

TESORO CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION APPLICATION

Information about Organization

Name: City of Carson

Address: 701 East Carson Street, Carson, CA 90745

Phone: 310/ 830-7600 **Web site:** <http://carson.ca.us>

Contact Person: Ralph Aranda **Title:** Interim Community Services Director
Arnold Carraway Recreation Superintendent

Program Category: TBD

Date of Incorporation: 1968

Number of Employees: 300 (Full-time)

Number of Volunteers: 200

Population Served: 96,000 (approx.)

Mission/City Council Statement:

Carson is a vibrant city with a small town atmosphere where relationships are important. This is clearly visible throughout the community, from stable single family neighborhoods, which make up nearly eighty percent of the city's residences, to the partnership between business and volunteer driven agencies which strengthen the city's remarkable social fabric.

The social composition of Carson is California in miniature. It is a city with a balanced ethnic and cultural mix living together in harmony and prosperity.

The community takes pride in the large percentage of Carson students who attend college, many to California State University, Dominguez Hills, a valuable asset to our city. Carson's strategic position in the heart of the powerful economic engine which is Southern California attracts international corporations which recognize the city's bright future. The City's proximity to the West Coast's two major ports, as well its intersection by four Southland freeways, makes it a major gateway to the Pacific Rim.



We, the people who live and work in Carson, take pride in our city and will continue to build relationships which ensure that future.

History: Lying south of Los Angeles, just a few miles from the busy harbor at San Pedro Bay, Carson is both a new city and an old community. Long home to Native Americans, the area that would become Carson quickly fell into Spanish hands in the late eighteenth century. For nearly one hundred and fifty years, its destiny lay with the Dominguez family, whose expansive Rancho San Pedro became a center for politics and business, in addition to ranching. Their decision to sell parts of the ranch lands opened the door for small farmers, industry, and commerce beginning in the late 1800s, and by World War II, these elements were solidifying into a community. Mirroring its neighbors, the area grew rapidly in population after the war, maturing industrially and commercially, too. Within a few decades, the community had decided it was time to strike out on its own and take charge of its future. In 1968, Carson incorporated as a city. At the time, its population stood at 66,520. Though the character of the city has changed in some ways since it achieved independence and could begin to set its own priorities and goals, its growth has continued. As of 2010, Carson had 91,714 residents from a broad range of ethnic backgrounds.

Geographic Area Served: 19 square miles

Requested Amount: \$250,000.00

Describe the project, including projected outcome results:

The City of Carson provides innumerable programs, services and activities through its 12 full-service parks, 3 mini-parks, 2 pools and 2 aquatic centers. Amenities at these facilities include, but are not limited to, gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, playgrounds, outdoor basketball courts, and baseball diamonds. At the current time none of these facilities offer a playground to service the youth with disabilities population.

The City would like to utilize these grant funds to design, construct, purchase and install playground equipment at Dolphin Park specifically for children with disabilities. Dolphin Park is a 12 acre park that includes a playground, ball fields, multipurpose rooms, and open space. The facility restrooms are ADA compliant, access paths are in place and plenty of parking is available for specialized vehicles and school buses. We plan to work with Shane's Inspiration, a non-profit organization that works with communities to create inclusive playgrounds and programs that unite children of all abilities. Specifically,



Shane's Inspiration will assist with the design and development of the playground. The equipment will consist of swings and ground level play structures. We hope that this project will encourage all children, regardless of their abilities, to spend time quality outside in a park environment with equipment designed with them in mind.

(On Tuesday, October 18 the City Council will be asked to approve the project and consider the naming rights to recognize Tesoro as the provider of this playground.)

Goals of the program: This program will provide children from this population the opportunity to experience a playground designed specifically for their needs.

How does the program benefit the community? Currently, the City does not have playground with equipment that children with disabilities can access. This program will fill this gap in the City's park amenities. Though the city offers programs for disabled youth there are no playground amenities that are available in the city's parks. This project will fill this gap in the City's park amenities. According to the 2010 U. S. Census, Carson has 1620 children under the age of 18 who are reported as Children with a disability.

How and when will this program be evaluated? Use of equipment is monitored on a daily basis by onsite park staff. Daily counts will provide data as to the popularity of this feature.

Are Tesoro employees involved in the program? Yes

Is this request for renewed support? No

Annual Operating Budget: \$76,000,000 in General Funds

Additional Sources of Support:

- Program administration and project oversight by City of Carson Department of Public Works, Landscape and Building Maintenance and Engineering Divisions and Department of Community Services Department, Recreation and Human Services Division.
- Shane's Inspiration assistance in design and development
- Los Angeles Unified School District, Special Education program instructors

Is your organization carrying a deficit? No

