



SAN RAFAEL CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Department: Library & Recreation

Prepared by: Catherine Quffa,
Assistant Library and Recreation
Director

City Manager Approval: _____

TOPIC: PROPOSITION 68 GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS APPROVING THE SUBMITTAL OF GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR THE PROPOSITION 68 PER CAPITA GRANT, THE PROPOSITION 68 STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM AND DETERMINING THE PICKLEWEED PARK ENHANCEMENT PROJECT TO BE CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) AND AUTHORIZING STAFF TO FILE A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA GUIDELINES

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt resolutions approving the submittal of grant applications for the Proposition 68 Per Capita Grant, the Proposition 68 Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program and determining the Pickleweed Park Enhancement Project to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and authorizing staff to file a Notice of Exemption in compliance with CEQA guidelines.

BACKGROUND:

In 2018, voters passed Proposition 68 (Prop 68), the "Parks, Environment and Water Bond Act of 2018". Prop 68 authorized \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for state and local parks, environmental protection and restoration projects, and water infrastructure projects and flood protection projects. Through this, Prop 68 provides a variety of funding opportunities for local jurisdictions. Two of those grant opportunities include the Per Capita Grant Program and a Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program. The State process for both Prop 68 grants requires that jurisdictions adopt a specific resolution prior to submitting the application, which verifies the City's commitment and ability to implement the project.

The Per Capita Grant program is a non-competitive program made available for local park rehabilitation, creation, and improvement grants to local governments. Per Capita Grant funds are distributed to local jurisdictions based on population size.

FOR CITY CLERK ONLY

Council Meeting: _____

Disposition: _____

The Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP) is a highly competitive funding opportunity with the goal of either creating new parks or enhancing existing parks as well as implementing new amenities, all of which must occur in critically underserved communities. SPP identifies underserved communities based on ratio of park space per 1,000 residents, median household income, and number of people below the poverty level. The maximum award amount for an SPP grant in the current funding round is \$8,500,000 with no local match required.

According to the SPP guidelines, projects must create or renovate at least one recreation feature and can only include one park per application. In San Rafael, Pickleweed Park, located at the Albert J. Boro Community Center and which serves the Canal neighborhood, is the only existing park that qualifies for this grant opportunity. This grant opportunity is consistent with the City's longstanding goal to convert the soccer fields at Pickleweed Park from natural to synthetic turf, and to enhance the surrounding park amenities. SPP provides a unique opportunity to pursue funding at a level that could otherwise not be achieved.

ANALYSIS:

Under current Prop 68 funding programs, the City qualifies for the Per Capita Grant program and the SPP.

Per Capita Grant

In 2019, the City submitted the Per Capita Allocation Questionnaire to determine the City's allocation under the grant program. Grant funds are allocated based on population and are one-time funds. On June 24, 2020, the State notified the City of their allocation amount of \$177,952.

According to the Per Capita Grant program guidelines, projects submitted must be for recreational purposes, either acquisition or development, and are subject to the following:

- Projects must be for capital outlay; that is, acquisition of land, or improvements to existing property beyond its original condition. Operation, maintenance, repairs are not eligible.
- Acquisition and development projects cannot be combined,
- A project can only have one location. One project serving several parks is not permitted.
- Development projects must be consistent with the park and recreation element of the grantee's general or recreation plan.
- Per Capita funds must be used to supplement, not supplant, local revenues in existence as of June 5, 2018.
- Contracted work must comply with the provisions of §1771.5 of the State Labor Code.
- Grantee must have adequate liability insurance, performance bond, or other security necessary to protect the State and Grantee's interest against poor workmanship, fraud, or other potential loss associated with the completion of the project.
- Pre-Construction Costs may not exceed 25% of the project amount.
- The primary purpose of any building constructed or improved must be public recreation.
- Projects must be accessible, including an accessible path of travel to the project.

After reviewing the projects that were evaluated as part of the City's recent 3-Year Capital Improvement Program process and the applying the above criteria, the Sun Valley Park Playground Replacement Project was identified as the project that would most benefit from these funds.

