process have been submitted to COAC for their consideration and review at their February 15, 2006, meeting. The COAC plans to announce the list of projects they will recommend to the City Council for funding at their March 15, 2006, meeting.

Report prepared by Darryl Ford, Planning Assistant, Planning and Development.