REPORT TO COUNCIL
City of Sacramento

16

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STAFF REPORT
October 28, 2008

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: Application for a Proposition 84 River Parkways Grant for Acquisition of property for the Sacramento River Parkway

Location/Council District: Riverside Boulevard, Council District 4

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution:** 1) authorizing the City Manager or his designee to submit a Proposition 84 River Parkways grant application in an amount not to exceed $400,000 to the California State Resources Agency for the acquisition of an addition of property to the Sacramento River Parkway, 2) authorizing the City Manager or designated appointee to execute all necessary agreements, establish related revenue and expenditure budgets for the grant funds, and appropriate the grant funds contingent on receipt of award.

Contact: Camille Wise, Resource Development Specialist, 808-8830, Raymond Constantino, Assistant Planner, 808-8826, Parks and Recreation Department.

Presenters: Camille Wise, Resource Development Specialist

Department: Parks and Recreation

Division: Administration

Organization No: 4511

Description/Analysis

Issue: The State Resources Agency River Parkways Grant Program funds projects intended to directly improve the quality of life in California by providing important recreational, open space, wildlife, flood management, water quality, and urban waterfront revitalization benefits to communities in the State. The City Council's support of the Department of Parks and Recreation's request for up to $400,000 from the California State Resources Agency to fund the acquisition of an addition of property to the Sacramento River Parkway is needed. The grant proposal is due on November 12, 2008.

Policy Considerations: The acquisition of an addition to the Sacramento River Parkway is consistent with the City's approved strategic plan to achieve sustainability and livability.

Commission/Committee Action: Grant deadlines preclude staff from presenting to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) staff's recommendation to prepare a River Parkways grant proposal before City Council approval. Staff will provide an informational report to PRC at its November 6, 2008 meeting.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The current proposal involves the purchase of land for parks where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition. Pursuant to section 15316 of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Guidelines, the project is categorically exempt from CEQA because it entails the acquisition of land in order to establish a park where the land is in a natural condition and the management plan proposes to keep the area in a natural condition.

Sustainability Considerations: The project entails an application for grant funds to acquire parkland for public use along the Sacramento River. The City's Sustainability Master Plan calls for an expansion of the number of City parks. Considered regionally serving parkland, the City has a service level goal of 8 acres of regionally serving parkland for every 1,000 residents. This acquisition will help fulfill this goal.

Rationale for Recommendation: The acquisition of an addition to the Sacramento River Parkway was scored high as a priority project in the 2006 Parks and Recreation Programming Guide and is consistent with the City's approved strategic plans to achieve sustainability and livability. Increasing recreation options along the Sacramento River Parkway is also consistent with the Sacramento River Parkway Plan. Council approval and support is required to apply for a River Parkways grant.

Financial Considerations: With the Council's support, the City will request up to $400,000 from the California State Resources Agency. The River Parkways program does not require a grant match.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable at this time as no goods or services are being procured as a result of support for a River Parkways grant application.

Approved by: J. P. Tindell
for James L. Combs
Director

Recommendation Approved:

Cassandra B. Jones
for Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION: **Attachment 1**

California voters passed the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. This act added to the Public Resources Code, Section 75050 authorizing the Legislature to appropriate $62,000,000 to the California State Resources Agency for the acquisition, restoration, protection and development of river parkways in accordance with the California River Parkways Act of 2004. The River Parkways Grant Program, administered by the California State Resources Agency, provides funding for projects intending to protect and restore riparian and riverine habitat and directly improve the quality of life in California by providing important recreational, open space, wildlife, flood management, water quality, and urban waterfront revitalization benefits to communities in the State.

The proposed acquisition project meets the required two statutory conditions of the grant program: (1) Recreation - to provide compatible recreational opportunities, including trails for strolling, hiking, bicycling and equestrian uses along rivers and streams; (2) Conservation and Interpretive Enhancement – to provide facilities to support or interpret the river or stream restoration or other conservation activities. The project's scope is to acquire three parcels that are adjacent to the Sacramento River to support existing and future recreational uses. This acquisition would extend the City's authority over the multi-purpose trail to include land along Riverside Boulevard and the Sacramento River, making the riverfront publically accessible for recreation purposes. These parcels would provide complementary recreational uses that support the Sacramento River Parkway and the City's Bikeway system, such as passive recreation, nature study and habitat preservation.

