Agenda Report

November 10, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Finance Committee

FROM: Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: **APPROVE AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION FOR FOUR APPLICATIONS FOR THE STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is not a project 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;

2. Adopt a resolution approving the submission of the applications among other things to the California Department of Parks and Recreation under the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP); and

3. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Grant Scope.

BACKGROUND:

The Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program is a competitive grant program administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The program supports the development of new parks and the renovation or expansion of existing parks in critically underserved and climate-vulnerable communities throughout California.

Round 5 of this grant program, provides approximately $188.5 million in statewide grant funding. Eligible applicants may request between $200,000 and $8.5 million per

application, and no matching contribution is required. The current application period is open through December 17, 2026. Each park requires a separate application, subject to the program guidelines. Agencies may apply for more than one project.

City Council approval of an authorizing resolution is required to satisfy the State's application requirements and provide the certifications and delegated authority necessary to submit the applications and administer any resulting grant awards.

Staff recommends submitting applications for four CIP projects that would provide new recreational opportunities, improve existing park facilities, enhance accessibility, and support environmental and community benefits. The details of each project application is listed below.

1. **Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project: Eaton Blanche Expansion Park Project (76295) - $5.5 million for construction**

   The City of Pasadena is developing a comprehensive, multi-benefit stormwater capture and park development project on a vacant, City-owned, 3.91-acre parcel adjacent to the Eaton Wash Channel. The Project integrates both underground stormwater infrastructure and above-ground improvements, including an amenity filled park and community garden, within the project area to create an inclusive, multi-benefit park space that enhances environmental, recreational and social value for the community. Under the grant guidelines, this project would be classified as a park extension as the new park and amenities will be connected to the existing Eaton Blanche Park on the other side of Eaton Wash Channel through a new pedestrian bridge.

   The project is a collaborative effort between the Departments of Public Works, Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) and Pasadena Water and Power. The project site offers the opportunity to create new usable park space and community amenities with vital connectivity to neighboring schools and the Boys and Girls club. The park will incorporate features such as new trees, native plantings, lighting, recreation features, walking paths, outdoor classrooms, community gardens, and gathering areas with park seating. The community amenities have been refined through community input during the design process. The project also includes development of an adjacent easement with public access pathways and a large area that will be gifted to partner GroWorks for an environmental learning garden.

2. **Vina Vieja Pickleball Courts (78086) - $8.0 million for design and construction**

   The Vina Vieja Pickleball Courts Project was established to develop Pasadena's first permanent, dedicated pickleball facility to accommodate the growing citywide demand for the sport and expand recreational opportunities for the community. The overall facility was planned for up to 12 courts and related supporting infrastructure.

Due to limited available funding, only an initial phase consisting of three courts has been constructed to date.

The three courts were completed in summer 2024 and formally opened to the public on August 15, 2024. Since opening, the courts have been well received and consistently used, demonstrating the demand for additional dedicated pickleball facilities. The proposed SPP project would complete the planned buildout through construction of up to nine additional courts, expansion of the existing parking lot, court lighting, restrooms, and the supporting infrastructure necessary for a safe, accessible, and fully functional recreational facility. The completed project would substantially increase the City's pickleball capacity and provide recreational opportunities for players of varying ages and abilities.

The project will be managed by the Departments of Public Works and PRCS. Grant funding would help support eligible design and construction costs and advance development of the recreational facility.

3. **Central Park – Clubhouse Retrofit and Lawn Bowling Improvements (78091) - $3.2 million for construction**

Central Park is one of Pasadena's oldest parks, and its lawn-bowling complex has served the community for more than a century. The Pasadena Lawn Bowling Club was established in 1921, and its Spanish Colonial Revival clubhouse was designed by renowned Pasadena architect Wallace Neff, who donated the plans. The building was initially constructed in 1927 and expanded in 1930. It has remained closed and unavailable for public use since being damaged by a fallen tree in September 2022.

Construction documents have been completed for the clubhouse structural retrofit and associated accessibility improvements. The lawn-bowling improvements, including relocation and improvement of the north bowling lawn, restoration of the south bowling lawn, and related site improvements, still require design. The overall project would preserve and reopen the historic clubhouse, restore the complex as an accessible recreational and social resource, and implement the adopted Central Park Master Plan. The original 1980 plan guided the park's 1982 rehabilitation, while the updated plan adopted in 2007 specifically prioritized improvements to the lawn-bowling area.

The project will be managed by the Departments of Public Works and PRCS. SPP grant funding would help support eligible construction costs associated with the clubhouse retrofit, accessibility improvements, and other eligible project components.

4. **Artificial Turf Replacement at Robinson Park and Villa Parke – Robinson Park only (CIP 78096) - $2.6 million for installation**

Robinson Park is a major recreational and community gathering place in northwest Pasadena. Its synthetic athletic fields support year-round youth and adult sports, recreational programming, and general community use. The existing turf is aging and requires replacement to maintain safe, reliable playing conditions and continued public access to these heavily used fields.

The proposed SPP project would replace the existing synthetic turf at Robinson Park with a high-performance system meeting current standards for player safety, drainage, durability, and heat reduction, together with related field, site, and accessibility improvements. The project would extend the useful life of the athletic fields and preserve year-round recreational opportunities for the surrounding community.

The project will be managed by the Departments of Public Works and PRCS. SPP grant funding would help support eligible installation costs, subject to the State's review, award determination, and applicable grant requirements.

Should any of these applications be awarded SPP funds, staff will return to the City Council to appropriate those funds and conduct the appropriate procurement processes in line with State and City requirements.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This contract is consistent with the City Council's goal to improve, maintain, and enhance public facilities and infrastructure, and improve public safety throughout the City and the Public Facilities Element Objective 5 of the General Plan by continuing to implement capital improvements which will maintain or rehabilitate infrastructure.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is not 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 authorization to submit grant applications and delegation of authority regarding such grants are administrative and government fiscal activities that do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on 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. Should any or all of the four park projects for which the City is seeking funding move forward, each would be subject to individual environmental review pursuant to CEQA prior to any decision by the City to approve or carry out the project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The combined estimated cost of the four proposed projects is $19.3 million, as summarized below.

CIP	Project	Estimated Cost	Project Phase
76295	Eaton Wash Stormwater Capture Project: Eaton Blanche Expansion Park Project	$5,500,000	Construction
78086	Vina Vieja Pickleball Courts	$8,000,000	Design & Construction
78091	Central Park – Clubhouse Retrofit and Lawn Bowling Improvements	$3,200,000	Construction
78096	Artificial Turf Replacement at Robinson Park and Villa Parke (Robinson Park only)	$2,600,000	Installation
	Total	**$19,300,000**	

The City intends to seek SPP grant funding to support eligible costs associated with these projects. The program does not require a local matching contribution; however, the amount of grant funding requested and any remaining City funding obligations will depend on the final applications, eligible costs, and grant awards. The projects would provide new recreational opportunities, improve existing park facilities, enhance accessibility, and support stormwater management and environmental education.

Respectfully submitted,

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