



STAFF REPORT
2/26/2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Jaime Arroyo, Grants Manager

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to Submit an Application to the Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Grant Program in the Amount Not-to-Exceed Fifteen Million (\$15,000,000) Dollars to Supplement the Rancho Las Flores Park Project

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council considers authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant program in the amount not-to-exceed fifteen million (\$15,000,000) dollars to supplement the Rancho Las Flores Park Project.

BACKGROUND:

On February 14, 1963, President Kennedy's Administration proposed legislation to establish a "Land and Water Conservation Fund" to assist states in planning, acquisition, and development of recreation lands. With bipartisan support, President Johnson signed it into law on September 3, 1964, as Public Law 88- 578, 16 U.S.C.460l-4. The Land and Water Conservation Fund grants provide funding for the acquisition or development of land to create new outdoor recreation opportunities for the health and wellness of Californians. Since 1965, over one thousand parks throughout California have been created or improved with LWCF assistance.

The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program was established in 2014 and is funded through the LWCF. ORLP is a nationally competitive program targeting grant assistance to help economically disadvantaged urban communities with no, or almost no, access to publicly available, close-by, outdoor recreation. These investments enable urban communities to create new outdoor recreation spaces, reinvigorate existing parks, and form connections between people and the outdoors.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The ORLP grant funds can be used for the acquisition and/or development of, or to substantially renovate public parks and other outdoor recreation spaces. The City of Coachella is proposing to

submit an application not to exceed \$15 million for a development project to expand the existing Rancho Las Flores Park. The development application also allows funding for major support amenities, such as restrooms, parking lots, lighting and landscaping.

The application will supplement the City's Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Prop 68 grant that it received from the Department of Parks and Recreation to expand Rancho Las Flores Park by constructing a new amphitheater, park lighting, parking lot, concrete pathways, playground, splash pad, flower garden with fountain, outdoor exercise equipment, restroom/concession building, perimeter sidewalks/landscaping, picnic area with BBQ, dog park, drinking fountains, trees and landscaping.

The Rancho Las Flores Park project is a strong competitive project for this application, as it aligns with many of the grant criteria requirements, such as the construction of several new outdoor recreation features, environmental design considerations, community-based planning, and local partnerships. Since the City's initial award of the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization grant, construction costs have risen significantly due to inflation. The additional ORLP funding would help cover those costs and secure the park's successful construction.

The current budget breakdown is as follows:

Funding Source	Amount
Leveraging - Prop 68 Grant	\$ 8,454,600
Leveraging - Park DIF	\$ 268,100
ORLP Grant Request	\$ 8,380,676
Project Total	\$ 17,103,376

FISCAL IMPACT

There is a 50% minimum match requirement of the total project cost. The City will be leveraging funding from its Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant to match the 50% requirement.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize the City Manager to Submit an Application to the Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Grant Program in the Amount Not-to-Exceed Fifteen Million (\$15,000,000) Dollars to Supplement the Rancho Las Flores Park Project
2. Not Authorize the City Manager to Submit an Application to the Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Grant Program in the Amount Not-to-Exceed Fifteen Million (\$15,000,000) Dollars to Supplement the Rancho Las Flores Park Project