The project entails the replacement of the existing play structures with new play structures and parking and pathway improvements for ADA access. Other park playground replacement projects that were evaluated include Gerstle, Peacock Gap and Bernard Hoffman parks. Unfortunately, improving the

accessible paths of travel for ADA compliance at these three parks would exceed funding available through the Prop 68 Per Capita Grant program.

All projects not serving a “severely disadvantaged community” require a 20% match of funds. The median household income in the areas surrounding Sun Valley Park does not qualify as severely disadvantaged, therefore, a 20% local match is required. Staff recommend using Measure A funds (Fund #241) to provide the 20% local match.

In order to receive the allocation, the City is required to submit a resolution approving the filing of the project application. The resolution is due to the State no later than December 31, 2021, with the full grant application due no later than June 30, 2021. The deadline by which the City must fulfill all grant requirements, including installation of new infrastructure, is March 31, 2024.

Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP)

SPP is a highly competitive grant opportunity that focuses on expanding and improving recreation access and amenities in critically underserved communities. The City of San Rafael has applied for SPP funding previously for different variations of the Pickleweed Park Enhancement project, in 2010 and 2011, and for the Prop 84 California Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Program Grant in 2016. Converting the Pickleweed Field to synthetic turf has been a critical park priority for the Canal community since 2010 and Pickleweed is the only park in San Rafael that would qualify as critically underserved per the SPP guidelines.

Currently, the Pickleweed Fields are closed for six (6) months of the year for maintenance and to provide opportunity for the grass turf to regenerate. Converting the fields to synthetic turf would allow them to remain open year-round, thereby doubling community access to this recreational amenity. In addition to converting the fields to synthetic turf, the project would add new amenities including: fitness equipment, a basketball/sport court, new play structure for children under 5, a gazebo, a community mural, backstops for little league on the fields, shaded seating throughout the park, an improved bathroom, and additional parking. These amenities were identified as priorities by Canal residents through a robust community engagement process.

The project plan also integrates environmentally friendly design, such as native and drought-tolerant landscaping, additional trees, bioswales and water filtration techniques, and improved LED lighting throughout the park and parking lot. More details on the project amenities and design can be found in Attachment 3.

The SPP grant requires local jurisdiction CEQA clearance and a recorded notice as part of the application. In consultation with an environmental consultant, the project has been reviewed for compliance with the CEQA Guidelines and it has been determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA. City Council action would confirm this finding and authorize filing of the Notice of Exemption with the County of Marin, as well as approve the submittal of the grant application.

The total funding request for the Pickleweed Park Enhancement project is \$8,480,000. The SPP application is due on March 12, 2021. The State will announce award recipients in Fall 2021, with project completion required by June 30, 2025.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

At the regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission on September 17, 2020, the Commission approved the selection of Sun Valley Park playground replacement project for the Per Capita grant application process. Once approved by Council, staff will conduct a community engagement process to

solicit input from residents on what amenities they would like to see in the playground replacement project.

The SPP grant requires significant community input for the application to be competitive. For the Pickleweed Park Enhancement project, staff presented the project scope to community members and solicited feedback during two virtual meetings, held in partnership with the Canal Alliance and the Multicultural Center of Marin. Additionally, staff went to three community events held in the Canal neighborhood (2 food distribution events and one youth event at the Albert J. Boro Community Center) to gather one-on-one feedback on amenities community members would like to see in the project. Finally, staff created an online community survey to gather additional feedback on the project. The survey was sent out through the City's Canal-specific social media channels, posted on the Pickleweed Park electronic sign, and was also pushed out by community partners, including San Rafael City Schools, the Marin Community Clinic, the Canal Alliance, Parent Services Project, and the Marin Asian Advocacy Project.

