



Office of the City Manager

08CONSENT CALENDER

December 1, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront
 Subject: Grant Application: the San Francisco Restoration Authority Measure AA Grant Program for Technical Feasibility Studies of Potential Improvement Projects at Aquatic Park

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to: submit a grant application in the amount of \$897,000 to the San Francisco Restoration Authority Measure AA Grant Program to conduct feasibility studies for improvements at Aquatic Park; accept any grants; execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The Measure AA grant program administered by the San Francisco Restoration Authority does not require local matching funds. If awarded, the City will assign City staff to manage the project as an in-kind match to the grant, at a value of \$129,950.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In the spring of 2020, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority released a call for proposals for Measure AA's 2020 Grant Round and Community Grants Program. The Authority can fund proposals that are 1) habitat projects that aim to restore, protect, or enhance natural habitats on the shoreline in the San Francisco Bay Area; 2) flood management projects that are part of habitat projects; or 3) public access projects that will provide or improve access or recreational amenities that are part of habitat projects. The Authority is particularly interested in supporting projects that address equity and include benefits to economically disadvantaged communities. The City's Parks, Recreation & Waterfront identified Aquatic Park as an appropriate location that could best meet the criteria in the Measure AA grant program. Because of the complex nature of the hydrology, habitat, and recreational features at Aquatic Park, the grant proposal will request funds for technical feasibility studies on projects that would improve habitat enhancements as well as hydrology infrastructure (e.g., tide tubes, storm inlets, etc.)

BACKGROUND

Completed in 1937, Aquatic Park was created as part of the construction of the Bayside Freeway. Aquatic Park has three lagoons: the Main Lagoon (ML), the Model Yacht

Basin (MYB), and the Radio Tower Pond (RTP). The entire park is 102 acres and includes: 68.0 acres of open water in the three lagoons, 0.7 acres of salt/brackish wetlands, 1.1 acres of freshwater wetlands, 11.0 acres of lawn, 7.0 acres of roads and trails, and 14.0 acres of buildings and uplands. The lagoons are connected to the Bay by small 24 inch culverts (“tide tubes”), many of which are deteriorating. The five main tide tubes were recently cleaned (October 2020) after being clogged for several decades; and while they currently provide full functionality, they show signs of deterioration and in need of reinforcement. The Model Yacht Basin tide tube is buried in sand on the bay side. The Radio Tower Pond tide tube has collapsed under the frontage road and appears to have separated on the bay side. The primary type of habitat in Aquatic Park is shallow subtidal aquatic habitat in the three lagoons. In San Francisco Bay shallow subtidal habitat is a highly productive zone which supports a nursery for many marine crustaceans and fish.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

As a technical study project, there are no environmental impacts associated with this project. The study will provide the technical documentation needed for the environmental review (CEQA) of future improvement projects that may be identified.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

These grant funds will allow the City to conduct technical studies to see which projects would be the most feasible in order to improve the hydrology, habitat, and recreational features at Aquatic Park.

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director, PRW, 981-6700

Nelson Lam, Supervising Civil Engineer, PRW, 981-6395

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S

GRANT APPLICATION: THE SAN FRANCISCO RESTORATION AUTHORITY
MEASURE AA GRANT PROGRAM FOR TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF
POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AT AQUATIC PARK

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2020, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority released a call for proposals for Measure AA's 2020 Grant Round and Community Grants Program; and

WHEREAS, the Authority can fund proposals that are 1) habitat projects that aim to restore, protect, or enhance natural habitats on the shoreline in the San Francisco Bay Area; 2) flood management projects that are part of habitat projects; or 3) public access projects that will provide or improve access or recreational amenities that are part of habitat projects. The Authority is particularly interested in supporting projects that address equity and include benefits to economically disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, the City's Parks, Recreation & Waterfront identified Aquatic Park as an appropriate location that could best meet the criteria in the Measure AA grant program; and

WHEREAS, because of the complex nature of the hydrology, habitat, and recreational features at Aquatic Park, the grant proposal will request funds for technical feasibility studies on projects that would improve habitat enhancements as well as hydrology infrastructure (e.g., tide tubes, storm inlets, etc.) at a cost of \$897,000; and

WHEREAS, the Measure AA grant program administered by the San Francisco Restoration Authority does not require local matching funds. If awarded, the City will assign City staff to manage the project as an in-kind match to the grant, at a value of \$129,950.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to: submit a grant application in the amount of \$897,000 to the San Francisco Restoration Authority Measure AA grant program; accept any grants; execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

