STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type:	Board of Directors
Title:	Land and Water Conservation Fund Application for the Lake Lagunitas Outdoor Education
From:	Carl Sanders, Natural Resources Program Manager
Through:	Shaun Horne, General Manager
Meeting Date:	November 17, 2026

TYPE OF ITEM: X Action Information

RECOMMENDATION: Approve a resolution to pursue a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for the Lake Lagunitas Outdoor Education Project

SUMMARY: The District recently developed conceptual plans for the Lake Lagunitas Outdoor Education Project to improve visitor experience and educational opportunities at the existing Lake Lagunitas Picnic Area. To support implementation, staff is preparing a grant proposal for California State Parks' Land and Water Conservation Fund. A Board resolution approving the application submittal including a commitment for matching funds for 50% of the project total are required at the time of submission.

DISCUSSION: At the April 1, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting, the Board approved a grant award of $200,000 from the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed Fund to advance a Watershed Facilities Assessment and Conceptual Plan. The Board subsequently approved entering into a Project Agreement with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC) for project management support at the August 19, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting. The GGNPC, as part of the One Tam collaborative, has helped the District and other public land management agencies on similar planning efforts in the past; previous Mt. Tamalpais Watershed plans include concept plans for the Lake Lagunitas Picnic Area and West Peak.

District staff worked with GGNPC to develop a request for proposals for an architectural firm and selected PROTOinc and Roth/LaMotte Landscape Architecture (RLLA) to develop high-level assessments and visions for Task 1: the Sky Oaks Watershed Headquarters, Task 2: housing opportunities for seasonal staff, and Task 3: an outdoor education space. Staff presented initial assessments and high-level concepts to the Watershed Committee on September 17, 2026 and recommended that Task 1 be integrated into the broader District facilities planning effort, Task 2 be concluded, and Task 3 be advanced for further design.

Staff is working with GGNPC and RLLA to advance conceptual designs for educational and visitor improvements to the Lake Lagunitas Picnic Area. To support implementation, staff recommends submitting a grant proposal to the California State Parks Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funding opportunity. Staff estimates a total project cost of $900,000, which would be funded with $450,000 in grant funds and $450,000 in matching funds. To satisfy the matching requirement, staff is recommending a disbursement from the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed Fund in the amount of $450,000 contingent on receiving an LWCF grant award. The District created the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed Fund in 1996 to give watershed visitors the opportunity to help protect the mountain through a tax-deductible donation and to provide support for the watershed management activities of the Mount Tamalpais watershed and other District watershed lands.

LWCF provides federal funding administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) and helps public agencies implement projects that create or improve outdoor recreation and education opportunities. LWCF applications require a 50% cost-share, completed CEQA, and a Board resolution at the time of submission. The deadline for the current 2027 LWCF opportunity is January 14, 2027.

Staff presented on this grant opportunity at the October 27, 2026 Planning Committee meeting.

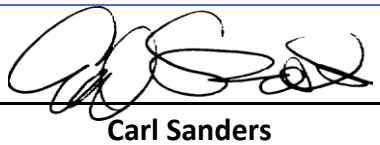
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: The Lake Lagunitas Outdoor Education Project as proposed is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities), 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). The project involves improvements to the existing Lake Lagunitas Picnic Area, including parking lot repaving, installation of an outdoor log-circle classroom, shade structures, portable restrooms, picnic tables, and associated minor grading, site, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements.

The proposed improvements would be concentrated within the existing developed recreational area and would not substantially expand existing uses. The project would not result in significant impacts to sensitive environmental or historical resources, contribute to significant cumulative impacts, or result in significant environmental effects due to unusual circumstances.

FISCAL IMPACT: LWCF grants require a 50% cost-share. Staff estimates a total project cost of $900,000, which would be funded with $450,000 in grant funds and $450,000 in matching funds. To satisfy the matching requirement, staff is recommending a disbursement from the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed Fund in the amount of $450,000 contingent on receiving an LWCF grant award. The current balance of the fund is $720,789.44.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Proposed Resolution
2. CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE)

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Watershed		
	Carl Sanders **Acting Watershed Resources Director**	**Shaun Horne** **General Manager**