Additionally, the Pickleweed Park Enhancement Project was presented to the Park and Recreation Commission as part of the Measure A work plan on May 16, 2019. During that time, the Commission recommended that Measure A funds be used to support the community engagement and design process for the Prop 68 SPP grant application. The use of Measure A funds for this purpose was approved by City Council on June 17, 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Per Capita Grant program requires a 20% project match from the agency receiving the funds. With a \$177,952 grant allocation, the City must provide \$44,488 in matching funds. Staff recommend that the City designate funds from the FY 2021-2022 Measure A allocation to fulfill the match requirement. Historically, the City has designated between \$110,000 and \$140,000 per year of Measure A funds towards park improvement projects. If approved, staff would include this allocation in the next round of Measure A funding.

Although the SPP grant does not have a funding match requirement, the City is requesting the maximum award amount of \$8,500,000. If the project should result in additional costs that may include but not be limited to the addition of amenities and/or unanticipated construction costs, staff would recommend that the City utilize local Measure A funds to cover the shortfall. Staff does not anticipate that this would exceed \$250,000. If unsuccessful and the City does not receive SPP grant funding, the City will not move forward with the project.

OPTIONS:

The City Council has the following options to consider on this matter:

1. Adopt the two resolutions approving applications for Prop. 68 grant funds and the resolution determining the Pickleweed Park Enhancement Project to be categorically exempt from CEQA and authorizing staff to file a Notice of Exemption in compliance with CEQA guidelines.
2. Adopt resolution for only one of the Prop. 68 funding applications.
3. Direct staff to return with more information.
4. Take no action.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Adopt the resolution approving the submittal of grant applications for the Proposition 68 (Prop 68) Per Capita Grant; and
2. Adopt the resolution approving the submittal of grant application for the Proposition 68 (Prop 68) Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Programs; and

3. Adopt the resolution determining the Pickleweed Park Enhancement Project to be categorically exempt from CEQA and authorizing staff to file a notice of exemption in compliance with CEQA Guidelines

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution for Prop 68 Per Capita Grant Funds
2. Resolution for Prop 68 Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant Funds
3. Resolution Determining the Pickleweed Park Enhancement Project to be Categorically Exempt From the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Authorizing Staff to File a Notice of Exemption in Compliance with CEQA Guidelines
4. Pickleweed Park Enhancement Project Conceptual Site Plan

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF SAN RAFAEL APPROVING
APPLICATION(S) FOR PER CAPITA GRANT FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of the Per Capita Grant Program, setting up necessary procedures governing application(s); and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the grantee's Governing Body to certify by resolution the approval of project application(s) before submission of said applications to the State; and

WHEREAS, the grantee will enter into a contract(s) with the State of California to complete project(s);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of San Rafael hereby:

1. Approves the filing of project application(s) for Per Capita program grant project(s); and
2. Certifies that said grantee has or will have available, prior to commencement of project work utilizing Per Capita funding, sufficient funds to complete the project(s); and
3. Certifies that the grantee has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project(s), and
4. Certifies that all projects proposed will be consistent with the park and recreation element of the City of San Rafael's general or recreation plan (PRC §80063(a)), and
5. Certifies that these funds will be used to supplement, not supplant, local revenues in existence as of June 5, 2018 (PRC §80062(d)), and
6. Certifies that it will comply with the provisions of §1771.5 of the State Labor Code, and
7. (PRC §80001(b)(8)(A-G)) To the extent practicable, as identified in the "Presidential Memorandum--Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Our National Parks, National Forests, and Other Public Lands and Waters," dated January 12, 2017, the City of San Rafael will consider a range of actions that include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (A) Conducting active outreach to diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations and tribal communities, to increase awareness within those communities and the public generally about specific programs and opportunities.
 - (B) Mentoring new environmental, outdoor recreation, and conservation leaders to increase diverse representation across these areas.
 - (C) Creating new partnerships with state, local, tribal, private, and nonprofit organizations to expand access for diverse populations.

(D) Identifying and implementing improvements to existing programs to increase visitation and access by diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations and tribal communities.

(E) Expanding the use of multilingual and culturally appropriate materials in public communications and educational strategies, including through social media strategies, as appropriate, that target diverse populations.

(F) Developing or expanding coordinated efforts to promote youth engagement and empowerment, including fostering new partnerships with diversity-serving and youth-serving organizations, urban areas, and programs.

