



HARRY GRIFFEN REGIONAL PARK JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA

A Special Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 11:30 a.m.
Location: City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue
La Mesa, California

Board Members: Mark Arapostathis, Mayor, City of La Mesa
Jennifer Herrington, Grossmont Union High School District
Sean Hill, County of San Diego
Dan McMillan, Director, Helix Water District
Michelle Metschel, Councilmember, City of El Cajon

The public may view the meeting in-person or live using the following remote options:

Teleconference Meeting Webinar

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87205292234>

Telephone (Audio only)

(669) 900-6833 or (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 872 0529 2234

Copy and paste the webinar link into your internet browser if the webinar link does not work directly from the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **In-Person comments during the meeting:** Join us for the Board meeting at the time and location specified on this agenda to make your comments. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes.
- **eComments:** eComments are available once an agenda is published. Locate the meeting in "upcoming meetings" and click the comment bubble icon. Click on the item you wish to comment on. eComments can be submitted when the agenda is published and until **2 hours prior** to the meeting. eComments are limited to 3700 characters (approximately 500

words). eComments may be viewed by the Board and members of the public following the close of the eComment submission period (2 hours prior to the meeting). Email your comment to epongun@cityoflamesa.us if you have difficulty submitting an eComment. eComments will not be read aloud as a regular meeting item; however any member of the Board or member of the public may do so during their respective comment time.

PLEASE NOTE: Public Comment will be limited to 3 minutes per item. The timer begins when the participant begins speaking. Time cannot be combined or yielded to another speaker.

Citizens who wish to make an audio/visual presentation pertaining to an item on the agenda, or during Public Comments, should contact the Public Works Department at 619.667.1450, no later than 12:00 p.m., the business day prior to the meeting day. Advance notification will ensure compatibility with City equipment and allow Board meeting presentations to progress smoothly and in a consistent and equitable manner. Please note that all presentations/digital materials are considered part of the maximum time limit provided to speakers.

Agenda reports for items on this agenda are available for public review at the Public Works Department, 8152 Commercial Street, during normal business hours.

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Board after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the Public Works Department, 8152 Commercial Street, during normal business hours.

ACCESSIBILITY: The City of La Mesa encourages the participation of disabled individuals in the services, activities and programs provided by the City. Individuals with disabilities, who require reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the Board meetings, should contact the Administrative Services Department 48 hours prior to the meeting at 619.667.1175, fax 619.667.1163, or GSpaniol@cityoflamesa.us.

Hearing assisted devices are available for the hearing impaired. A City staff member is available to provide these devices upon entry to City Council meetings, commission/board meetings or public hearings held in the City Council Chambers. A photo i.d. or signature will be required to secure a device for the meeting

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER
 - 1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)**

NOTE: In accordance with state law, an item not scheduled on the agenda may be brought forward by the general public for comment; however, the Board will not be able to discuss or take any action on the item at this meeting. If appropriate, the item will be referred to Staff or placed on a future agenda.

4. **CURRENT BUSINESS**

4.1 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE HARRY GRIFFEN
REGIONAL PARK JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT GOVERNING
BOARD SPECIAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024**

4

Recommended Motion:

Approve the minutes

4.2 **APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 DRAFT BUDGET**

7

Recommended Motion:

Approve the budget

5. **STAFF AND BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

5.1 **HARRY GRIFFEN REGIONAL PARK UPDATES**
Sue Richardson, Director of Community Services

6. **ADJOURNMENT**



Harry Griffen Regional Park Joint Powers Agreement Governing Board

Minutes of a Special Meeting

Date: March 5, 2024, 11:30 a.m.
Location: City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue
La Mesa, California

Present: Mark Arapostathis, Mayor, City of La Mesa
Andrea Beth Damsky, Director, Helix Water District
Jennifer Herrington, Grossmont Union High School District
Sean Hill, County of San Diego
Michelle Metschel, Councilmember, City of El Cajon

Staff: Assistant City Manager Lee
Director of Public Works Throne
Assistant Director of Public Works Ornelas

This meeting was conducted utilizing teleconferencing and electronic means consistent with Government Code Section 54953, as amended by Assembly Bill 361, in relation to the COVID-19 State of Emergency and recommended social distancing measures.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Member Arapostathis called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)

NOTE: In accordance with state law, an item not scheduled on the agenda may be brought forward by the general public for comment; however, the Board will not be able to discuss or take any action on the item at this meeting. If appropriate, the item will be referred to Staff or placed on a future agenda.

