



## MEMORANDUM

### City of Angels City Council

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**Date:** 3/3/2026

**To:** City Council

**From:** Amy Augustine, AICP

**Re:** Resolution 26-31 Authorizing an Application for a T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program for Interpretive Signage and Par Course workout stations at Utica Park

#### **Recommendation**

Approve Resolution 26-31.

#### **Background/Discussion**

The City adopted a Scope of Work for the Utica Park Lightner Mine Expansion and Rehabilitation project. The scope of work approved by the State of California under the City's \$3 million Rural Recreation and Tourism program includes three remaining items that remain to be completed: drinking fountains / hydration station (already purchased, awaiting installation), parcourse exercise stations and historical interpretive signs. The City has until 2028 to complete all work under the grant. The state already conducted a final site visit with the City and found the City in substantial compliance with grant requirements asking the city to send photos of exercise stations and interpretive signs once completed.

Due to budget constraints, staff have been seeking outside grants and donations to complete these items. Without funding, downscaled versions of both the parcourse and interpretive signs could be provided to fulfill grant obligations. However, staff continues to monitor potential grants that could provide opportunities to fund both items as originally envisioned. This T-Mobile grant could fund interpretive signage throughout the park plus a few parcourse workout stations.

The interpretive signs (9± signs are proposed) are intended to highlight the history of mining at the park, describe the mining structures visible at the park, the miners and people associated with mining in Angels Camp, the Mother Lode in general, and Mark Twain. A subcommittee of local historians has been working on the content and design of the interpretive signs for approximately two years. Proposed interpretive signage is expected to assist in teaching local students, visitors, and residents about the on-the-ground experience of gold mining (for economic development, recreational and educational purposes).

The parcourse has 11 workout stations planned (jumping jacks, mountain climbers, knee pulls, lunges, plank, step-ups, ring swing, pull-ups, sit-ups, body curls and balance beam). A \$5,000 donation was received from Adventist Health Sonora towards the parcourse facility. A second donation has been requested. Coupled with funds from T-Mobile, several parcourse stations could be funded.

T-Mobile, in association with Main Street America, has opened its final round of Hometown Grants for rural towns to fund shovel-ready projects that foster local connections, like technology upgrades,

outdoors spaces and the arts due March 31, 2026. Interpretive signage and parcourse workout stations for Utica Park appear to be a good fit for the grant criteria.

**Environmental**

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15311, Class 11, of the state and city guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which states that on-premises signs and accessory structures are exempt from CEQA.

**Financial Impact**

If successful, the City could secure up to \$50,000 to produce and install historical interpretive signs and some parcourse stations at Utica Park.

**Attachment**

Resolution 26-26