



STAFF REPORT
6/11/2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Jaime Arroyo, Grants Manager

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution No. 2025-29 Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application on behalf of the City of Coachella to the Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Program in the Amount Not-to-Exceed Six Million (\$6,000,000) Dollars for the Rancho Las Flores Park Project

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council considers adopting Resolution No. 2025-29 authorizing the City Manager to submit an application on behalf of the City of Coachella to the Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program in the amount not-to-exceed six million (\$6,000,000) dollars for 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.

When an LWCF project is completed, the land within the approved LWCF Boundary Map is placed under federal protection, preserving the public's outdoor recreational use of the site in perpetuity for the benefit of our nation's future generations

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The LWCF grant provides funding for two types of projects – acquisition or development. The City of Coachella is proposing to submit an application not to exceed \$6 million for a development project. Under the development application, projects must develop recreation features for outdoor

recreation, intended for outdoor recreational opportunities for the health and wellness of Californians. The development application also allows funding for major support amenities, such as 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 LWCF funding would help cover those costs and secure the park's successful construction.

The budget breakdown is as follows:

Funding Source	Amount
Leveraging - Prop 68 Grant	\$ 8,454,600
CVMC Prop 1 Grant	\$ 400,000
LWCF Grant Request	\$ 6,000,000
Project Total	\$ 14,854,000

The application deadline is August 5th, 2025.

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. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-29 Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application on behalf of the City of Coachella to the Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Program in the Amount Not-to-Exceed Six Million (\$6,000,000) Dollars for the Rancho Las Flores Park Project
2. Not Adopt Resolution No. 2025-29 Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application on behalf of the City of Coachella to the Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Grant Program in the Amount Not-to-Exceed Six Million (\$6,000,000) Dollars for the
Rancho Las Flores Park Project

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution No. 2025-29