



STAFF REPORT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: August 28, 2017

TO: Honorable Board of Directors

FROM: Paul McCreary, General Manager

SUBJECT: **Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities Grant Program Application for Sulphur Creek Nature Center**
Prepared by Meghan Tiernan, Capital Planning and Development Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The Board of Directors will consider adopting a Resolution to apply for an Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation for improvements to the Sulphur Creek Nature Center.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The District may be eligible to receive up to \$500,000 in grant funds for outdoor education facility improvements at Sulphur Creek Nature Center to be expended within seven years and nine months from the appropriation date.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Board receive the report and adopt the Resolution No. R-1718-12 supporting the application for grant funds from the State's Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities Grant Program for improvements to Sulphur Creek Nature Center.

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM:

The California State Department of Parks and Recreation is soliciting grant applications for Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities to develop public outdoor structures and exhibits that facilitate focused learning in the natural environments to inspire environmental stewardship and appreciation of the natural world. The maximum grant amount is \$500,000 and may only be spent on construction costs. It is expected that the applicant will pay for all non- construction costs. If awarded, the grant funds must be expended within seven years and nine months from the appropriation date.

The proposed grant funded improvements include a new outdoor classroom with shade and storage, renovated amphitheater, enhanced creekside learning space and animal program area, entry kiosk and interpretive displays related to the habitat exhibits and native plant garden.

The District has allocated Measure FI Bond funds in the Three-Year Capital Improvement Program 2017-2020 for the Sulphur Creek Nature Center Renovation project, CIP No. 4-092. There are sufficient funds in the CIP project budget to cover the non-construction costs. Attachment #11 provides the resolution for the Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities Grant Program Application for Sulphur Creek Nature Center.

NOTICING REQUIREMENTS/PUBLIC OUTREACH: n/a
ATTACHMENTS:

1. RESOLUTION R-1718-13