



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT



December 7, 2021

ITEM TITLE

Grant Application Approval: Approve Applications for Per Capita Funds for Park Improvements

Report Number: 21-0223

Location: Rancho Del Rey Park, 1311 Buena Vista Way and Rohr Park, 4548 Sweetwater Road

Department: Community Services – Parks and Recreation

Environmental Notice: The Project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act State Guidelines Section 15301 Class 1 (Existing Facilities), Section 15303 class 3 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and Section 15304 Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land).

Recommended Action

Adopt a resolution approving the submission of grant applications for Per Capita Grant Funding, and authorizing execution of grant agreements for improvements at Rancho Del Rey Park and Rohr Park, and authorizing an appropriation of grant funds received for that purpose (4/5 Vote Required).

SUMMARY

The City of Chula Vista was awarded \$177,952 in grant funds from the State of California. Funds are available for local park rehabilitation, creation, and improvement grants to local governments on a per capita basis. To access the grant funds, the City must apply for the funds and enter into a contract. Parks & Recreation is recommending two applications to be submitted for projects to utilize the grant funds. One project is to provide additional improvements to the jogging pathway at Rohr Park. The second project is to install solar lighting along the pathway at Rancho Del Rey Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Director of Development Services has reviewed the proposed project for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Class 1 (Existing Facilities), Section 15303 class 3 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and Section 15304 Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) because the proposed actions would not result in a significant effect on the environment, create a cumulative impact, damage a scenic highway, or cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Thus, no further environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Parks and Recreation Commission voted to recommend approval of this item on Thursday, November 18.

DISCUSSION

This Per Capita program originates from Proposition 68, placed on the ballot via Senate Bill 5 (DeLeon, Chapter 852, statutes of 2017), and approved by voters on June 5, 2018. Funds for the program were appropriated via State Budget item 3790-101-6088(b). Legislative program information is found in the Public Resources Code (PRC) beginning at §80000 (see page 51). OGALS (State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Grants and Local Services) retains the right to waive requirements not mandated by statute. Funds are provided for two programs, with the Per Capita program described below:

General Per Capita Program: \$185,000,000 Funds are available for local park rehabilitation, creation, and improvement grants to local governments on a per capita basis. Grant recipients are encouraged to utilize awards to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and to address deficiencies in neighborhoods lacking access to the outdoors (PRC §80061(a)).

The total allotment of Per Capita Grant funds to the City of Chula Vista is \$177,952 and applications are to be submitted for each project site. Parks and Recreation is proposing projects at Rancho Del Rey Park and Rohr Park.

The project at Rancho Del Rey Park is to improve the asphalt pathway spine throughout the park, provide ADA access to the playground and gazebo, and install solar lighting along the pathway illuminating the park after sunset. This project is to improve park lighting at this location as well as the asphalt pathway.

The project at Rohr Park will supplement an existing project identified in the Measure P spending plan for this fiscal year to improve the jogging path around the park. The project will include improving drainage along the southwestern section near the housing complex, improved surface grading, signage, stretch stations, benches, and solar lighting. The jogging path at Rohr Park is the most used park asset in the City of Chula Vista.

If the grant agreements are approved, the above improvements will be completed through the City's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) procurement and construction process. If approved, this action would also authorize the appropriation of the grant funds received from the State Grant Fund to CIP#PRK0326 to implement the projects.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the property holdings of the City Council members and has found that Councilmember McCann has real property holdings within 500 feet of the boundaries of the property which is the subject of this action. Consequently, pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 2, sections 18700 and 18702.2(a)(7), this item presents a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 87100, et seq.) for the above-identified member. Staff is not independently aware, and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision-maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

The Per Capita Grant program requires a funding match if the project site is not serving a severely disadvantaged community. Both project sites are not in a severely disadvantaged community so matching funds will be required.

See the table below detailing the grant amounts and the matching funds the City will utilize.

PROJECT	GRANT AMOUNT	MATCHING FUNDS*
Rohr Park Jogging Path Improvements	\$24,312	\$200,000
Rancho Del Rey Solar Lighting/Pathway Improvements	\$153,640	\$67,235

*Matching funds will be provided by Measure P through existing projects.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

There is no ongoing fiscal impact in addition to routine maintenance that is already taking place at the park facilities.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Application – Rohr Park Jogging Path Improvements
2. Draft Application – Rancho Del Rey Solar Lighting Pathway Improvements
3. Sample Contract for Per Capita Grant

Staff Contact: Tim Farmer, Parks & Recreation Administrator

Tracy Lamb, Director of Community Services