

Agenda Report

January 22, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION FOR THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION OUTDOOR EQUITY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 21065 of CEQA and Sections 15060(c)(2), 15060(c)(3), and 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines and, as such, no environmental document pursuant to CEQA is required; and
2. Adopt a resolution, (a) approving of the City's filing of a grant application to the Outdoor Equity Grants Program (OEP) in the amount of \$520,516 for the development and execution of the proposed Pasadena Outdoor Discovery Program (ODP); and (b) authorizing the City Manager to sign and submit documents which may be necessary for completion of the grant.

BACKGROUND:

The Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department will apply for grant funding from the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) OEP 2023-2024 funding cycle for the Pasadena Outdoor Discovery Program. The CDPR has been delegated with the authority to distribute funds that will support the health of Californians through the creation of outdoor programs by funding program operations and transportation costs in underserved communities. The City is partnering with Outward Bound Adventures (OBA) and the Public Health Department to complete the application and administer the proposed program. The grant was submitted on December 14, 2023.

Outward Bound Adventures is a nonprofit organization based in Pasadena that is dedicated to empowering youth with environmental and outdoor education. The City and OBA seek to enhance access to educational and recreational activities, including

opportunities to visit and camp at State parks, explore local parks and reserves, and participate in service-learning opportunities. Although the program is aimed primarily at youth, adults and seniors will be invited on several short hikes. The proposed program will be based at the Jackie Robinson Community Center.

The proposed Pasadena ODP's scope of work includes:

1. Community activities
 - Meetings on the John Muir High School campus to teach students how to develop logistics and budgets for major excursions and activities;
 - Urban wildlife education, including student-led local nature walks; and
 - Public Health Department training for leaders on how to talk to youth about their health and health issues.
2. Natural area trips
 - Day hikes into the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument;
 - Environmental restoration and conservation career field trips, which include service-learning elements, to Malibu Creek State Park, the Wildlands Conservancy, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; and
 - Self-discovery environmental expeditions to various habitats (alpine forests, deserts, coastal/marine lands, and more).
3. A minimum of three, 200-hour internships for youth participants with OBA staff
4. Hosting a youth mentoring project to train participants in leadership and personal development, camping and backpacking, community building techniques, diversity equity and inclusion training, and more.

A grant from the OEP will increase local access to outdoor experiences for underserved youth, families, and older adults by providing much-needed funding for transportation, equipment, and staff. The provided outdoor experiences, combined with the planned learning experiences, will help foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship and an appreciation for the environment. The Project will also facilitate education in various aspects of health and well-being.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the City Council's Strategic Planning Goal to increase environmental conservation and sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 21065 of CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2), 15060(c)(3), and 15378. The submission of a grant application for an OEP and the subsequent approval and implementation of grant documents are organizational and administrative actions that would not cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Therefore, the proposed action is not a "project" subject to CEQA, as defined in Section 21065 of CEQA and Section 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Since the action is not a project subject to CEQA, no environmental document is required.

This program aims to improve environmental conservation and sustainability by offering youth outdoor experiences and educational opportunities and instilling a sense of ecological awareness and responsibility.

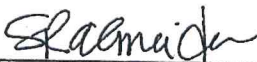
FISCAL IMPACT:

If the City of Pasadena is successful in obtaining funding from the Outdoor Equity Program, it will receive \$520,516, and staff will return to Council to appropriate the funds to the proper budget account for the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services' Operating Budget. There is no required local match or contribution. There will be no impact on the General Fund.


Respectfully submitted,


KOKO PANOSSIAN, Director of Parks,
Recreation, and Community Services

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Parks, Recreation & Community Services

Approved by:


MIGUEL MARQUEZ
City Manager