There were no public comments.

3. CURRENT BUSINESS

**3.1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE HARRY GRIFFEN
REGIONAL PARK JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT GOVERNING
BOARD SPECIAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023**

There were no questions of the minutes from October 25, 2023.

Moved by Board Member Arapostathis

Seconded by Board Member Herrington

Approve the minutes

Yes (4): Board Member Arapostathis, Board Member Herrington, Board Member Sean Hill, and Board Member Metschel

Abstain (1): Board Member Damsky

Motion Approved (4 to 0)

3.2 PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Mr. Throne, Director of Public Works, presented two options of the fiscal year 2025 budget. Option A replaces two diesel mowers with diesel mowers while Option B replaces two diesel mowers with electric mowers. Mr. Throne explained Option B is not recommended due to the to the size of the park and lack of infrastructure to charge the electric mowers. Mr. Throne suggested implementing electric mowers at smaller parks first instead of using Harry Griffen Park as a test. Mr. Ornelas, Assistant Director of Public Works stated there are multiple variables that affect the duration of mowing. Currently a high estimate of one charge is six hours but can be as low as two or three.

Board Member Damsky from Helix Water District made a comment that per the City of El Cajon's State of the City address, they have a budget surplus, therefore, Helix Water District requests City of El Cajon return to their original contribution amount.

Board Member Hill from the County of San Diego stated the County cannot accommodate a budget increase over 3%. Mr. Throne pointed out that Option A of the preliminary budget reflects a 1% decrease compared to fiscal year 2024.

Board Member Metschel from the City of El Cajon stated El Cajon stands firm on their current 15% contribution amount.

Moved by Board Member Arapostathis
Seconded by Board Member Herrington

Accept staff recommendation to approve Option A of the fiscal year 2025 budget

Yes (5): Board Member Arapostathis, Board Member Damsky, Board Member Herrington, Board Member Sean Hill, and Board Member Metschel

Motion Approved (5 to 0)

3.3 REPORT FROM CANINE CORNERS OFF-LEASH DOG RUN

Nick Giacchina, Treasurer, spoke on behalf of the Canine Corners off-leash dog run. He stated the most recent improvement was the repair of the fence that separates the small and large dog areas. Also, they are currently working on a schedule of events for 2024. He said Canine Corners is looking to revise their improvement projects to account for the rise of costs within the past few years. Some of those projects include re-grading inside the dog park with City of La Mesa's assistance, making drainage modifications to mitigate sand erosion and possibly the installation of a prefabricated bridge between the grass and dog park entrance. Mr. Giacchina was unable to answer Board Member Arapostathis' question regarding the square footage of the dog park.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Arapostathis adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

**REPORT to the HARRY GRIFFEN REGIONAL PARK JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT
GOVERNING BOARD**

DATE: April 16, 2024

SUBJECT: Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 Draft Budget

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: Public Works

SUMMARY:

Issue(s):

Should the Harry Griffen Regional Park Joint Powers Agreement Governing Board approve the draft Fiscal Year 2025 Budget?

Recommendation:

That the Harry Griffen Regional Park Joint Powers Agreement Governing Board review and approve the draft Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

BACKGROUND:

In 1979, the Harry Griffen Regional Park Joint Power Agreement was formed to serve as the operating framework for the development, operation and maintenance of Harry Griffen Regional Park. Each year the Governing Board, comprised of appointed representatives from the cities of El Cajon and La Mesa, the County of San Diego, the Grossmont Union High School District and the Helix Water District, meet to discuss and vote on current and future improvement projects, park concerns and an annual budget.

