

APPROVED

JUN 07 2006

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 06-148

DATE June 7, 2006

**BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 14

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: BOYLE HEIGHTS SPORTS CENTER - MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
WITH THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS FOR THE OPERATION
OF THE ADJACENT COMMUNITY GARDEN

J. Combs _____
H. Fujita _____
S. Huntley _____
B. Jensen _____

J. Kolb _____
F. Mok _____
*K. Regan
M. Shull _____

Robert H. Jensen (for)
General Manager

Approved

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve, subject to approval of the Mayor and of the City Attorney as to form, the proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, between the Department and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) for use of the property known as Boyle Heights Community Garden as a site for training at-risk community youths;
2. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed MOA to the Mayor for approval in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3 and concurrently to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form; and
3. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the MOA upon receiving the necessary approvals.

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SUMMARY:

The 1.40 acre, Department-owned site that is the subject of this Report is located across Seventh Street from the Boyle Heights Sports Center, which is at 933 South Mott Street. For many years part of this adjacent site (APN 5189-008-908) was maintained as the Boyle Heights Community Garden by the non-profit group known as the “Mothers of East Los Angeles.” The rest of the site was used by the Girl Scouts for their training programs. These organizations no longer use the site.

Department staff do not foresee the need to use the site for the next few years and support its remaining an active community asset. Recently, the LACC, an environmentally focused, non-profit organization, asked to assist the Department by operating the entire site as a community garden. They intend to offer instruction in basic gardening techniques and plant care to community youths and young adults. The plan is to have from 20 to 40 youths work in the garden at least once a week, their schedules to be integrated with their schooling and possibly with other programs offered by LACC. In addition, members of the community will be able to have garden plots; this activity will be assisted by LACC.

The LACC was founded 20 years ago and is one of the largest non-profits in the area. Their “Clean and Green” program, funded by the Los Angeles City Council, introduces at-risk youth to a variety of conservation and community-improvement projects. The non-profit also partners with the Department of Water and Power to provide free trees to homeowners, with instruction on proper planting and maintenance procedures, as part of the Mayor’s “Million Trees Initiative.” Other LACC programs include parent literacy, crisis management and long-term family support, preschool day care, after school classes and clubs, and participation in three charter high schools. In general, LACC aims to provide youths with the life-skills training needed to make the transition to independent, responsible and community-oriented adults. Each year over 2,000 youths benefit from LACC programs.

The proposed term of the MOA is for one year with two one-year options to renew. In return for permission to operate at this Boyle Heights location, the LACC has agreed to assist the Department by providing limited trail maintenance at Griffith, Elysian and Debs Parks and, each year for the duration of the MOA, to assist at a maximum of three Department-sponsored events. In this way, the community beyond the immediate boundaries of the Boyle Heights garden will also benefit from the proposed MOA between LACC and the City.

Staff determined that the proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1 (14) of the City CEQA Guidelines. The proposed project involves entering into an operating Agreement with little or no expansion of activity or change in use for the site.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Department personnel in Metro Region estimate that if the proposed MOA is approved, the annual additional maintenance support resulting from LACC's donated labor, both at the Boyle Heights site and elsewhere, will exceed \$80,000. This sum is based on at least 4,000 hours of donated work valued at \$20.00/hour, a figure Metro Region uses for budgetary estimates.

The Office of Council District 14, the Assistant General Manager of Operations East, and the Superintendent of Metro Region concur with staff's recommendations.

Report prepared by Daniel Gutierrez and Jason Kitahara of Metro Region with the assistance of Joan Reitzel, Senior Management Analyst in Real Estate and Asset Management.