



Community Development Department
675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 764-3532

For the Meeting of July 15, 2025

☒ Consent Item; ☐ Public Hearing Item

To: City Council

From: Kevin Caldwell, Community Development Director

A blue ink handwritten signature, likely of Kevin Caldwell, consisting of a stylized 'K' and 'C'.

Through: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

Date: July 9, 2025

Subject: Approve Resolutions No. 1642-2025 and 1643-2025 regarding the 2025 Land Water Conservation Fund Grant Opportunities.

Recommendation:

That the City Council:

1. Approve Resolution No. 1642-2025 authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application for the acquisition of Davis Street Park from the Rio Dell School District; and
2. Approve Resolution No. 1643-2025 authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application for Phase III of the Rio Dell Dog Park which includes the proposed construction of a half-court basketball court, picnic tables, bike rack(s), landscaping and fencing.

Summary

Staff is preparing an application for the 2025 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program. Staff intends on applying for a grant for \$350,000 for the acquisition of the Davis Street Park from the school district which has recently indicated a willingness to sell. If time permits, staff intends on making a second application to complete Phase III of the Dog Park, which would include the construction of a half-court basketball court, picnic tables, bike rack(s), landscaping and fencing. Staff estimates the cost for the project to be \$400,000. Staff is requesting the Council to approve two Resolutions, one for each application.

The grant is extremely competitive with only \$35 million available statewide. The chance of the City receiving a grant, the alone two is highly unlikely. It also needs to be pointed out that there is a 50% match requirement.

Background

The 2025 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program in California, administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS), is a crucial source of funding for creating and improving public outdoor recreation opportunities across the state. This program leverages federal funds to enhance the health and wellness of Californians by supporting park acquisition and development projects.

Here's a summary of the 2025 California LWCF grant program:

Program Goals and Funding:

- **Purpose:** To provide financial assistance for the acquisition and/or development of land and water areas to create new or enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities for public use.
- **Funding Source:** The program is primarily funded by revenues from offshore oil and gas leases on the U.S. outer continental shelf, with permanent annual funding of \$900 million nationally due to the Great American Outdoors Act (2020).
- **Amount Available for Local Agencies:** For 2025, there is **\$35 million available** for local agency applicants in California.

- **Matching Requirement:** A **50% match** is required. This means applicants must provide matching funds (cash, donated land/labor/materials) equal to half of the total project cost.

Eligible Applicants:

- Cities
- Counties
- State agencies (with a separate application deadline)
- Federally recognized Native American Tribes
- Joint Powers Authorities (where all members are otherwise eligible under LWCF)
- Park districts and special districts with the authority to acquire, operate, and maintain public park and recreation areas.

Eligible Projects and Activities:

The program supports a wide range of public outdoor recreation activities and facilities. These can include:

- Acquisition of land and water for park purposes.
- Development of new outdoor recreation facilities.
- Renovation of existing outdoor recreation facilities.
- Specific examples of eligible facilities include:
 - Community parks
 - Campgrounds
 - Playgrounds and tot lots
 - Sports fields (soccer, baseball, softball, football) and courts
 - Picnic areas and open-air pavilions
 - Outdoor gyms and fitness equipment
 - Recreational trails
 - **Skate parks and BMX/pump tracks – Very high on the Park Survey**
 - Outdoor swimming pools and aquatic features
 - Interpretive signage
 - Open space and natural areas

- Dog parks
- Community, demonstration, and botanic gardens.

Ineligible Activities:

Certain projects or activities are generally not eligible for LWCF funding, including:

- Elaborate, tournament-only, or professional sports facilities.
- Projects on school board property may be ineligible in some states (applicants should confirm with OGALS).
- Construction or installation of any indoor facility within the park that does not directly support outdoor public recreation (e.g., community centers, schools, housing, police substations, libraries).

Grant Specifics (Local Agency Competitive Program):

- **Maximum Grant Request:** Local agencies can request up to **\$6 million** per project.
- **Application Deadline:** For local agencies, applications must be submitted online by **August 5, 2025, before 5:00 PM PST**. No extensions will be granted.
- **Application Process:** Applications are submitted through an online portal. OGALS also hosted an application workshop webinar in February 2025, and applicants are encouraged to view the recording and reach out to their NPS Project Officer for technical assistance.
- **Compliance Requirements:** Projects are subject to federal NEPA and Section 106 approval. No ground disturbance or project implementation activities can begin until these federal requirements are complete.
- **Stewardship:** Properties acquired or developed with LWCF funds must be maintained for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. This includes installing acknowledgement signs upon completion (and during construction for projects over \$500,000). Any changes to the LWCF boundary area or use of the park require reporting to OGALS and may necessitate property replacement.