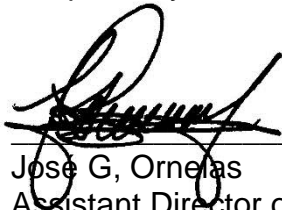
DISCUSSION:

On March 5, 2024, a preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2025 was presented to the Governing Board. The Governing Board discussed budget options, and unanimously approved a preliminary budget that includes the purchase of a diesel mower. Based on the Governing Board's direction, the attached draft Fiscal Year 2025 Budget has been prepared.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the Governing Board review and approve the draft Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jose G. Ornelas
Assistant Director of Public Works

Reviewed by:



Michael Throne, PE
Director of Public Works



Amanda Lee
Assistant City Manager

Attachments: A: Draft Fiscal Year 2025 Budget
 B: Helix Water District Correspondence

HARRY GRIFFEN PARK DRAFT BUDGET FY 2024-2025

FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 BUDGET	FY 2024 ESTIMATE	BUDGET CATEGORY	FY 2025 Proposed
156,879	159,590	173,548	162,750	Salaries	179,529
136,831	143,789	166,503	159,440	Benefits	168,257
1,678	1,926	1,530	2,290	Personal Expenses	2,530
177,444	161,833	199,110	201,760	Materials, Supplies & Services	209,980
-	25,000	72,820	72,820	Equipment & Capital Outlay (1)	33,230
\$472,832	\$492,138	\$613,511	\$599,060	Sub-total	593,526
82,680	82,680	97,300	97,300	*Overhead	97,300
				TOTAL	\$690,826

* Overhead rates were approved by Council April 25, 2023.

** Shared Costs Estimates displayed below are based on the total budget proposal for FY 2024-2025.

(1) Replacement of a diesel zero turn mower and new purchase of a diesel stand-on mower.

**AGENCY SHARES		FY 2025 Shared Costs Estimates	
City of La Mesa - 40%	\$	276,330	
City of El Cajon - 15%		103,624	
County of San Diego - 10%		69,083	
Helix Water District - 35%		241,789	
TOTAL \$		690,826	



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April 1, 2024

Harry Griffen Regional Park Joint Powers Agreement Governing Board
Attention: Board President Mark Arapostathis
8130 Allison Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91942

RE: Harry Griffen Regional Park Proposed Budget FY 2024-2025

Dear Board President Arapostathis,

On March 5, 2024, the Harry Griffen Park JPA met to consider two preliminary budget options for fiscal year 2024-25. The two options presented by city staff included the purchase of two new lawn mowers for the park: one stand-on and one ride-on mower. Option A, which the JPA recommended the city implement, included the purchase of diesel-powered mowers resulting in a total estimated budget savings of \$59,680 compared to option B, which included battery-powered mowers.

It has since come to our attention that the purchase of diesel-powered mowers included in budget option A may run counter to the objectives outlined in the city of La Mesa, El Cajon, and county of San Diego's climate action plans. Helix Water District is committed to supporting jurisdictional climate action plans where feasible to move towards a more sustainable future. Therefore, we strongly encourage the JPA to reconsider the preliminary budget options and redirect staff to implement budget option B, which incorporates the purchase of battery-powered mowers and better aligns with the broader sustainability objectives.

It is requested that city staff attend the April 15 JPA board meeting to discuss the budget and mower options in greater detail, including how each option impacts the climate action plan objectives established by the various member JPA agencies. In its evaluation, the city may consider available grants and/or rebates that would better bridge the cost difference between the battery and diesel-powered mower options. Potential funding sources to consider include the Inflation Reduction Act, the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District Carl Moyer funding source, and the California Clean-off Road Equipment Voucher Incentive Project.

The Helix Water District Board of Directors recognizes and applauds the effort city staff has made to minimize operational costs. However, after consideration of the broader scope of our responsibility to be good stewards of the environment, we are in support of reasonable operational decisions that support greenhouse gas reduction goals as outlined in the state of California, cities and county's climate action plans. We encourage and support the operational accommodations made by the Harry Griffen Park JPA to serve as a positive role model and exemplify our commitment to sustainability within the communities we serve.

Board of Directors
Daniel H. McMillan, President
Joel A. Scalzitti, Vice President
Andrea Beth Damsky, Division 2
Mark Gracyk, Division 3
Kathleen Coates Hedberg, Division 4

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan H. McMillan".

Dan McMillan EA, MS, MBA
Helix Water District
Board President

Cc: Greg Humora, City of La Mesa
Jennifer Herrington, Grossmont Union High School District
Sean Hill, County of San Diego
Michelle Metschel, City of El Cajon