

Agenda Report

February 24, 2014

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education

FROM: Department of Public Works

**SUBJECT: MUIR HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH SPORTS FIELD IMPROVEMENTS -
PROJECT UPDATE**

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is for information purposes only.

BACKGROUND

At the February 19, 2013 Joint Meeting of the Pasadena City Council and Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education, the Department of Public Works introduced the Muir High School South Sports Field Improvements project. The proposed project would provide reconfiguration and improvements for both soccer and softball (Attachment A). The majority of the funding (\$1 million) will come from a State grant, originally approved for a project in Hahamongna Watershed Park.

Representatives with the California State Grant Program indicate that the City must demonstrate strong community support for the State to consider approving the proposal to move the funding from the Hahamongna project to the Muir High School South Sports Field Improvements Project. In March 2013, the City began community outreach for the Muir project, including direct postcard mailings, direct e-mails, and a press release distributed to local media outlets. These efforts resulted in the collection of 70 pieces of correspondence expressing support for the proposed project.

On March 12, 2013, the Pasadena Recreation and Parks Commission unanimously supported the proposed change in project location and the possible transfer of grant funds to the Muir High School South Sports Field Improvements Project. The next day, the City hosted a community meeting that was held at John Muir High School, which was attended by approximately 50 people representing a cross-section of interests. The Department of Public Works introduced the proposal by reviewing the history of the proposed Hahmongna field and opposition to implementing it, followed by a brief overview on the proposed change in project location and project components. Through the location change, Muir High School would gain improved facilities for school sports

programs and the City would gain full-size soccer and softball fields for evening and weekend community use.

The majority of the comments made by attendees were in support of the proposed project. Attendees also asked a number of clarifying questions regarding the proposal to use Muir South as opposed to another location within the Muir High School campus.

Members and supporters of Muir Ranch, a Muir High School-based urban farming non-profit enterprise that uses the land immediately south of the proposed project location, expressed concern about the project. Muir Ranch proponents interpreted the proposed project as adversely impacting its operation, although the proposed project footprint does not encroach on land used by Muir Ranch. Subsequent to this meeting, the City learned that Muir Ranch had a desire and an internal dialog about possibly expanding into the project area. Based on the discussion with PUSD staff, this has been resolved.

On March 19, 2013, City staff presented the refined project concept to the PUSD Board Facilities and Capital Projects Subcommittee at its regular meeting. The Subcommittee asked the City to bring a reconfiguration of the space and time lines back to the April 2, 2013 Facilities Subcommittee meeting.

On March 26, 2013, the Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee (HWPAC) voted unanimously to support the proposed project at its regularly scheduled meeting. As part of its action, the HWPAC recommended additional and ongoing public outreach.

On April 2, 2013, City staff returned to the PUSD Facilities and Capital Projects Subcommittee to provide additional information about the project including clarification that the project footprint and limits do not encroach into the Muir Ranch area and supplementary design detail. The Committee recommended the project go to the full Board on April 9, 2013 for approval.

On April 9, 2013, the PUSD Board of Education unanimously supported the project. As part of their action, the Board directed staff to include Muir Ranch as a stakeholder as the project progresses due to their adjacent location and ongoing operations.

On June 5, 2013, the Department of Public Works submitted a formal Request for a Change in Project Location to the State. The document included a description of the proposed project and location, a discussion of how this project would meet or exceed the original grant criteria, and supporting documents to demonstrate community support.

In August 2013, after a preliminary review, the State requested additional documentation, including a copy of the City/PUSD Facility Sharing Agreement. Upon further review, the State informed the City that although provisions of the Facility Sharing Agreement address the State's requirements, they need a project-specific agreement to approve the Change in Project Location request.

In January 2014, the Department of Public Works submitted a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application to the City's Planning Department for the project and is currently under review.

Facility Sharing Agreement

In follow-up to the State's request for a project-specific agreement, the City drafted the agreement in January 2014. The agreement establishes:

- Project development responsibilities for funding, design, review, and construction;
- Time periods for City use of the field including provisions for off-street parking;
- Prorated cost sharing for maintenance, operations, and utility expenses;
- Delineation of maintenance responsibilities; and
- Lease term and early termination provisions.

The agreement is currently under review by the City. Upon approval of this agreement by the City of Pasadena and PUSD, the agreement will be transmitted to the State. The agreement requires approval by the City Manager and District Superintendent as established in the 2010 amendment to the Joint Use of Facilities Agreement. City Council and Board of Education action is not required.

Project Schedule

The project schedule anticipates the completion of the Conditional Use Permit process in May 2014 and awarding a construction contact by October 2014. Construction is anticipated to begin in November 2014 and completed in June 2015.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This project furthers the City Council goal to improve, maintain and enhance public facilities and infrastructure. It is also consistent with the Open Space and Conservation Element, and the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element of the General Plan by increasing the range of recreational facilities and services as a means of improving quality of life for Pasadena residents and by enhancing PUSD facilities to benefit students and the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of this project is \$1,500,000. Funding for this action will be addressed by the utilization of existing budgeted appropriations in the Parks and Landscaping FY 2014 – 2018 CIP project (budget account 78055).

Respectfully submitted,



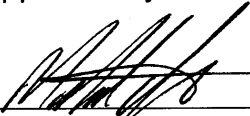
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Attachment A – Site Plan