

MOTION

On May 6, 2014, Council adopted actions related to the transfer of properties for government use from the former Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (C.F. 13-1482). The State legislation that dissolved the former redevelopment agency established CRA/LA, A Designated Local Authority, as the Successor Entity charged with disposition of all real property assets of the former redevelopment agency. A total of 35 real property assets were identified for government use and approved for transfer to the City including a 12,495 square foot parcel in Council District 1 known as the Union Avenue Community Garden.

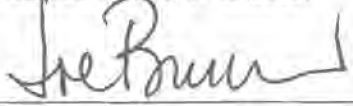
The Union Avenue Community Garden is located at 1554 W. 11th Place in Pico Union and contains several raised planters within a fenced area that are used by local residents for recreational gardening. As part of the City's due diligence to accept the property, a Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessment Report was obtained to examine the site's soil conditions. Contaminants were found in the soil that should be removed if the City is to accept the property and continue using it as a community garden. State dissolution law does not allow Successor Entities to participate in any environmental remediation. Therefore, the City would need to remediate the site to provide for its transfer in a safe and functional manner. The Union Avenue Community Garden serves as an important asset to the Pico Union community and action is needed to ensure it remains in the public domain.

Funds are available to Council District 1 through taxable CRA/LA Excess Bond Proceeds from the Pico Union 1 Redevelopment Project Area that can assist in implementing public improvements to the Union Avenue Community Garden. In accordance with policies adopted by Council (C.F. 14-1174) related to the CRA/LA Bond Expenditure Agreement and Bond Spending Plan, any proposal to expend CRA/LA Excess Bond Proceeds shall be initiated by Council Motion. Proposals will be reviewed by the CRA/LA Bond Oversight Committee, Economic Development Committee, and any other applicable committee with final recommendations presented to the Council and Mayor for final consideration and approval. The use of taxable CRA/LA Excess Bond Proceeds for public improvements in the Pico Union 1 Redevelopment Project Area is an eligible expense identified in the Bond Expenditure Agreement and Bond Spending Plan.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD), with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, Chief Legislative Analyst, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation, and any other applicable City department, provide a report with recommendations to the CRA/LA Bond Oversight Committee to allocate all remaining taxable CRA/LA Excess Bond Proceeds, including any earned interest, from the Pico Union 1 Redevelopment Project Area for public improvements to the Union Avenue Community Garden as identified in the Bond Expenditure Agreement and Bond Spending Plan for the Pico Union 1 Redevelopment Project Area.

I FURTHER MOVE that all remaining taxable CRA/LA Excess Bond Proceeds, including any earned interest, available to Council District 1 from the Pico Union 1 Redevelopment Project Area be utilized by the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation to perform public improvements needed for the Union Avenue Community Garden subject to Council's approval of the forthcoming EWDD report.

PRESENTED BY: 
GILBERT CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY: 

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