

SIERRA CREEK PARK PROPOSITION 68 GRANT FUNDING

April 2, 2021

PROP 68 – State Parks Program (SPP) was passed by California voters June 2018. There is \$395.3 million dollars available in Round 4 that will go towards Parks and Recreation funding. The North Highlands Recreation and Park District submitted its grant application prior to the March 9, 2021 deadline.

The North Highlands Recreation and Park District previously held five public workshops to inform residents of this grant opportunity and to solicit ideas on developing the future Sierra Creek Park site. Additionally, the Prop 68 grant required that the district complete a CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) study which took approximately nine months to finish. The Sierra Creek park project received a Notice of Determination from Sacramento County and included the CEQA Compliance Certification as part of the grant application to the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

Prop 68 is a “point-based” system. Each qualifying section is allotted a set number of points (minimum to maximum). In addition, the state awards points for proposed projects in which the district has less than 3 park acres per 1000 residents and/or median household income of \$56K or less. Using a GSI (graphic information system) tool provided by the state, it was determined that Sierra Creek Park met both criteria. Projects that obtain the highest number of points will receive grant funding up to the funding amount of \$395.3 million. The minimum and maximum grant award is \$200,000 and \$8.5 million. The North Highlands Recreation and Park District grant is in the amount of \$2.85 million.

Using the GIS system, it was determined early on in the process that the district should apply for grant funds to develop a new park at the location at Watt Avenue and Davidson Drive, Antelope, CA. This vacant undeveloped parcel is approximately 7.2 acres and borders Watt Avenue on one end and Spinelli Elementary School on the other.

The district believes that it has submitted a very strong grant application. However, the odds of receiving Prop 68 Round 4 funds will be a challenge. In Round 3, a total of 63 projects were funded out of 478 applications. The average grant awarded was \$4.1 million.

State Parks is in the process of scoring what will likely be in excess of 500 applications for Round 4. Applicants have been advised that grant funding notification will occur sometime in summer of 2021. Once the state has notified the district of the status of its application, this information will be posted on the district’s website and other social media outlets.

Regardless of the outcome of the district’s Prop 68 grant application submittal, on behalf of NHRPD’s Board of Directors, I would like to thank all of the district’s residents who participated in the many public workshops and those who have supported and endorsed this project. This has been a two year journey. Keep your fingers crossed!

Sincerely,

Larry Mazzuca
District Administrator