

MOTION

The Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project (Park Project) is located in the community of Sun Valley in the City of Los Angeles, that was committed to the region over 20 years ago, and is a keystone project in the Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan, which the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, and the Sun Valley Watershed Stakeholders Group have partnered to develop into a multi-benefit open space and environmental habitat. The project entails converting a landfill to a wetlands park facility to provide enhanced water quality, flood protection, groundwater recharge, habitat creation and recreational use.

The Park Project's objectives are two-fold; 1) Mitigate local flood risk and reduce stormwater pollution, while increasing water conservation, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat; and, 2) Develop a multi-benefit park on the site of an inert debris landfill. Per the city's actions in 2021 via CF 21-0833, once completed, the park will be turned over by the County to the City of Los Angeles for ownership, operations, and maintenance.

The complexity of the Park Project has proven challenging - in addition to being a multi-jurisdiction effort, the site's final specs, grading plans, and environmental analysis continues to be adjusted based on current conditions. Also, the inflationary impacts on the construction industry has impacted fiscal and budgetary estimates and staff are continually readjusting the scope to fit realistic expectations and all regulatory permitting requirements. To date, the construction cost has significantly increased and is now estimated to be over \$200 million. This increase has created a growing gap in project funds to move the Rory Shaw Wetlands Park Project forward into construction.

On April 9, 2024, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion, instructing and authorizing the Director of Public Works and Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to address site security and develop a funding plan to complete Rory Shaw through other funding opportunities. In 2021, the City committed \$17,800,000 of Prop O Clean Water Bond Program funds toward the completion of the Park Project including property acquisition, design, and construction.

The City of Los Angeles, via the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) and Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN), is contributing Proposition O funding to the project and developing a master cooperating agreement for the transfer of ownership, operations, and maintenance of the Park Project (CF 21-0833). The BOE, Rec and Parks and LASAN should provide the City Council with a status update on their roles in the project, related street and sidewalk improvements for Tujunga, Strathern, and Fair streets, the latest on the City's portion of the Park Project budget and potential shortfalls, and address the onsite security and safety challenges for this long delayed construction project.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the BOE, Rec and Parks, and LASAN, with assistance from the City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst, report in 60 days, on the status of the project cooperating agreement and related street and sidewalk projects, clarify the previous agreement to transfer the park from the County to the City upon completion, and verify the City's financial and administrative contributions to the Rory Shaw Wetlands Park Project to date.

I FURTHER MOVE that the report includes a comprehensive list of additional supplemental funding opportunities available to the City and County to close the funding gaps and to fully complete the project.

PRESENTED BY:

Imelda Padilla
IMELDA PADILLA
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY:

Ed Rios

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