Three contiguous parcels consisting of 4.2 acres have been identified for acquisition along the east bank of the Sacramento River within the Pocket Community Planning Area (see Attachment 4). The parcels are bordered by Riverside Boulevard on the east, the Sacramento River on the west, and are located just south of 35th Avenue. The three parcels are irregular in shape and adjoin a private residence. Currently the parcels are zoned R-1 (standard single-family zone) and are undeveloped.

The majority of the land is situated on the west side of the levee and contains wooded areas with foot paths leading to the river. The levee intersects the site and the City of Sacramento maintains a publicly accessible multi-purpose trail on the levee top. There is a public access easement for the multi purpose trail on two of the three parcels. On the third parcel there is a private drive that crosses the levee top. The portion of the site on the east side of the levee is a long-narrow strip with an existing visitor parking area and an entrance to the multi-purpose trail.

For many years a portion of the subject site along with an adjacent parcel leased from the Bureau of Land Management were operated as a Marina, originally constructed in the 1940s. The buildings were destroyed by a fire in 1984 and the marina use was discontinued. The burned remains were further destroyed by flooding in 1986 and the remaining improvements were largely washed away. The site has remained vacant since. Remnants of a paved access road over the levee into the center of the site still exist.

Acquiring these three parcels is consistent with the City of Sacramento's vision, goals and objectives stated in the 2005-2010 *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, the *Sacramento River Parkway Plan*, and the *City Bikeway Master Plan*. Furthermore, it is envisioned that the Sacramento River Parkway, American River Parkway, and the Upper Laguna Creek, will eventually be connected to create a major recreational and public access resource. This would provide river access to the City's population and increase circulation and connectivity per the Bikeway Master Plan. The Bikeway Master Plan's vision is to provide a continuous off-street bikeway and multi-purpose route along the Sacramento River connecting existing and publicly accessible bikeways in the North and the South of the City. Acquisition of these three parcels would also increase the City's regional park land to help meet its service level goal of 8 acres for every 1,000 residents living in the city.

These parcels will contribute to the existing land use vision for the Sacramento River Parkway, including public river access, passive recreational use, nature study and habitat preservation. If acquired these parcels are ideal for a trailhead with picnic tables and seating, walking paths and bank fishing. Through this grant application the three parcels would be acquired and interpretive signage would be developed for the site at the multi-purpose trail entrance.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-XXX

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

October 28, 2008

SUPPORT AN APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSITION 84 RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AN ADDITION OF PROPERTY TO THE SACRAMENTO RIVER PARKWAY.

BACKGROUND:

A. The River Parkways Grant Program, administered by the California State Resources Agency, provides funding for projects intending to protect and restore riparian and riverine habitat and directly improve the quality of life in California by providing important recreational, open space, wildlife, flood management, water quality, and urban waterfront revitalization benefits to communities in the State.

B. The project's scope is to acquire three parcels that are adjacent to the Sacramento River to support existing and future recreational uses.

C. Staff is recommending submitting an application for up to $400,000 for the acquisition of an addition to the Sacramento River Parkway.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Manager or his designee is authorized to submit a Proposition 84 River Parkways grant application in an amount not to exceed $400,000 to the California State Resources Agency for the acquisition of an addition of property to the Sacramento River Parkway.

Section 2. Authorize the City Manager or designated appointee to execute all necessary agreements, establish related revenue and expenditure budgets for the grant funds, and appropriate the grant funds contingent on receipt of award.

Resolution No: _____

RESOLUTION OF THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE CALIFORNIA RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM UNDER THE SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND ACT OF 2006 (Proposition 84)

_____

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicants governing board before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the project

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sacramento City Council

1. Approves the filing of an application for the *Acquisition of an Addition to the Sacramento River Parkway.*

2. Certifies that Applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application; and,

3. Certifies that Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project(s) consistent with the land tenure requirements; or will secure the resources to do so; and,

4. Certifies that it will comply with all provisions of Section 1771.5 of the California Labor Code; and,

5. If applicable, certifies that the project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, the *California Environmental Quality Act* (CEQA), legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable permits will have been obtained; and,

6. Appoints the City *Manager* or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

Approved and adopted the 28th day of October, 2008. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number _____ was duly adopted by the Sacramento City Council.

