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KAREN BASS

September 7, 2023

Honorable Eunisses Hernandez, Chair
Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee
City Clerk, Room 395, City Hall
Attention: Eric Villanueva, Legislative Assistant

RESPONSE TO COUNCIL FILE 23-0165 RELATIVE TO THE WATTS SKATEPARK PROJECT

Background:

In 2010, discussions for the development of a skate park in the Watts Community began between the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), the former CRA/LA, The Skatepark Project (formerly the Tony Hawk Foundation (THF) and the Annenberg Foundation.

Through an extensive community process, the skate park project became a reality resulting in a donation from THF and the Annenberg Foundation to RAP. The initial site targeted for the development of the proposed project was located adjacent to the Watts Cultural Crescent on land owned by the State of California (State). However, due to the reluctance of the State to deed the property to RAP and a lack of community support for the development of the skate park at the site, the Office of Council District 15 and RAP selected an alternative site located at Imperial Highway and Wilmington Ave that is controlled by the Department of Transportation (LADOT). The alternative site that was identified for the project was a 37,000 square feet site located at Imperial Highway just west of Wilmington Avenue and identified by the County of Los Angeles as APNs 6069-029-902 to 6069-029-917.

RAP held additional community meetings presenting the new proposed location of the skate park and the new revised design on September 5, 2018, September 13, 2018, and on January 23, 2019. The meetings were held at the CD 15 Watts Field office and there was overwhelming support for the new design and development of a skate park in its new proposed location. A new skate park at the Imperial Highway and Wilmington Ave location would serve approximately 5,582 City residents within a one-half mile walking distance.

On November 6, 2019, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) granted conceptual approval of the proposed Project (Report No. 19-225)



On December 16, 2021, the Board approved the Final Plans for the Watts Skate Park Project as well as a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of Transportation (LADOT) and the Department of Recreation and Parks for the Joint Use of a portion of the site.

Project Scope of Work

The scope of work for the Watts Skate Park Project includes the development of an approximately 12,000 square feet skate plaza that will feature stair sets, hubbas, rails, many pads, hip to banks, transitions, blocks and eurogaps. Additionally, the area around the skate plaza will be improved with shade structures, seating areas, walking paths, fencing, landscaping, and irrigation.

The project was designed by The Skatepark Project, in conjunction with RAP staff. The Board has designated the future skate park as an “all-wheel facility” park, per Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 63.44 N.2.

Project Status

The project is currently in the construction phase. The project has been awarded to one of RAP’s on-call contractors, California Landscapes (Contractor). The Contractor is currently working to secure the remaining permits in order to initiate construction of the project. At this time it is anticipated that construction activities at the site will commence in August 2023 and that the project will be complete and open to the public in Spring 2024.

Project Funding

The total amount of funding available for the proposed Project is Two Million, Five Hundred Eighty One Thousand, Four Hundred Nineteen Dollars, and Seventy-Four Cents (\$2,581,419.74). The project funding sources include Community Development Block Grant, Sites and Facilities, Capital Improvement Expenditure Program, and Donated funds.

At this time the project is fully funded and there is no identified need for additional project funds.

Sincerely,



JIMMY KIM
General Manager

CC: Councilmember Heather Hutt, Council District 10
Councilmember John Lee, Council District 12

Councilmember Tim McOsker, Council District 15