



REPORT TO COUNCIL City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671
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Staff Report
October 11, 2005

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: Grant: Support the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency's Proposition 50 River Parkways Program Grant Application for Restoration of the Gardenland Mine site

Location/Council District: North bank of the American River Parkway, south of the Garden Highway and approximately one mile east of Interstate 5 (District 1)

Recommendation:

Adopt a resolution to support the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency's Proposition 50 River Parkways Program grant application for restoration of the Gardenland Mine site in the American River Parkway.

Contact: Robert G. Overstreet II, Director of Parks and Recreation, 808-1190;
Jennifer Ragsdale, Administrative Officer, 808-1956

Department: Parks and Recreation

Division: Administration

Organization No: 4511

Summary:

The Proposition 50 California River Parkways Program will award \$40 million in competitive grants this fiscal year for river parkway projects that provide public access, recreational, open space, wildlife, flood management, water quality, and urban waterfront revitalization benefits to communities. Grant applications are due to the State of California Resources Agency on October 18, 2005.

The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) will request up to \$5 million from the California River Parkways Program to reclaim and restore the 122.8-acre Gardenland Mine site, one of the last private in-holdings along the American River Parkway. In order for SAFCA to apply for a River Parkways Program grant, evidence of local city jurisdiction support is required.

Committee/Commission Action: None.

Background Information:

The Gardenland Mine is a 122.8-acre in-holding on the American River Parkway, south of the Garden Highway and approximately one mile east of Interstate 5. The Lower American River is a regional jewel providing important habitat, a high water quality source, a critical floodway and a spectacular regional recreational parkway. The Gardenland Mine property is one of the last private holdings within the American River Parkway, which has more than 5 million visitors per year and is one of the best examples of a natural riparian habitat in the State of California. Since 1966, the site has been mined for over 5 million yards of sand and topsoil by Gardenland Sand & Gravel. Today, it is still used for receiving and shipping soil products. Currently, loose soil contributes sediment to the American River during flood periods because the site gets inundated from overflows in either the American River or Bannon Slough. Using this location as a mine does not comply with site zoning and the planned use for the American River Parkway. If this land were in public hands, it would be easier to implement flood control programs, habitat restoration, watershed management, and compatible active recreation development plans.

By reclaiming and restoring the Gardenland Mine site, SAFCA can eliminate soil processing, thereby reducing sediment discharge, and improving the water quality in the American and Sacramento Rivers. Restoration of the site is also important for public recreation and habitat enhancement.

In 2004, SAFCA was awarded grant funds from the CALFED Watershed Program that included \$250,000 for integrated area planning of the lowermost reach of the Parkway and \$1.5 million for the restoration of the Gardenland Mine site's river edge. SAFCA's Proposition 50 California River Parkways grant proposal would seek up to \$5 million for more extensive restoration of the remainder of the site, including upland and wetland components and public trails. The exact amount of the request is being calculated as the application submittal package is completed by SAFCA's consultants. Both the current grant, if awarded, and the previous CALFED grant require public acquisition of the site prior to completion of the project. SAFCA staff is currently negotiating the acquisition of this site with representatives of the landowners.

Financial Considerations:

SAFCA's acquisition and restoration of the Gardenland Mine site has no direct financial impact on the City of Sacramento.

SAFCA will also be requesting local city jurisdiction support for a Proposition 50 California River Parkways application for up to \$2.5 million for the Sacramento Riverfront Riparian Enhancement Project at River Mile 60.

On September 20, 2005, the City Council approved a City of Sacramento Proposition 50 California River Parkways application for up to \$4 million for the Sacramento River Docks Area Parkway and Riparian Enhancement Corridors. SAFCA is the project lead for the riparian enhancement corridors and is co-author of the City's grant application.

Environmental Considerations:

This action is not considered a project as defined by Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines (CEQA).

Policy Considerations:

SAFCA's restoration of the Gardenland Mine site will help implement the Lower American River Corridor Management Plan, which encourages protecting native vegetation and removing non-native vegetation. And, it will expedite future planning to accommodate consistent active recreational and habitat uses along the American River by eliminating existing non-compliant private uses within a state-regulated floodway.

Support of SAFCA's Proposition 50 California River Parkways grant application is consistent with the City's goal to achieve sustainability and livability.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):

Not applicable as no goods or services are being purchased at this time.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Robert G. Overstreet II
Parks and Recreation Director

Recommendation Approved:

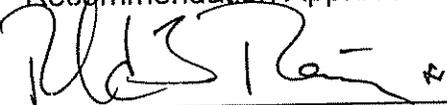

ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

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RESOLUTION NO. 2005 –

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

October 11, 2005

SUPPORTING THE SACRAMENTO AREA FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY'S PROPOSITION 50 CALIFORNIA RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR RESTORATION OF THE GARDENLAND MINE SITE (AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY MINE RESTORATION)

BACKGROUND

- A. Proposition 50 – The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 established the California River Parkway Grant Program to provide grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for river parkway projects that provide public access, recreational, open space, wildlife, flood management, water quality, and urban waterfront revitalization benefits to communities. A total of \$40 million statewide has been appropriated for the first round of grants in Fiscal Year 2006.
- B. The Gardenland Mine is a 122.8-acre in-holding on the American River Parkway, south of the Garden Highway and approximately one mile east of Interstate 5. It is one of the last private holdings within the American River Parkway. Loose soil from the mine contributes sediment to the American River during flood periods because the site gets inundated from overflows in either the American River or Bannon Slough. Using this location as a mine does not comply with site zoning and the planned use for the American River Parkway.
- C. If awarded, the grant would assist the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency in restoring the Gardenland Mine site by eliminating soil processing; thereby reducing sediment discharge, and improving the water quality in the American and Sacramento Rivers. Restoration of the site is also important for public recreation and habitat enhancement. It will help implement the Lower American River Corridor Management Plan and expedite future planning to accommodate consistent active recreational and habitat uses along the American River.
- D. SAFCA must submit evidence of local city jurisdiction support of the grant application for the Gardenland Mine Restoration project (also known as the American River Parkway Mine Restoration) to the California River Parkway Grant Program.

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

- Section 1. To support the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency's application for a Proposition 50 California River Parkway grant of up to \$5 million for restoration of the Gardenland Mine site (American River Parkway Mine Restoration).