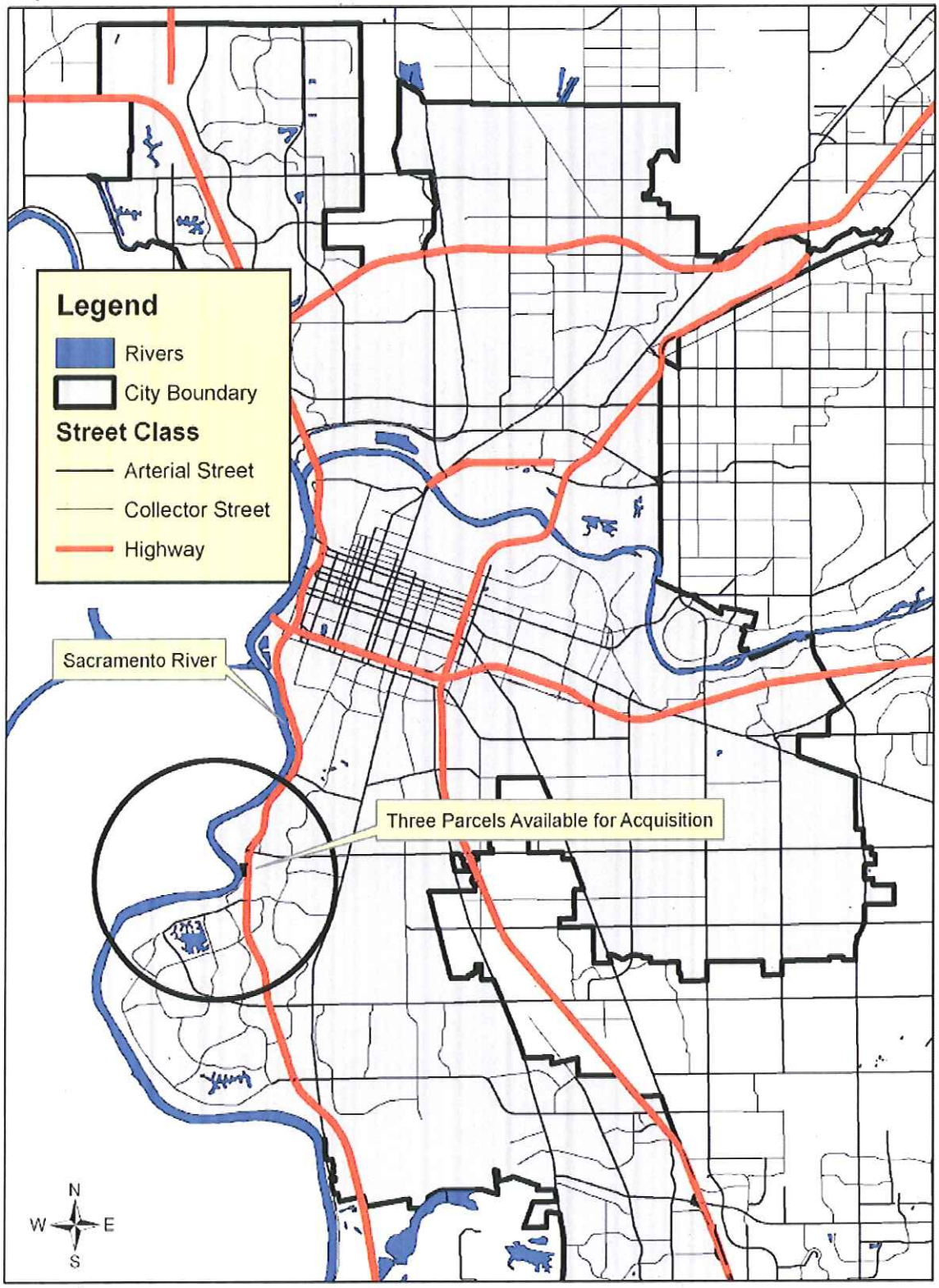
Following Roll Call Vote: Ayes: _____
Nos: _____
Absent: _____

