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Hayward Area Recreation and Park District FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$15 MILLION FUNDING WILL EXPAND AND IMPROVE H.A.R.D. PARKS AND FACILITIES

*Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro and San Lorenzo will
benefit from historical financing plan*

Hayward, CA (April 2, 2014) – The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (H.A.R.D.) is pleased to announce that it will be receiving financing in the amount of \$15 million from the California Special Districts Association Finance Corporation.

The financing plan, which is the largest amount in district history, will provide the ability to move forward with multiple projects. H.A.R.D. General Manager John Gouveia, who took the lead on acquiring the funding, stated that “Our Board of Directors took a bold step in approving this financing plan. Though it is a large sum and a huge obligation, the end result will be the acquisition of a very desirable parcel of land that will one day make a great park and the jump-starting of several other exciting projects that might have otherwise taken years to begin.”

In recognizing the importance of creating more open space for the communities it serves, H.A.R.D. will use about a third of the proceeds to purchase the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) 24-acre site commonly known at the Redwood Filtration Plant property, located in Castro Valley for \$5.6 million. A purchase agreement has already been completed.

The San Lorenzo Community Park will utilize \$8 million of the funding to assist with the Phase I renovation of the park which includes the demolition of the existing pond, as well as the construction of the new pond area, active play zone and softball complex. The expected completion date of the improvements is 2016.

Hayward’s Kennedy Park will receive \$750,000 for the development of plans and specifications to be completed by 2015. In accordance with the Master Plan approved in 2013, the improvements include a new maintenance yard, improved parking, a redesign of the animal petting zoo and rides, a bandstand, clock tower, upgraded picnic areas, birthday gazebos and children’s play areas.

Fairmont Terrace Park in San Leandro will be expanded from 1.67 acres to 3 acres by constructing walking paths, picnic areas and fencing. \$250,000 of the funds will assist with the Phase I process which is expected to be completed by mid-2015.

The remainder of the funding will allow the prepayment of financing obtained to purchase the Mission Hills of Hayward Golf Course in 1998.

The Board of Directors, who approved the finance resolution, remain dedicated in supporting the mission of the District. Board Member President Carol Pereira emphasized that “This type of financing is allowing the District to fulfill its mission of enriching the quality of life for the communities in providing a variety of recreation activities, parks, and facilities.”

For more information about H.A.R.D.’s Master Plan Updates, please visit www.haywardrec.org.

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