

Date: May 31, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

Subject: **Congressionally Directed Spending Requests Update**

In spring 2023, the City of Long Beach (City) had an opportunity to submit congressionally directed spending requests, commonly known as earmarks, to our federal delegation for consideration in the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 24) federal budget. In preparation for the applications, City staff developed a list of projects citywide that could be competitive for direct funding as outlined in a [memorandum](#) on March 15, 2023. The list was sent to the entire delegation and City staff briefed the delegation offices on the City projects to identify strategic alignment with member priorities.

At this point in the appropriations processes, our delegation members (members) have submitted project requests and are awaiting confirmation of which projects will be funded in the adopted FY 24 federal budget. Projects are only awarded if they make it through the congressional appropriations committees and are included in the final budget. Of the list of priority projects submitted by the City, our members advanced the following projects for consideration in the appropriations process, totaling \$29 million:

- **Alamitos Bay Water Quality Project: \$5 million**
 - Senator Padilla submitted \$5 million to support the Alamitos Energy Center pump system rebuild. Funding allocated to the project will be used to decommission existing pumps and install new, fish friendly pumps that will maintain water circulation and quality at Alamitos Bay for the benefit of existing and future flora, fauna, and recreational opportunities.
 - *Status:* Submitted by member to Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

- **Bixby Park: \$2 million**
 - Congressman Garcia requested \$2 million to complete work already planned for Bixby Park. The City secured initial funding of more than \$1 million, but the need exceeds available funding. Areas of need include the community center, bandshell, lighting, dog park, ADA access, and more.
 - *Status:* Submitted by member to the House Appropriations Committee.

- **Heartwell Park: \$3 million**
 - Congressman Garcia prioritized \$3 million for park improvements at Heartwell Park. This is a Council-approved Measure A project to build an artificial turf field. Funding would support the project and add a separated running/walking path, with high activity levels at the park.

- *Status:* Submitted by member to the House Appropriations Committee.
- **Miller Family Health Education Center: \$2 million**
 - Senator Padilla requested \$2 million to restore the Miller Family Health Education Center as a state-of-the-art facility that can support hybrid meetings that are accessible and help address the digital divide among community members and community-based organizations. Funding allocated to the project will be used for high-speed Wi-Fi, more flexible A/V equipment, including smart boards, monitors to cast presentations, and equipment to support accessibility across a variety of languages, including sign language for individuals with hearing impairment.
 - *Status:* Submitted by member to Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.
- **Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Park Vision Plan Implementation: \$3 million**
 - Congressman Garcia submitted a request for \$3 million to support the MLK Jr. Park Vision Plan that is currently underway. While the improvements have not yet been finalized, funding allocated to the project will support site improvements and implementation of the Plan.
 - *Status:* Submitted by member to the House Appropriations Committee.
- **Mobile Health Clinics: \$2 million**
 - Senator Padilla requested \$2 million to purchase equipment that would enable the City to develop a mobile health clinic, offering vital services and resources for people experiencing homelessness throughout Long Beach. The new mobile health units will be designed to create safe, welcoming, and culturally affirming environments for all clients to access critical services.
 - *Status:* Submitted by member to Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.
- **Shoemaker Bridge Pump Station: \$5 million**
 - Senator Padilla prioritized \$5 million to improve the safety and access of Shoemaker Bridge, a major corridor in Long Beach. Funding allocated to the project will be used to replace existing, outdated roadway facilities and construct an iconic bridge that serves as a gateway for Long Beach and the Southern California region. It will provide necessary improvements to safety, operations, and connectivity between Long Beach and regional transportation facilities, and will add 5.5 acres of usable park space and improve local connectivity. This is a critical project in preparation for the 2028 Olympic Games.
 - *Status:* Submitted by member to Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

- **Studebaker Road Corridor: \$5 million**
 - Congressman Garcia submitted \$5 million to advance the Studebaker Road Corridor. The project will improve Studebaker and Loynes Drive for all modes of transportation, rehabilitating the pavement, constructing a transit boarding island, separating existing bike lanes from traffic with curbs, shortening pedestrian crossing distances, adding high-visibility crosswalks, upgrading traffic signals, and connecting the entire corridor with fiber-optic communications.
 - *Status:* Submitted by member to the House Appropriations Committee.

- **West Health Facility Center: \$2 million**
 - Senator Feinstein prioritized \$2 million to advance delayed upgrades at the West Health Facility Center. Funding allocated to the project will be used for upgrading flooring, replacing wall tiles and doors, applying new paint in the interior and exterior, and replacing cabinets and the hot water heater.
 - *Status:* Submitted by member to Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

While members have submitted these project requests, the federal appropriations process is ongoing. City staff will continue to monitor these budget processes and advocate with our delegation for the inclusion of these projects in the adopted budget.

We greatly appreciate the support of our delegation for putting these City projects forward. These projects will have a lasting impact on the Long Beach community, and we look forward to continuing our strong partnership to advance park equity, transportation infrastructure, public health, and more through these funds.

If you have any questions, please contact Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Manager of Government Affairs, at (562) 570-5715 or Tyler.Curley@longbeach.gov.

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