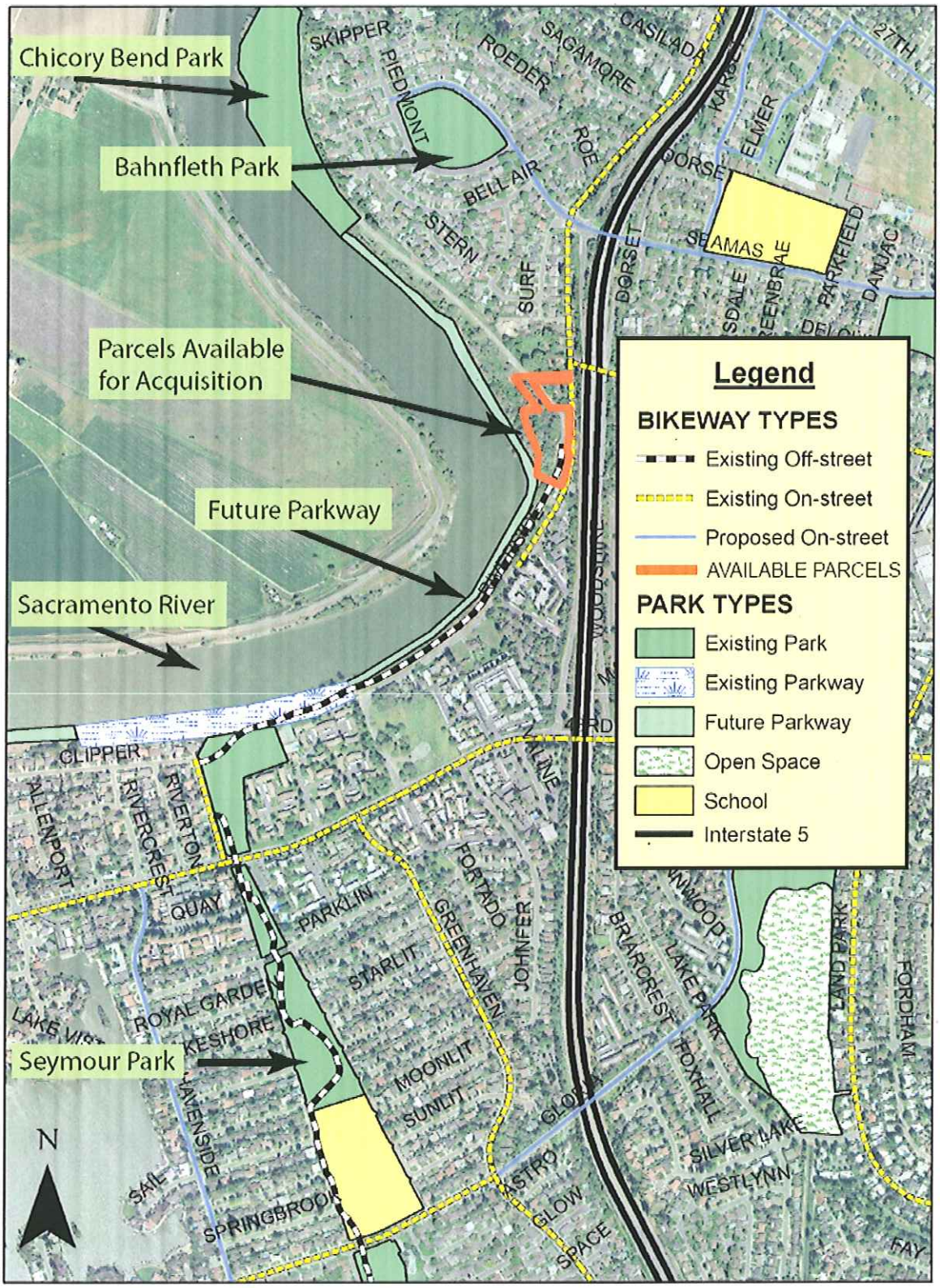
_____
Clerk/Secretary for the Governing Board

City of Sacramento

ATTACHMENT 4: Location Map A

Department of Parks & Recreation: Parcels Available for Acquisition



City of Sacramento ATTACHMENT 5: Location Map B

Department of Parks & Recreation: Parcels Available for Acquisition