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State Awards \$29.1 Million in Prop. 84 Park Funds for Seven New, Los Angeles City Parks

CRA/LA Will Create Recreation Space in Urban Neighborhoods

Los Angeles — Seven new, Los Angeles City parks will be built with \$29.1 million in state funding recently awarded to the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA). The parks will be located in South LA, Chinatown, Westlake, Koreatown and Hollywood.

The money comes from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Grants and Local Services, which overall awarded 62 park projects statewide \$184 million. CRA/LA's share, nearly 16 percent of the total, was the largest dollar amount and most projects awarded to any one agency. Proposition 84, a state bond act passed by California voters in 2006, provides funding for new parks and other projects.

"The new parks will be located in some of our most severely under-invested and park-poor areas," said CRA/LA Chief Executive Officer Christine Essel. "While Angelinos appreciate our large parks like Griffith Park and Elysian Park, we desperately need these smaller, neighborhood-scaled parks."

"These new parks have truly been created by and for the people of these neighborhoods," Essel added. "CRA/LA and the communities involved created the park designs through extensive public participation."

The state received more than 475 applications, totaling \$1.6 billion. CRA/LA projects selected were:

- **La Mirada Park** - \$1.2 million will be used to acquire a .17-acre parcel at the northwest corner of LaMirada and Serrano avenues in Hollywood. Plans call for a decorative path, lawn, outdoor gathering space, play area, public art and native and seasonal learning garden.
- **Midway Zocalo Park** - \$5 million will be used to expand Lafayette Park in Westlake. An adjacent .66-acre parcel, currently a parking lot, will be acquired and a central plaza, playground, play field, picnic area and landscaping created. The expansion, four blocks from a Metro station, will add to the existing park space, which provides respite in a dense, congested low-income neighborhood.
- **Nevin Avenue Elementary School Park** - \$2.8 million will create a pocket park on .26 acres surrounded on three sides by Nevin Elementary School. Located in an industrial neighborhood just south of Downtown Los Angeles, the park will provide students and nearby residents with an entry plaza and picnic area, children's playground, fitness zone, interactive plant and water demonstration garden, botanical learning garden, walking trails, "rolling" hill play area and an indoor/outdoor learning/community center.
- **Ord & Yale Street Park** - \$4.9 million will be used to acquire a .58-acre parcel in Chinatown on Teed Street, an unbuilt street that exists only on maps and portions of adjacent public and privately owned parcels. The park will contain a playground, fitness zone, plaza and

performing arts space, fitness trail, upper viewing terrace, game tables and restroom. Using other state funds, a walkway will also be built, connecting the Chinatown branch library and the residential hillside above.

- **Slauson-Wall Park** - \$4.9 million will help develop a seven-acre former industrial site in the Ascot Place neighborhood of South Los Angeles CRA/LA will build a four-acre park with a plaza/promenade, multi-use sports fields, children's playground, basketball courts, community garden, picnic area, open space and restroom building. The remaining land could be used to create a mixed-use project for educational and/or commercial and residential uses.
- **Vermont Median Park** - \$4.9 million will create a 2.8-acre, 60-foot- wide median park along Vermont Avenue in South LA between Gage and Florence Avenues. . The park will include an entry plaza, multipurpose path, fitness zones, picnic and gathering areas, shaded seating area, children's water splash feature and playgrounds. A skating spot, dog park, open natural space and perimeter buffer are also planned.
- **Wilshire Center/Koreatown Central Park** - \$5 million will be used to buy and develop a .69-acre parcel at 3670 Wilshire Blvd., a vacant lot three blocks from a Metro station in Koreatown. The park will include a playground, playfield, community garden, walking loop with exercise stations and picnic area, providing badly needed recreation space in an extremely dense and congested low-income neighborhood. .

Once CRA/LA receives the state grant money work can begin on the park projects. Each park project has its own construction time line, but the state money must be used by 2017.

About Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles

CRA/LA (www.crala.org) is a public agency regulated by the State of California and operating within the City of Los Angeles. CRA/LA makes strategic investments to create economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for the people who live and work in our neighborhoods. CRA/LA manages 31 redevelopment projects areas and three revitalization areas in seven regions: East Valley, West Valley, Hollywood & Central, Downtown, Eastside, South Los Angeles, and the Harbor.

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