

APPROVED
NOV 19 2007

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 07-275

DATE November 19, 2007

**BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: KEN MALLOY HARBOR REGIONAL PARK - MACHADO LAKE ECOSYSTEM ROUTINE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM - MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN

R. Adams	_____	J. Kolb	_____
H. Fujita	_____	F. Mok	_____
S. Huntley	_____	K. Regan	_____
V. Israel	_____	*M. Shull	<u>for MS</u>

Victor Israel for

General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Review, consider and adopt the Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park - Machado Lake Ecosystem Routine Vegetation Management and Maintenance Program - Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP), finding that all potentially significant environmental effects of the project have been properly disclosed and evaluated in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State and City CEQA Guidelines, and that the IS/MND reflects the Department of Recreation and Parks' independent judgment and analysis;
2. Direct Staff to file a Notice of Determination with the Los Angeles County Clerk within five days of this action.

SUMMARY:

The Machado Lake Ecosystem is located within Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park (KMHRP), a 231-acre municipal park operated by the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) within the Harbor City community of the City of Los Angeles. It consists of the 40-acre Machado Lake (also known as Harbor Lake), riparian areas (along the eastern shore and in the northern woodlands), a seasonal freshwater marsh south of the dam structure, and portions of the Wilmington Drain/Channel south of Pacific Coast Highway.

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The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) assesses potential environmental impacts from implementation of a Routine Vegetation Management and Maintenance Program within the Machado Lake Ecosystem. The program will primarily involve the removal of overabundant emergent vegetation, primarily Water Primrose (*Ludwigia*), and to a lesser extent cattails and tules. Additional maintenance activities that support the primary project purpose include clearing trash and debris; removing fallen, dead or dying trees and shrubs; trimming branches and tree limbs; mowing along the shoreline and lake edge; removing near shore vegetation; and conducting brush clearance. Removal of a limited amount of invasive plants and revegetating those areas with native species will also be performed on a routine basis; these maintenance activities will be adopted as mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts to biological resources to a level of less than significant. As part of the proposed project, RAP will obtain and comply with requirements from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (SWQCB) (RWQCB).

In accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a MND was prepared based on an Initial Study which determined that all potentially significant environmental effects would be mitigated to a level less than significant. The MND was circulated to all interested parties and responsible agencies, and filed with the State Clearinghouse for a 30-day review and comment period from September 20 to October 22, 2007. A public meeting was held on October 4, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Harbor City Recreation Center, located at 24901 Frampton Avenue, Harbor City, CA, 90710, to receive public comments on the proposed MND.

Four comment letters were received; the comments focused primarily on biological and Native American (cultural) resource issues. All comments and staff responses have been incorporated into the final MND (Section 10), copies of which have been provided to the Board for its review and consideration.

It has been determined that the Routine Vegetation Management and Maintenance Program, as proposed, with adoption and implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the MND and MMRP, will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on wildlife resources or their habitats as defined by Fish and Game Code 711.2.

The Operations East Acting Assistant General Manager and Pacific Region Superintendent are aware of staff's recommendations and have expressed their support. Staff from the Office of the Fifteenth Council District have also been consulted and concur with the recommendations contained herein.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The adoption of the MND will not have any financial impact on the Department. The Routine Vegetation Management and Maintenance Program has been conducted over the last 15 years and funds are available in the Department of Recreation and Parks budget for operational and maintenance costs. There is no additional impact to the General Fund.

This report was prepared by Leila Barker of the Environmental Management Section.