

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Date: May 22, 2025

To: Measure W: Safe, Clean Water Program Administrative Oversight Committee
Matthew Szabo, City Administrative Officer
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Randall Winston, Office of the Mayor

From: Michael Scaduto, PE, ENV SP, *Michael Scaduto* Digitally signed by Michael Scaduto
Principal Engineer Date: 2025.05.22 09:03:24-07'00'
Safe, Clean Water Implementation Division
LA Sanitation & Environment

Subject: Round 7 (FY 26/27) Safe, Clean Water Community Proposed Project Proposal Evaluation for a Letter of Support from the City of Los Angeles - Fern Dell Restoration and Stormwater Capture Project (CD 4) by Friends of Griffith Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the recommendation by LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) for the Friends of Griffith Park to secure RAP approval prior to submission for future funding from the Safe Clean Water Infrastructure Program.

BACKGROUND

The Safe, Clean Water Regional IP application process requires community proposed project applicants, such as Friends of Griffith Park, to include a Letter of Support from the municipality in which the project is proposed. A Letter of Support issued by the City of Los Angeles (City) would summarize the identified need for the project, the project's benefits to the City, and outline concurrence with detailed operation and maintenance plans.

Friends of Griffith Park has requested a Letter of Support from the City for the Fern Dell Restoration and Stormwater Capture Project (Project) located in Council District 4, at the entrance of Griffith Park along Fern Dell Dr. in the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area. Friends of Griffith Park (Project Proponent) was established in 2010 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable group that promotes the stewardship of Griffith Park (Park) to ensure that the Park survives and thrives well beyond the 21st century. Through advocacy, support, education and service, the Project Proponent works to preserve the Park as the City's signature green and open space, a place of free recreation, and linchpin in the survival of Southern California's native ecosystems. The Project Proponent intends to submit this application as part of the Round 7 Safe, Clean

Water Regional IP to the Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area, due on July 31, 2025.

The Project Proponent previously received a Letter of Support for their application to Round 3 (FY 22/23) for the Safe, Clean Water Regional Technical Resources Program. This letter was issued before implementation of the City's *Policies and Procedures for Safe Clean Water Program Community-Proposed Project*. The 2021 letter was in regards to that Round's Technical Resources Program application and should have been referred to as a Letter of Non-Objection. Per the City's adopted policy, an updated, and properly titled, Letter of Support will be needed for the infrastructure application in Round 7.

In order to receive a Letter of Support from the City for Round 7, and in alignment with the City's *Policies and Procedures for Safe Clean Water Program Community-Proposed Projects*, LASAN distributed a formal Invitation to Collaborate letter on August 24th, 2024, noting that any Project Proponents were requested to submit a collaboration request intake form by October 31st, 2024. LASAN received a project intake form on May 9th, 2025. In conducting an initial review neither LASAN nor RAP were aware of the intent to submit proposed application for Round 7, nor formally approved of project elements on RAP property, and neither were involved in the development of the feasibility study application to the Safe, Clean Water Regional IP.

CONSIDERATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

LASAN leads City efforts to review requests for Letters of Support or Non-Objection for the Safe Clean Water Regional Program. As part of the review process, LASAN coordinates and receives feedback from various stakeholders: including the project proponents, watershed coordinators, other City departments, and the City's Safe, Clean Water Program Working Group, to make final recommendations for the Administrative Oversight Committee (AOC) to consider. In the review of this specific request, and in alignment with the *City's Policies and Procedures for Review of Safe, Clean Water Program Community Proposed Projects*, it was determined that:

- The Project generally aligns with Safe, Clean Water Program guidelines.
- The Project has strong community support from various stakeholders.
- The Project Proponent has not engaged the RAP or LASAN during the development of the project's TRP feasibility study.
- Operation and Maintenance responsibilities have not been addressed.

LASAN and RAP recommend the Project Proponent secure RAP approval prior to submission for future funding from the Safe Clean Water Infrastructure Program.

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