

CITY OF OAKLAND
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

TO: Office of the City Manager
ATTN: Robert C. Bobb
FROM: Life Enrichment Agency
DATE: April 24, 2001

RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR UNION POINT PARK IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS

SUMMARY

The proposed resolution authorizes the application for Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the Union Point Park project from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant-In-Aid Program administered by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation.

A successful funding application would allow the City to implement a large portion of the amenities recommended to be constructed as a part of a phase one development project at Union Point Park scheduled to begin construction in 2002.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Grant funds from the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant-In-Aid Program are disbursed on a reimbursable basis. Once funds are completely expended, staff submits a request to the State of California for payment.

Costs for operations and maintenance (approximately \$157,000 annually) of the Union Point Park project completed with various funding sources have been requested as an augmentation to the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) baseline budget for funding year 2001-03. Additional costs, if any, beyond what it authorized by City Council in the FY2001-03 budget would need to be absorbed into OPR's baseline budget.

BACKGROUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Program provides funds to federal agencies, and to the 50 states and 6 territories. The money allocated to the states may be used for statewide planning, and for acquiring and developing outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

The program, which is administered nationally by the National Parks Service (NPS), became effective in January 1965, was initially authorized for a 25-year period, and has been extended for another 25 years, to January 2015. Under the provisions of the California Outdoor Recreation Resources Plan Act of 1967, the expenditure of funds allocated to California is administered by the State Liaison Officer (SLO), who is the Director of the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

Funds for the program are derived from federal recreation fees, sales of federal surplus real property, the federal motorboat fuels tax and the Outer Continental Shelf mineral receipts.

The Union Point Master Plan was adopted by City Council in May 2000. The project is proposed to develop a 9 acre, premier waterfront park located at Union Point, near Government Island (Oakland Estuary) and would reconnect Oakland's neighborhoods with the waterfront. The park will transform a previously industrial site into a public recreation site in an area of Oakland with the highest concentration of children and the greatest need for recreational open space. The park would also provide public access to the Oakland Estuary, and be an attractive destination point on the San Francisco Bay Trail, serving regional visitors throughout the area.

The Master Plan process involved Oakland residents and included over 1,000 participants and 50 community and non-profit organizations. The waterfront park features include a children's play area, picnic facilities, a turfed playfield, pathways, docks/piers, habitat for wildlife, estuary interpretive areas, waterfront with a connection to the San Francisco Bay Trail, other water access features, and extensive public art. The total cost of constructing Union Point Park is estimated at \$6.8 million. Improvements will be constructed in phases, according to funding availability.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

A total of Three Million dollars is needed for Phase I development of the park, including such elements as the 4.7 acre common area, playfields, wildlife observation and viewing areas, waterfront pedestrian promenade, community events space, picnic facilities, restroom and parking lot expansion. A total of Two Million dollars is currently available for the project from the State of California Proposition 12 program and the State Coastal Conservancy. Additional funds will be requested through the State Land and Water Conservation Fund Program and private and non-profit donations to meet budget requirements. Improvements will be constructed in phases, according to funding availability.

ENVIRONMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

The project at Union Point Park will incorporate various environmental opportunities in the scope of work for various projects. Opportunities include reduction of development impact on certain ecosystems through the expansion of open space, promotion of water and energy conservation through the selection of appropriate equipment and fixtures, reduction of vehicular air pollution by providing pedestrian and bicycle trails, and promotion of environmental goals through provision of educational amenities at the lake.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

The Union Point Park project will be designed and constructed to be ADA and senior citizen accessible. The City's accessibility program coordinator will be requested to participate in project review at various stages of each design process initiated.

RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE

Staff recommends that City Council approve a resolution authorizing the application for and acceptance and allocation of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the Union Point Park project from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant-In-Aid Program administered by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation.

This recommendation will benefit a City Council priority associated with long range capital planning for waterfront access.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the application for and allocation of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the Union Point Park project from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant-In-Aid Program administered by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

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for the Life Enrichment

Prepared for:
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APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER