

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: July 2, 2019

TITLE: City Application for Statewide Park Program Grant Funds

Prepared by: Luke Rainey, Deputy City Manager

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Desert Hot Springs, California, approving the application for statewide park development and community revitalization program grant funds; and
- 2) Approve an Exemption to CEQA based on the finding that the project is Exempt under Section 15303 and 15316 under Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

BACKGROUND:

City Staff have taken the opportunity to work with Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI), a team of architects, urban planners, civil engineers and community organizers who work with cities to leverage designs, research, planning, and advocacy in respect to grant opportunities that fund the creation of public spaces (like community areas and parks). After considering the feasibility of multiple locations, the location on the northeast corner of Palm Drive and 12th Street was selected for a proposed park.

The City hosted several public engagements between January and June of this year, to garner and incorporate public input. The public engagements proposed, selected, and placed park features based on participant preferences and consensus. Events took place at schools, the Desert Hot Springs Recreation Center, a Desert Hot Springs Rotary Club meeting, and several public meetings promoted via mailings, posters, and social media. A final public meeting took place on June 8th, 2019 and over 50 residents attended the event. Basic designs based on these meetings will be completed during the month of July and included with the grant application.

DISCUSSION

By August 4th, 2019, the City will submit a grant application for up to 8.5 million for the proposed project, via the State Park Program funded through Proposition 68. The state will likely announce winning projects before the end of the year. Any award of grant funding, as well as an associated completed park design, will be presented to the City Council for consideration at a future meeting.

This resolution presented for City Council approval certifies that the City will obtain sufficient funds prior to project commencement, will maintain sufficient funding for maintenance, will delegate authority to the City Manager to conduct negotiations, and will comply with federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations. An approved resolution meets one of the grant application requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Another application requirement regards CEQA compliance. In accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq, and the CEQA Guidelines, Title 14, Chapter 3 of California Code of Regulations the project is exempt further environmental review under Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations ("Regulations") Section 15303 "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures" and Section 15316 "Transfer of Ownership of Land in Order to Create Parks."

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact for submitting the application for the Proposition 68 Statewide Park Program.

EXHIBIT(S)

- 1) Resolution for Statewide Park Program Application