

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FUNDING E-MAIL TO THE CITY

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**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2015 10:00 AM

**Subject:** National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund---Funding for Pine Meadow Permanent Open Space/Recreation

Dina,

In our continuing efforts to help the City and City Council find potential funding sources for Pine Meadow Permanent Open Space/Recreation, it had been our intention to prepare an easy-to-understand presentation of the National Park Service (NPS) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) as our next suggestion. But the timetable for this \$4-5 million fund does not allow that. So here is a quick synopsis.

The NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund has been in existence since 1963 coming out of the Kennedy Administration. It is funded yearly by Congress. The NPS manages the program at the national level with the annual amount divvied up between the states. The individual states administer the funds in coordination with the federal program guidelines.

In California, the program, including applications and evaluations, are processed through the Office of Grants and Local Services. The "Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan" (SCORP) is the primary guideline for the program, and has just been published (it is on our website [www.friendsofpine meadow.org](http://www.friendsofpine meadow.org)). Full contact information for the program at the state and national level is below.

For the 2016 program, between the annual amount and special reapportionment funds, California will disperse a total of about \$4.5 million.

When I described our acquisition of Pine Meadow Permanent Open Space/Recreation, it seemed to fit well into their plan, and Pine Meadow appeared to be an eligible project for several reasons. (This is based on my explanation of Pine Meadow Park, and was also just a quick impression he had, so we cannot count on it until we apply. But the response was encouraging.)

Some key elements are:

- New park acquisition is a high priority, and a development plan does NOT have to be decided, just a public use plan of one page describing type of development and public input process for the first year.
- According to their Park Access Tool, we did not meet the minimum park acreage per person ration they want communities to get to, even without deducting the amount of Martinez park land that is leased (when they look at existing parks, they do not consider leased parks, only those owned in perpetuity). This will help with making Pine Meadow eligible.
- They like and encourage community input in designing the park, which is the process we encourage the City to follow and which was the process originally planned for the parcel.
- They allow up to 3 years to gather public input and get a development plan in place
- Our preliminary application should be for acquisition funds, but development funds can be applied for also when that phase comes up.
- The maximum grant is \$2 million.

Time is critical. To be considered for 2016 funds, all applications must be postmarked by **February 3, 2016**.

The local workshop on the program is: **Wednesday, Sept. 30**, 2015, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm, Helms Community Center, 2450 Road 20, San Pablo, CA 94806. We are hoping the City will send a representative. Please let us know who will be going, so we can meet up at the workshop.

The link to sign up is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LWCFandSCORP>

The main information link for the State program is: [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21360](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21360) The application process, workshop attendance and the basic policy document, “Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan” (SCORP), can all be accessed off this page.

The state program is administered by the Office of Grants and Local Services. Key contacts with whom we talked are: Viktor Patino 916-653-7423 and Richard Rendon, 916-651-7600. They were both very helpful, especially Viktor. His e-mail is [viktor.patino@parks.ca.gov](mailto:viktor.patino@parks.ca.gov)

The general information link for the NPS information on the LWCF program is: [www.nps.gov/lwcf/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/lwcf/index.htm)

The NPS contact in the San Francisco office is: David Siegenthaler 415-623-2334 david\_siegenthaler@nps.gov The NPS Regional office main number is 415-623-2100

Some key points that may be persuasive to the State are:

- New parkland acquisition
- The dearth of other viable park sites
- Population increase since last park and projected
- City and community not meeting the acreage minimums for owned park land per 1000 population. Our having so much park land that is not City-owned may help us here.
- Community input on uses and design is planned
- Historic content revolving around Coward connection with the land and earlier inhabitants is a help
- The possibility of some simple and quick interim use of the land for some open space/park/recreation benefits, for instance, a small tot lot, a few picnic tables, a primitive perimeter trail.
- Connectivity---to other open spaces like Freitas and Costanza, trails like CA Hiking and Biking Trail, and other parks like Hidden Lakes.
- This is Permanent Open Space/Recreation and has been for over 40 years, and we are trying to save it from development by buying it from the owners
- The City has gotten grants under this program many years ago for the Regional Shoreline Park. I do not know whether that will help us or not.

We hope this information gives you enough background to pursue this program, and to assign someone to attend the workshop on September 30. (I am also copying this e-mail to a number of our members, as we need to let them know that the workshop is September 30 to get a contingent together to attend.)

Please contact us with comments/questions/etc.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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