(G) Identifying possible staff liaisons to diverse populations.

8. Agrees that to the extent practicable, the project(s) will provide workforce education and training, contractor and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities (PRC §80001(b)(5)); and
9. Certifies that the grantee shall not reduce the amount of funding otherwise available to be spent on parks or other projects eligible for funds under this division in its jurisdiction. A one-time allocation of other funding that has been expended for parks or other projects, but which is not available on an ongoing basis, shall not be considered when calculating a recipient's annual expenditures. (PRC §80062(d)); and
10. Certifies that the grantee has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Procedural Guide; and
11. Delegates the authority to the City Manager, or designee to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the grant scope(s); and
12. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

I, LINDSAY LARA, Clerk of the City of San Rafael, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly introduced, approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of San Rafael, held on Monday, the 16th day of November 2020, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

LINDSAY LARA, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN RAFAEL
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR THE STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT
AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program, setting up necessary procedures governing the application; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, successful Applicants will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the Grant Scope project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Rafael City Council hereby:

APPROVES THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE PICKLEWEED PARK
ENHANCEMENT PROJECT; AND

1. Certifies that said Applicant has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, the sufficient funds to complete the project; and
2. Certifies that if the project is awarded, the Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project, and
3. Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and
4. Delegates the authority to the City Manager or their designee to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Grant Scope; and
5. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.
6. Will consider promoting inclusion per Public Resources Code §80001(b)(8 A-G).

I, Lindsay Lara, Clerk of the City of San Rafael, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly introduced and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of said City held on Monday, the 16th day of November 2020 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

LINDSAY LARA, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN RAFAEL DETERMINING THE PICKLEWEED PARK ENHANCEMENT PROJECT TO BE CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) AND AUTHORIZING STAFF TO FILE A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA GUIDELINES

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program, setting up necessary procedures governing the application; and

WHEREAS, the grant application requires the City complete the environmental clearance process pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to submit a grant application for the Pickleweed Park Enhancement Project, for which, for the purposes of CEQA, the improvements are defined as a “project” subject to environmental review; and

WHEREAS, having reviewed the proposed improvements, staff consider the project Categorically Exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303, 15304(b), 15304(f), and 15311(b);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of San Rafael hereby finds that the Pickleweed Park Enhancement Project is Categorically Exempt from environmental review under CEQA, and directs staff to file the Notice of Exemption, based on the following findings:

1. The City Council has reviewed and considered the information by staff in support of the Categorical Exemption and finds that it is adequate and complete to support the filing of a Notice of Exemption with a summary of finding for the Notice of Exemption presented in a memorandum on file with the City.
2. The City Council has exercised its independent judgment in evaluating the Categorical Exemption and has considered the comments received during the

public comment period. Based on this review, the City Council has determined that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant impact on the environment.

I, LINDSAY LARA, Clerk of the City of San Rafael, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of said City on the 16th day of November 2020, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

LINDSAY LARA, City Clerk

File No.: 06.07.11

SAN RAFAEL CANAL

FUTURE TISCORNIA MARSH RESTORATION

FUTURE TISCORNIA MARSH RESTORATION

LEGEND

- 1 MULTI-USE FIELD WITH SYNTHETIC TURF, LINED FOR VARIOUS SPORTS
- 2 BASKETBALL/SPORT COURT
- 3 PLAY STRUCTURE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5
- 4 FITNESS EQUIPMENT FOR ADULTS
- 5 RENOVATED RESTROOM WITH COMMUNITY MURAL
- 6 SHADED SEATING
- 7 DROUGHT RESISTANT LANDSCAPING, BIOSWALES, TREES, AND OTHER BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPING
- 8 GAZEBO
- 9 ADDITIONAL PARKING
- 10 ADDITIONAL LIGHTING AND SECURITY CAMERAS FOR IMPROVED SECURITY



PICKLEWEED PARK ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

50 CANAL ST. SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA 94901

CONCEPTUAL PLAN

11.09.2020