Key Considerations for Applicants:

- Projects must be consistent with California's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and elements of local comprehensive land use and park master plans.
- Projects must comply with the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Applicants with open LWCF or Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants or unresolved compliance issues from previous grants may be ineligible.

Attachment 1: Resolution No. 1642 – 2025; Davis Park Acquisition

Attachment 2: Resolution No. 1643 – 2025; Basketball Court, Phase III Dog Park

RESOLUTION NO. 1642-2025



**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL
APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE LAND
AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A
PORTION OF THE RIO DELL DISTRICT SCHOOL PROPERTY KNOWN
AS THE DAVIS STREET PARK.**

WHEREAS, the Congress under Public Law 88-578 has authorized the establishment of a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant-In-Aid program, providing matching funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for acquiring lands and developing Facilities for public outdoor recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for administration of the program in the State, setting up necessary rules and procedures governing applications by local agencies under the program; and

WHEREAS, the applicant certifies by resolution the approval of the application and the availability of eligible matching funds prior to submission of the application to the State; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Rio Dell hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for Land and Water Conservation Fund

assistance for the proposed acquisition of approximately three acres.

2. Certifies that the applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and
3. Agrees to abide by 54 U.S.C. §200305(f)(3) which requires, “No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the Secretary, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation use. The Secretary shall approve a conversion only if the Secretary finds it to be in accordance with the then-existing comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan and only on such conditions as the Secretary considers necessary to ensure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location.”
4. Certifies that said agency has matching funds from eligible source(s) and can finance 100 percent of the project, which up to half may be reimbursed; and
5. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.
6. Appoints the City Manager as agent of the applicant to conduct all negotiations and execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, applications, contracts, amendments, payment requests, and compliance with all applicable current state and federal laws which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

PASSED and ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell on July 15, 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: ✓

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Garnes

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

City of Rio Dell

ATTEST:

I, Karen Dunham, City Clerk for the City of Rio Dell, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 1642-2025 adopted by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell on July 15, 2025.

Karen Dunham, City Clerk, City of Rio Dell

RESOLUTION NO. 1643-2025



**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL
APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE LAND
AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND FOR THE PROPOSED
CONSTRUCTION OF A HALF-COURT BASKETBALL COURT, PICNIC
TABLES, BIKE RACK(S), LANDSCAPING AND FENCING AT THE
RIO DELL DOG PARK.**

WHEREAS, the Congress under Public Law 88-578 has authorized the establishment of a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant-In-Aid program, providing matching funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for acquiring lands and developing Facilities for public outdoor recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for administration of the program in the State, setting up necessary rules and procedures governing applications by local agencies under the program; and

WHEREAS, the applicant certifies by resolution the approval of the application and the availability of eligible matching funds prior to submission of the application to the State; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Rio Dell hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for Land and Water Conservation Fund

2. assistance for the proposed construction of a half-court basketball court, picnic tables, bike rack(s), landscaping and fencing at the Rio Dell Dog Park.
3. Certifies that the applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and
4. Agrees to abide by 54 U.S.C. §200305(f)(3) which requires, "No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the Secretary, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation use. The Secretary shall approve a conversion only if the Secretary finds it to be in accordance with the then-existing comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan and only on such conditions as the Secretary considers necessary to ensure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location."
5. Certifies that said agency has matching funds from eligible source(s) and can finance 100 percent of the project, which up to half may be reimbursed; and
6. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.
7. Appoints the City Manager as agent of the applicant to conduct all negotiations and execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to, applications, contracts, amendments, payment requests, and compliance with all applicable current state and federal laws which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

PASSED and ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell on July 15, 2025 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Garnes

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

City of Rio Dell

ATTEST:

I, Karen Dunham, City Clerk for the City of Rio Dell, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 1643-2025 adopted by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell on July 15, 2025.

Karen Dunham, City Clerk, City of Rio Dell