



Executive Director's
Report to the
Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 2019

FROM: WATERFRONT & COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS
INVESTMENT PLAN ADDENDUM: PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA**

SUMMARY:

Staff requests approval of the Public Access Investment Plan (PAIP) Addendum: Project Evaluation Criteria (Criteria). The Criteria would be used by City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) staff in the evaluation of proposed projects to be included for the second round of PAIP funding. Staff evaluation and project selection based on the Criteria would then be presented to the Board of Harbor Commissioners and public for additional input. The Criteria are developed to be consistent with the original 2015 PAIP and areas of broad agreement with community input received related to project selection. The objectives identified in the Criteria are: Public Trust Consistency, Building Upon Existing Waterfront Project EIRs, Public Access, Connectivity, Activation, and Facilitating Private Investment. The proposed action is administrative in nature and is not anticipated to change the Harbor Department's previously approved financial commitments under the PAIP.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board):

1. Find that the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article II Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines;
2. Approve the Public Access Investment Plan Addendum: Project Evaluation Criteria; and
3. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

SUBJECT: PUBLIC ACCESS INVESTMENT PLAN ADDENDUM

DISCUSSION:

Background – On February 19, 2015, the Board approved the PAIP. The PAIP is a ten-year budgetary guideline for continued development and operations of the LA Waterfront. The PAIP allocated funding for six public access projects and anticipated funding a second round of projects at a later date. The PAIP is now four years from its original approval. The original projects are predominantly completed or in design and/or construction phases.

Second Round of Projects – In April 2019, staff initiated a broad outreach program to solicit stakeholder input on the second round of projects to be funded by the PAIP. Input was received from stakeholders, including approved motions from the Chambers of Commerce and Neighborhood Councils of San Pedro and Wilmington, and a letter from Council District 15. The input received identified projects and included suggestions for project assessment.

Utilizing the goals and objectives of the 2015 PAIP and the assessment suggestions from stakeholders, Harbor Department staff have developed Criteria (Transmittal 1) for Board approval. Staff proposed adding the Criteria to the PAIP as an addendum to apply in project evaluations. The internal team that will review the projects include the following divisions: Waterfront & Commercial Real Estate, Engineering, Government Affairs, Community Relations, Finance, Environmental Management, and Planning & Strategy. Staff application of the Criteria, including an overview of the entire process, will be presented to the Board and public for comment.

The Criteria are consistent with the original 2015 PAIP and substantially representative of general comments received from stakeholders. The Criteria emphasize the importance of transparency, sustainability, and predictability in the evaluation process. Objectives identified in the Criteria are: Public Trust Consistency, Building Upon Existing Waterfront Project EIRs, Public Access, Connectivity, Activation, and Facilitating Private Investment. Projects will be evaluated and prioritized based on how the projects contribute to the Objectives. An additional factor is the degree of community support for a given project. Staff requests approval of the Public Access Investment Plan Addendum: Project Evaluation Criteria.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is the approval of the PAIP Criteria, which is an administrative activity. Therefore, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively exempt from the requirements of CEQA in accordance with Article II Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

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FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The proposed Addendum to the Public Access Investment Plan will incorporate criteria which are intended to support project evaluations and standardize the methodology by which proposed public access projects will be funded through the PAIP. Approval of the proposed Addendum is not anticipated to change the Harbor Department's previously approved financial commitments under the PAIP.

CITY ATTORNEY:

The Office of the City Attorney has reviewed the Addendum and Board Report, and there are no legal issues at this time.

TRANSMITTAL:

1. PAIP Addendum: Project Evaluation Criteria


MICHAEL J. GALVIN
Director of Waterfront & Commercial Real Estate

FIS Approval: MB
CA Approval: Cpe

FOR MICHAEL DiBERNARDO
Deputy Executive Director

APPROVED:


EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director

ES:MD:MG:ER:MC:raw
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