

APPROVED

March 05 2026

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 26-057

DATE March 05, 2026

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: RUNYON CANYON PARK – APPROVAL OF NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION WITHIN A SPECIFIED AREA OF RUNYON CANYON PARK BY THE FRIENDS OF RUNYON CANYON; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15301(h) [MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING LANDSCAPING, NATIVE GROWTH, AND WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS (EXCLUDING THE USE OF PESTICIDES)] AND SECTION 15304(b) [NEW GARDENING OR LANDSCAPING, INCLUDING THE REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING CONVENTIONAL LANDSCAPING WITH WATER EFFICIENT OR FIRE RESISTANT LANDSCAPING] OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES AS WELL AS ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(8) AND CLASS 4(3) OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES

* B. Aguirre <u>BA</u>	M. Rudnick _____
C. Stoneham _____	C. Santo Domingo _____
B. Jones _____	N. Williams _____



 General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the park beautification project (Project) as a two-year pilot program at Runyon Canyon Park, located at 2000 N. Fuller Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90046 (Park) consisting of the installation and maintenance of native plants on a portion of Park as depicted in Attachment 1 (Premises), to be completed by the Friends of Runyon Canyon (FOR) and their selected contractor(s) and/or vendor(s);
2. Determine that the Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15301(h) [Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs (excluding the use of pesticides)] and Section 15304(b) [New gardening or landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient or fire resistant landscaping] of California CEQA Guidelines as well as Article III, Section 1, Class 1(8) and Class 4(3) of City CEQA Guidelines, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation;
3. Authorize RAP’s Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing an NOE;
4. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) Planning, Maintenance, and Construction Branch (PMC), upon the Project’s approval by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board), to issue a Right of Entry Permit (ROE) to FOR and their selected contractor(s) and/or vendor(s) authorizing the installation and ongoing maintenance of the Project within the Premises; and,

BOARD REPORT

PG. 2 NO. 26-057

5. Authorize RAP staff to make any necessary technical changes consistent with the Board's intent in approving this Report.

SUMMARY

RAP manages and provides stewardship over Runyon Canyon Park, a 160-acre park at the eastern end of the Santa Monica Mountains popular among both locals and tourists for its hiking, walking and jogging trails with panoramic views of mountains and cityscape. The Park also includes a designated off-leash dog area, picnic tables, and open space for passive recreational activities and adjoins one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in Los Angeles with a large, intact native ecology, as it is home to a variety of habitats with a diverse array of plant and animal species.

RAP has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Friends of Runyon Canyon (FOR), which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has been working to support the Park through its mission of raising funds and awareness for the preservation, maintenance, protection and beautification of the Park. The proposed Project aligns with FOR's mission, as it is focused on restoring and enhancing the native ecology of the Park.

The Project shall include the planting of approximately 100 native plants on the Premises, subject to approval and coordination with RAP PMC Staff and RAP Urban Ecologist(s). The Premises is an approximately 5,000 square feet portion of the west side of Inspiration Point Hiking Trail, as depicted in Attachment 1. The two-year pilot program shall include as-needed maintenance of this area, which will include weeding, spreading mulch, and replanting as necessary. FOR will coordinate with contractor(s) and/or vendor(s) for Project installation and maintenance, which is anticipated to include community volunteer days. After two years, RAP staff will assess the success of this Project, and determine the need for a longer term arrangement under a formal agreement with the potential for restoration and beautification of additional sites within the Park.

TREES AND SHADE

The Project does not have any impact on existing trees or shade at the Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The proposed Project consists of new gardening or landscaping and maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth.

According to the parcel profile report retrieved on February 27, 2026, this site is not within a coastal, methane, or historic protection zone. It is in the liquefaction zone, but it will not increase the risk of liquefaction, so there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern or have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of February 27, 2026, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) have not listed the Project site or any contaminated sites near the Project area (within 1,000 feet). According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway Map, there is no scenic highway located near the Project site. The proposed Project is not within an historic site and will not have any significant effect on nearby historic resources such as the C.E Toberman Estate (which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places with ID 83001205, and also designated as City of Los Angeles Historic

BOARD REPORT

PG. 3 NO. 26-057

Cultural Monument # 285) and the Atkinson/Farnum/Swain Residence (listed in the California Register of Historic Resources with ID 65534).

Based on this information, staff recommends that the Board determine that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15301(h) and 15304(b) of California CEQA Guidelines and Article III Section 1, Class 1(8) and Class 4(3) of City CEQA Guidelines. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation upon Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Project has no adverse impact on RAP's General Fund as the Project shall be installed and maintained for two years by FOR at no cost to the City or RAP.

This Report was prepared by Priya Macwan, Management Analyst, Sustainability and Partnership Sections, and Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II, Partnership Section.

List of Attachments:

1. Project Location

Location of Native Plant Restoration Project (Zoomed in)



Location of Native Plant Restoration Project (Zoomed out)

