



Meeting Date: November 16, 2020

Agenda Item: 6.1

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Adoption of the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan in Accordance with CEQA and Approval of the Bidwell Park Master Plan (RESOLUTION)

Executive Summary:

The Board of Directors will receive a presentation on the Bidwell Park Master Plan and consider adoption of the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan related to environmental impacts for the Bidwell Park Master Plan project per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and approval of the Bidwell Park Master Plan.

Financial Impact:

The Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan 2020-2025 includes \$15.75 million for the Bidwell Park Renovation (CIP No. 2-113-01) from the Measure F1 Bond funds. There is sufficient funding to cover the project.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors, by motion:

1. Approve the Resolution adopting the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Plan related to environmental impacts for the Bidwell Park Master Plan project per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and
2. Approve the Bidwell Park Master Plan.

Description of Item:

Bidwell Park, located at 175 Fairway Street in South Hayward, is on 10.5-acres of the former Bidwell Elementary School. The site is currently comprised of three buildings, two playgrounds, paved courts, parking lot and grassy sport fields. On December 17, 2019, the District purchased the 5.3-acre northern portion of the site from the Hayward Unified School District (HUSD). HUSD continues to own the southern portion of the site. However, the District has exclusive use of the southern portion for recreational purposes and retains the the first right-of-refusal to purchase if HUSD decides to sell in the future.

From June to October 2019, the District conducted an extensive, community outreach process to develop a park master plan for Bidwell Park. Three community workshops were held at the Mission Hills Golf Course Clubhouse. The preferred Bidwell Park concept plan, as shown on Exhibit B, removes one building to increase space for outdoor recreation, and renovates the remaining two buildings for recreational programs, maintenance storage and restrooms accessible from the outside. The park concept plan includes recreational features that activate the park to attract all age groups, including expanding the children's playground, multi-use courts for pickleball and basketball, picnic tables, a kitchen garden, perimeter and interior walkways, dog parks, a multi-use lawn accommodating soccer, and diagonal parking along the bordering streets.

On April 20, 2020, the Board of Directors approved the concept plan in order for Staff to proceed with environmental review per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Bidwell Park Master Plan that is before the Board now for approval is the same plan.

An Initial Study, which reflects the independent judgment of the District, was prepared for the project. It concludes that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment with the inclusion of mitigation measures. In addition to the mitigation measures, the project specifications contain a biological resources

condition of approval on nesting birds.

On September 4, 2020, the District issued a Notice of Intent to Adopt an Initial Study - Mitigated Negative Declaration and received one public comment in support of the project during the 30-day public review period, which concluded on October 5, 2020. The Final Mitigation Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan are attached as Exhibit A.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Exhibit A - Initial Study / Mitigation Negative Declaration	10/19/2020	Exhibit
Exhibit B - Bidwell Park Master Plan	10/12/2020	Exhibit