REPORT

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

DATE ISSUED: October 15, 2026 REPORT NO.: 101

ATTENTION: Parks and Recreation Board Agenda of October 15, 2026

SUBJECT: Reallocation of Funds for Old Salt Pool Project

SUMMARY

Issue – Should the San Diego Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee approve the recommendation to allocate $500,000 in RPIF funds from the following projects:

- $7,983 from Coastal Erosion and Access, CIP# AGF00006
- $50,000 from Park Improvements, CIP# AGF00007
- $150,000 from Regional Park Improvements, CIP#, AGF00005
- $292,017 from Sunset Cliffs Park Drainage Improvements, CIP# L14005

To the following project:

- $500,000 for Old Salt Pool Sidewalk Reconstruction, CIP# TBD

Department Recommendation – Approve the recommendation to allocate Regional Park Improvement Funds to the project listed in this report.

Other Recommendations – Not applicable.

Fiscal Impact – Allocating Regional Park Improvement Funds will allow these projects to initiate.

Water and Energy Conservation Status – Not applicable.

Climate Action Plan (CAP) Impact – Not applicable.

Strategic/Tactical Equity Plan Impact – Not applicable.

Environmental - The proposed activity which involves the reallocation of Regional Park Improvement Funds is not subject to CEQA based on CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) as it is a government fiscal activity that does not involve any commitment to a specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and therefore is not subject to CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3).

BACKGROUND

The San Diego Regional Park Improvement Fund (RPIF) is one of two capital improvement project funds to receive revenues from leaseholds in Mission Bay Park. The other fund is the Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund (MBPIF) for specific improvements in Mission Bay Park.

The two funds were established by voter approval of revisions to the City Charter, Article V, Section 55.2 (Charter Section 55.2). The initial Charter 55.2 became effective on July 1, 2009, under Proposition C, and a subsequent amendment to Charter 55.2 became effective after voters approved Measure J on November 8, 2016, with those amendments going into effect on December 19, 2016.

Mission Bay lease revenues are allocated by a formula based on Charter Section 55.2 as follows:

- Initial $20 million of Mission Bay lease revenues goes into the City's General Fund and may be used for any municipal purpose
- Next $3.5 million goes to RPIF (total lease revenue is $23.5 million)
- Next $6.5 million goes to MBPIF (total lease revenue is $30 million)
- Revenue received thereafter is split at a ratio of 35% to RPIF and 65% to MBPIF

The following parks are eligible for use of RPIF, in accordance with Charter Section 55.2(a)(9) and Ordinances O-20088, O-20311, and O-21372:

- Balboa Park (Charter)
- Beaches and Shoreline Parks (Charter)
- Chicano Park (O-20311)
- Chollas Creek Watershed Parks (O-21372)[1]

[1] Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park includes the following parks: 30th Street Mini-Park, 41st Street Mini-Park, Adams Avenue Community Park and Recreation Center, Dennis V. Allen Neighborhood Park, Azalea Neighborhood Park and Recreation Center, Boston Avenue Linear Park, Cedar Ridge Mini-Park, Central Avenue Mini-Park, Central Neighborhood Park, Charles L. Lewis III Memorial Park, Cherokee Point Neighborhood Park, Chollas Community Park, Chollas Lake, Chollas Parkway Open Space, City Heights Recreation Center and Officer Jeremy Henwood Memorial Park, City Heights Square Mini Park, Clay Avenue Mini-Park, Colina del Sol Community Park and Recreation Center, Dorothy Petway Neighborhood Park, Dr. Bertha O. Pendleton Neighborhood Park, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Park and Recreation Center, Emerald Hills Neighborhood Park, Encanto Community Park and Recreation Center, Federal Boulevard Pocket Park, Gompers Neighborhood Park, Hawk Pocket Park, Hollywood Neighborhood Park, Imperial Marketplace Open Space, J Street Mini-Park, Keiller Neighborhood Park, Lomita Neighborhood Park, Marie Widman Neighborhood Park, Martin Avenue Mini-Park, Memorial Community Park and Dolores Magdaleno Memorial Recreation Center, Montclair Neighborhood Park, Mount Hope Cemetery, Neal Petties Mountain View Community Park and Recreation Center, Oak Park Neighborhood Park, Ocean View Mini-Park, Officer Christopher Wilson Neighborhood Park, Park de la Cruz Neighborhood Park and Community Center/Gymnasium, Skyline Hills Community Park and Recreation Center, Southcrest Community Park and Recreation Center, Southcrest Trails Neighborhood Park, Sunshine Berardini Field, Teralta

- Chollas Lake Park (Charter)
- Mission Trails Regional Park (Charter)
- Open Space Parks (Charter)
- Otay Valley Regional Park (Charter)
- Presidio Park (Charter)
- San Diego River Park (Charter)
- Torrey Pines City Park (O-20088)

The RPIF aims to support capital improvement projects within the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for regional parks, as identified in the City Charter or by City Council Ordinance.

DISCUSSION

Department staff recommends $500,000 of RPIF be allocated to the projects listed in this report. The allocations come from the following projects:

- $7,983 from Coastal Erosion and Access, CIP# AGF00006 – These are project savings.
- $50,000 from Park Improvements, CIP# AGF00007 – These are project savings.
- $150,000 from Regional Park Improvements, CIP#, AGF00005 – These are newly audited revenue.
- $292,017 from Sunset Cliffs Park Drainage Improvements, CIP# L14005 – Funding will be returned to this project through the Fiscal Year 2028 budget process.

If approved, these allocations will be heard by council in a separate council action. The recommended project is as follows:

- ***Old Salt Pool Sidewalk Reconstruction, CIP# TBD, $500,000***

  Scope: This project provides for the immediate repair and reconstruction of a collapsed walkway section near the Old Salt Pool staircase. The walkway failure appears to have been caused by the undermining and loss of soil supporting the walkway structure. Based on visual observations, additional adjacent sections of the walkway may also be at risk of failure due to similar undermining conditions. This project may become an emergency as the walkway is an access point for lifeguards and other emergency services.

  Financial: This is a new project and would be the first allocation of RPIF. The total project cost is to be determined.

  Status: This is a new project. Work is anticipated to begin in Fiscal Year 2027.

  ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the recommended funding allocations to the project listed in this report.

Neighborhood Park, Virgie Hazel McCain and William Henry Carter Mini-Park, Wabash Neighborhood Park, Walls of Excellence Mini-Park, Wightman Street Neighborhood Park, Willie Henderson Sports Complex and Recreation Center, Z Street Mini-Park, and Zena Mini-Park.

2. Do not approve the recommended funding allocations to the project listed in this report.
3. Recommend alternative allocations to specific eligible capital projects.

Respectfully submitted,

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AF/rb