



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE

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May 16, 2007

TOPIC #2: CONSENT CALENDAR

Prepared By: Kammie Bunes, Grants Manager

Approved by the Director: 

Presented By: Consent Calendar

Proposed Action:
Decision

Summary:

The Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department is seeking Board approval of a modified scope for the Frenchman's Bar Phase 2 Development project, funded through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of this request.

Background:

The Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department (VCPRD) was awarded a development grant to expand recreational opportunities at Frenchman's Bar Regional Park, located on the Columbia River, approximately five miles east of the City of Vancouver. The project scope included significant expansion of the trail system, construction of picnic shelters and a water play feature for toddlers, and development of a campground featuring yurts.

VCPRD experienced significant delays in achieving the required environmental clearances for the project. Environmental assessment standards for federally funded projects are typically more time consuming than for state-funded projects. It took several months to craft a plan that was acceptable to all parties, but that has been achieved. Once the permitting was in place the project was put out to bid. Unfortunately, the bids came in approximately twice the available budget of \$1.2 million. VCPRD does not have the resources to absorb the difference and consequently determined they have no choice but to request a scope reduction in an effort to complete the project elements most critical to their community.



Analysis:

VCPRD and IAC staff evaluated a variety of options to reduce the scope of the project to align current costs with available budget. The relative pros and cons of eliminating or reducing various groups of project elements were evaluated. Public priorities, expressed through the Department's comprehensive parks and recreation plan, were a major consideration throughout the analysis. In the end, it makes most sense to eliminate the yurt camping, and supporting infrastructure, from the project due to the significant costs associated with this element, and the significant anticipated ongoing maintenance and operations costs. Additionally, VCPRD and State Parks have discussed the possibility of a future partnership associated with Frenchman's Bar Regional Park, so it is conceivable this element could be reintroduced at a future date. By eliminating the campground the cost to complete the project is reduced from \$2.4 to \$1.37 million. VCPRD is committed to funding the difference between \$1.37 million and the original total project cost of \$1.2 million.

The resulting project will significantly expand the recreation opportunities at the Park through the addition of three large picnic shelters, the children's water play feature, and two loop trail segments that will extend to the north and south boundaries of the 115-acre park. The trail components will enhance connectivity to the existing trail, which runs between Vancouver Lake Regional Park and Frenchman's Bar, and will provide an equestrian component that currently does not exist at Frenchman's Bar. Trails, children's play areas, and picnic shelters are all top priorities listed in the VCPRD comprehensive plan; campgrounds are not. Trails are listed as the highest priority in the current Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, a key factor in considering priorities for all LWCF projects.

Next Steps:

If the IAC Board approves this proposal, IAC staff will pursue a project amendment with the National Park Service (who have indicated a willingness to approve the scope change), and then amend the contract between IAC and VCPRD. VCPRD will proceed to rebid the project, with a construction start date in January 2008, and completion anticipated by December 31, 2008. As this project has nearly reached its four-year mark, approval of this scope change and proposed timeline incorporates a board-approved time extension to December 31, 2008.