



Setting Standards of  
Excellence in Public Service

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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 that reads "Dan H McMillan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "M".

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