

MOTION

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT BUDGET & FINANCE

Council District (CD) 7 seeks to supplement the education of our youth as often as possible by investing in enrichment programs, job opportunities, or educational activities that do not necessarily have to take place in formal classroom spaces. At times, these strategies allow us the opportunity to remediate and utilize once prohibitive city-owned spaces. Through work with the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS), one burgeoning opportunity is the development of community gardens that provide year-round urban greening and agriculture education and the promotion of environmental stewardship at the local grassroots levels for our youth.

A major obstacle to overcome is the overwhelming presence of brownfield sites that were abandoned from long ago companies and factories that tainted our most important resource – the land. With the advancement of science and technology along with the adoption of more intentional sustainable policies, we are now allowed to directly address toxic sites commonly called brownfields. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reissued funding to partner with agencies and entities that lead to measurable environmental or public health results in communities that are disproportionately burdened by materials that provide harm and risk to their daily lives. The EPA's Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program seeks to create model government programs that address public health risks. The grant seeks to leverage existing resources from state or local agencies that develop tools and processes that integrate environmental justice into government programs.

CD 7 and the BOS propose that three underutilized and undevelopable city-owned sites, including one brownfield, are ideal funding opportunities for these EPA dollars by remediating the brownfield, revitalizing land for the community to safely utilize, and developing an opportunity for youth to learn and engage in urban greening and environmental stewardship. The three potential urban garden projects already have community support in Mission Hills, North Hills, and Pacoima. The BOS Citywide Brownfields Program is the City of Los Angeles' centralized brownfields program that oversees and manages brownfields grants and projects. Any City department will need to coordinate with the Citywide Brownfields Program for assistance with their funding applications. This is essential to avoid conflict that may inhibit the City's ability to apply to brownfield funding when limiting factors and eligibility requirements are imposed by the funding agency.

In order to pursue this opportunity, the City Council must authorize the BOS to apply for the EPA Government-to-Government grant with these three community garden proposals. City staff and potential community partners believe the proposals are very competitive and BOS staff have already completed due diligence analysis including environmental assessments such as Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) or Phase II ESAs and developed working scope elements for each site.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation be authorized to apply for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Government-to-Government Environmental Justice grant to leverage funds that will remediate brownfield sites in Council District (CD) 7, redevelop the sites and design community gardens, and create enrichment programming that educates youth on urban gardening and agriculture.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation be instructed to report, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, on the authority to accept the potential award and divulge any and all administrative and legislative requirements of the City to leverage those EPA funds to fulfill the project scope.

PRESENTED BY:

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