



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDER  
October 26, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront  
Subject: Grant Application: the San Francisco Restoration Authority Measure AA Grant Program for Pre-Construction documents for Potential Improvement Projects at Aquatic Park

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to: 1) submit a grant application in the amount of \$897,000 to the San Francisco Restoration Authority Measure AA Grant Program to prepare pre-construction technical documents for potential improvement projects at Aquatic Park, including a community engagement program; 2) accept any grants; 3) execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The Measure AA grant program administered by the San Francisco Restoration Authority does not require local matching funds. If awarded, the City will assign City staff to manage the project as an in-kind match to the grant, at a value of \$129,950.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In July of 2021, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority opened the 2021 Measure AA Grant Round for project proposals. The Board seeks to fund projects that qualify as one or more of the following project types: a habitat project that aims to restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats on the shoreline in the San Francisco Bay Area; a flood management project that is part of a habitat project; or a public access project that will provide or improve access or recreational amenities that are part of a habitat project. The Authority is particularly interested in supporting projects that address equity and include benefits to economically disadvantaged communities through meaningful community engagement. The City's Parks, Recreation & Waterfront identified Aquatic Park as a critical habitat site with projects that would best meet the goals of the Measure AA grant program. Based on the City's Aquatic Park Improvement Program (APIP) studies from 2010, there are a range of improvement projects to enhance habitat, water quality, and recreation and public access at Aquatic Park. The next step in the process involves the preparation of pre-construction technical documents, including a project description, CEQA environmental review, and a community process.

## BACKGROUND

Completed in 1937, Aquatic Park was created when the state constructed the Bayside Freeway on a new levee that ran through the tidal waters of the Bay from Oakland to Richmond. Aquatic Park currently has three lagoons: the Main Lagoon (ML), the Model Yacht Basin (MYB), and the northern portion of the Radio Tower Pond (RTP). The entire park is 102 acres and includes: 68.0 acres of open water in the three lagoons, 0.7 acres of salt/brackish wetlands, 1.1 acres of freshwater wetlands, 11.0 acres of open space lawn, 7.0 acres of roads and trails, and 14.0 acres of buildings and uplands.

In terms of improving water quality, the lagoons are connected to the Bay by 24-inch diameter culverts (“tide tubes”). The five tide tubes in the Main Lagoon were cleaned in October 2020 after being clogged for several decades. While they currently provide full functionality, they show initial signs of the structural failure process and need to be re-sleeved in the next ten years. At the Model Yacht Basin, the tide tube to the Bay and the internal culverts to the Main Lagoon are significantly clogged, needing major rehabilitation. The most significant habitat in Aquatic Park is the shallow subtidal aquatic habitat in the waters of the lagoons. Shallow subtidal habitat in the SF Bay is a highly productive zone which supports a nursery for many marine crustaceans and fish. This project to improve the tide tube system will ensure that the water quality of this critical habitat remains at a high level for decades to come. In addition, the park contains a range of small wetland or mudflat habitats that should be enhanced to obtain higher habitat value. Finally, the park contains a range of recreation and public access features in need of improvement, including a perimeter pedestrian trail, a frisbee golf course, an outdoor exercise equipment site, multiple spots for wildlife viewing, and a connection to the pedestrian overcrossing bridge to the Bay Trail on the west side of Interstate 80.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

As a technical document project, there are no environmental impacts associated with this project.

## RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Funding of this phase of the project (the pre-construction technical documents, including CEQA review) will make the project more competitive for future funding opportunities that could cover the design and construction phases to improve the habitat, water quality, and recreation and public access at Aquatic Park.

## ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

## CONTACT PERSON

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Nelson Lam, Supervising Civil Engineer, PRW, (510) 981-6395

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S

GRANT APPLICATION: THE SAN FRANCISCO RESTORATION AUTHORITY  
MEASURE AA GRANT PROGRAM FOR PRE-CONSTRUCTION TECHNICAL  
DOCUMENTS INCLUDING A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR  
POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AT AQUATIC PARK

WHEREAS, in July of 2021, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority opened the 2021 Measure AA Grant Round for project proposals; and

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to fund projects that qualify as one or more of the following project types: a habitat project that aims to restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands, managed ponds, or natural habitats on the shoreline in the San Francisco Bay Area; a flood management project that is part of a habitat project; or a public access project that will provide or improve access or recreational amenities that are part of a habitat project; and

WHEREAS, the Authority is particularly interested in supporting projects that address equity and include benefits to economically disadvantaged communities through meaningful community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the City's Parks, Recreation & Waterfront identified Aquatic Park as a critical site with projects that best meet the goals of the Measure AA grant program; and

WHEREAS, based on the City's Aquatic Park Improvement Program (APIP) studies from 2010, there are a range of improvement projects to enhance habitat, water quality, and recreation and public access at Aquatic Park. The next step in the process involves the preparation of pre-construction technical documents, including a project description, CEQA environmental review, and a community engagement program with an estimated cost of \$897,000; and

WHEREAS, the Measure AA grant program administered by the San Francisco Restoration Authority does not require local matching funds. If awarded, the City will assign City staff to manage the project as an in-kind match to the grant, at a value of \$129,950.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to: submit a grant application in the amount of \$897,000 to the San Francisco Restoration Authority Measure AA grant program for pre-construction technical documents including a community engagement program for potential improvement projects at Aquatic Park; accept any grants; execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.