



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Anita Gallagher, Management Analyst-II, City Manager’s Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Council Support for Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma Proposition 1
DATE: March 18, 2014

SUMMARY:

A resolution expressing support for the passage of Proposition No. 1 submitted by the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at the April 22, 2014 Special Election, which reads as follows:

**SPECIAL ELECTION – PROPOSITION NO. 1
 SUBMITTED BY METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF TACOMA
 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS & ZOO IMPROVEMENTS AND SAFETY
 UPGRADES
 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS- \$198,000,000**

The Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma adopted Resolution No. RR15-14 concerning bonds for neighborhood parks and recreation facilities and safety improvements. If approved, this proposition will authorize the District to upgrade Point Defiance Park, Zoo & Aquarium, exhibits and critical animal-support systems; improve parks, security, deteriorating playgrounds, pools, sports playfields, family community centers; expand waterfront access; preserve cultural and historical landmarks; protect natural areas, lakes, creeks, trails; clean up arsenic-contaminated parks; issue \$198,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years and levy annual excess property taxes to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution RR15-14. Should Proposition No. 1 be:

APPROVED? []

REJECTED? []

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Strickland, Deputy Mayor Woodards, and Council Members: Campbell and Mello

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

The requested Resolution aligns with the City Council’s Strategic Policy Priority to:

- Strengthen and support human services, public education, and diverse higher learning opportunities in Tacoma; and
- Foster neighborhood, community, and economic development vitality and sustainability.

If approved by the voters, these bonds would provide education and recreational opportunities for the community and bring visitors into Tacoma.



BACKGROUND:

The Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington adopted Resolution No. RR15-14 on February 24, 2014 providing for the form of the ballot proposition and specifying certain other details concerning submission to the qualified electors of the District at a special election to be held therein on April 22, 2014, of a proposition for the issuance of its general obligation bonds in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$198,000,000, or so much thereof as may be issued under the laws governing the indebtedness of metropolitan park districts for the purpose of providing funds to construct, equip, renovate, acquire and make certain capital improvements to the facilities of the District.

ISSUE:

A plan of capital improvements to the park and recreation facilities of the District has been developed by the Board of Park Commissioners of the District to provide the District and its citizens with adequate, proper and safe facilities. In order to pay the costs of such improvements, it is deemed necessary and advisable by the Board of Park Commissioners that the District issue and sell one or more series of its unlimited tax levy general obligation bonds in the principal amount of not to exceed \$198,000,000.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Council could choose to not support the requested Resolution.

RECOMMENDATION:

The recommendation is that the Council approve the resolution of support for the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma's Proposition No. 1.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.