

APPROVED

OCT 3 2008

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 08-209

DATE July 23, 2008

BOARD OF RECREATION and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 9

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: PERSHING SQUARE - ALLOCATION OF ZONE CHANGE/PARK FEES FOR PALM COURT IMPROVEMENTS

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

*[Signature]*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Manager

Approved as amended \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve the allocation of \$190,000 in Zone Change/Park fees from the Pershing Square Account No. 440K-PS for smart irrigation, as well as landscape improvements and exercise equipment installation in Palm Court, as described in the Summary of this report.

SUMMARY:

Pershing Square is a 5.02 acre park, located at 525 S. Olive Street, in the Jewelry District of Downtown Los Angeles. It is located atop a parking lot structure. This recreation facility and the City's most urban park is host to special events and annual events for the community, including rallies, concerts and ice skating. Due to the facilities, features, programs, and services it provides, Pershing Square meets the standards for a Community Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan.

Department management and staff have determined that the Palm Court area, located near the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Hill Street, is in great need of refurbishing. The existing surface is un-inviting and un-sanitary. It will be replaced with green lawn areas, low water-use colorful planting areas and decomposed granite pathways. Vines will be planted to screen unattractive chain link fencing. A complete new smart irrigation system will be installed in Palm Court. Smart irrigation controllers will also be installed to operate the rest of Pershing Square's irrigation system. ~~Outdoor fitness equipment will be installed along the southern edge of Palm Court to bring a desirable program to the community.~~ Staff estimates that the cost of these improvements will be \$190,000.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2

NO. 08-209

Currently, \$190,000 is available in Zone Change/Park Fees in the Pershing Square Account 440K-PS. These Zone Change/Park Fees were collected within two miles of Pershing Square, which is the standard distance for the allocation of the Zone Change/Park Fees for community recreational facilities. Upon the approval of this report, Zone Change/Park Fees in the amount of \$190,000 can be allocated for the Palm Court improvements project at Pershing Square. This allocation is sufficient for the Palm Court improvements.

Staff has determined that the subject project will consist of renovations to the Palm Court that will result in negligible or no expansion of park use, and therefore, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1a, Class 1(1) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

The Assistant General Manager for Operations East and Metro Region staff support the recommendations set forth in this report.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Upon Board approval of the allocation, there will be sufficient funds available to complete this project. Maintenance costs are already accounted for in the facility budget, and there is no anticipated impact to the Department's General Fund.

This report was prepared by staff from the Planning and Development Division: Tom Gibson, Landscape Architect I, and Vivien Quintos, Management Analyst II.