



# CITY OF OAKLAND

## PLANNING & ZONING DIVISION

250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 2114, Oakland, CA 94612

Phone: 510-238-3912 Fax: 510-238-4730

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

**Date: April 8, 2026**

**City of Oakland  
Department of Planning & Building  
250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 2114  
Oakland, CA, 94612  
(510) 238-3659  
[hklein@oaklandca.gov](mailto:hklein@oaklandca.gov)**

On or about April 16, 2026 the City of Oakland will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of \$1,000,000 in Community Project Funding (CPF) program funds, as authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, Public Law 118-42, the FY2024 Act and the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, Public Law 118-47, the Further FY2024, as amended, to undertake a project known as **Children's Fairyland Infrastructure Project** for the purpose of improvements to a public facility.

The Children's Fairyland Infrastructure Project proposes to rehabilitate an existing public facility located at Lake Merritt, 699 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, California 94610 (portion of APN 10-764-3). Children's Fairyland is a City-owned property operated by Oakland Children's Fairyland, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and the proposed improvements will occur entirely within the existing park footprint and the adjacent public right-of-way along Grand Avenue). The project will utilize \$1,035,000 in HUD Community Project Funding (CPF) grants to replace and upgrade ageing, deteriorated infrastructure systems that date back several decades and are at or beyond their useful life. The purpose of the project is to preserve this long-standing community resource by addressing recurring utility failures that result in power outages, unsanitary conditions, water loss, and operational disruptions. Scope of work includes, but is not limited to, replacement of irrigation lines and offshoots throughout the park; replacement of all potable water lines and offshoots to support drinking fountains; replacement of sewer lines within the park and connections to the public system; installation of site drainage infrastructure discharging to Lake Merritt; replacement of the electrical main and distribution lines serving the park and extending to Grand Avenue; and installation of a new telecommunications line, including speaker system, internet cabling, and security system. All work consists of replacement or rehabilitation of existing facilities, with no expansion of capacity, use, or intensity, and no changes to the overall function of the site. The project will improve system reliability, public health and safety, energy and water efficiency, and environmental stewardship within the Lake Merritt area, which is home to the nation's oldest wildlife refuge. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,300,392.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project will be made available to the public for review electronically. Please submit your request by email to Heather Klein at [hklein@oaklandca.gov](mailto:hklein@oaklandca.gov). The ERR can be accessed online at the following websites:

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/current-environmental-review-ceqa-eir-documents-2011-present>

<https://cpd.hud.gov/cpd-public/environmental-reviews>

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to Heather Klein, Planner IV, via email to [hklein@oaklandca.gov](mailto:hklein@oaklandca.gov). *All comments received on or before April 15, 2026 will be considered by the City of Oakland prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.*

## ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Oakland certifies to U.S. HUD that William Gilchrist, in his capacity as Director of the Planning and Building Department with the City of Oakland and NEPA Certifying Officer consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of Oakland to use Program funds.

## OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

U.S. HUD Office will accept objections to the Responsible Entity's (RE) Request for Release of Funds and Environmental Certification for a period of fifteen days following the submission date specified above or the actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of Oakland approved by the U.S. HUD; (b) the RE has omitted a step or failed to make a determination or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 or by CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508, as applicable; (c) the RE has omitted one or more steps in the preparation, completion or publication of the Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Study per 24 CFR Subparts E, F or G of Part 58, as applicable; (d) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process has committed funds for or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before release of funds and approval of the environmental certification; (e) another Federal, State or local agency has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be emailed to the HUD grant administration office at: [RROFSFRO@hud.gov](mailto:RROFSFRO@hud.gov) or submitted in writing to:

*HUD Region IX, San Francisco Regional Office  
Office of Community Planning and Development  
One Sansome Street, Suite 1200  
San Francisco, CA 94104*

Potential objectors should contact the San Francisco Regional Office via email at [RROFSFRO@hud.gov](mailto:RROFSFRO@hud.gov) to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

William Gilchrist  
Director of the Planning and Building Department and NEPA Certifying Officer