

APPROVED
MAY 1 2008

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 08-122

DATE May 7, 2008

**BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

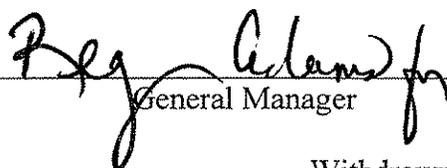
C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH PARK – INSTALLATION OF A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT THE MAY 8, 2007 GRIFFITH PARK FIRE

R. Adams _____	J. Kolb _____
H. Fujita _____	F. Mok _____
S. Huntley _____	K. Regan _____
*V. Israel _____	M. Shull _____

*CS amended
see attached*



General Manager

Approved CS amended

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the installation of a boulder and commemorative plaque at Griffith Park;
2. Approve the wording on the commemorative plaque as described in the Summary of this report; and,
3. Direct staff to install the boulder, foundation, and plaque, as indicated.

SUMMARY:

On May 8, 2007, Griffith Park, the largest park in the City of Los Angeles, was devastated by a catastrophic wildfire. Councilmember Tom LaBonge, in conjunction with Department staff, proposed that a plaque be placed at the park, in appreciation of those who fought this terrible fire.

The wildfire burned for two days, destroying more than 1,000 acres of indigenous flora and fauna, including rare species; hiking and equestrian trails; and affected access to the Griffith Observatory and many recreational areas within Griffith Park. Major efforts to fight, contain and extinguish the fire were required by many individuals and agencies. Significant recovery efforts were also needed to insure that these areas are once again safe and accessible for public enjoyment.

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The plaque would be approximately 16" x 18" in size, made of bronze, and would be placed on a large granite boulder, in a landscaped area adjacent to the Greek Theatre Parking Lot 2 entrance and the ticket booths (See Exhibit A). The wording on the plaque would read:

"On May 8, 2007, a raging brush fire destroyed over 1,000 acres of Griffith Park. A monumental effort was made by firefighters of the Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments and fire agencies around the state. Due to the gallant efforts of firefighters on the ground and in the air, they protected the historic Merry-Go-Round, Griffith Observatory and Greek Theatre from destruction. No one was injured and no Los Feliz homes were destroyed.

We salute the City of Los Angeles Fire Department, Police Department, General Services Department, Department of Water and Power, Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Park Rangers for their special efforts.

On behalf of a very grateful City, we say "Thank you".

Installation of this plaque, honoring the men and women firefighters and support personnel who fought this fire, demonstrate to current and future community members how dedication, determination and persistence can overcome disaster and safeguard a City jewel for generations to come.

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11 (6), of the City CEQA Guidelines.

The Councilmember of the District and Griffith Region management and staff support this project at Griffith Park.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Negligible impact, as the cost of the plaque will be funded from Fund 301-88-010M Municipal Recreation Program (MRP) Account W05 Griffith Park Events. There will be minimal maintenance required for the boulder and the plaque.

Report prepared by Gregory Clark, Management Analyst II, Griffith Region, and Camille Walls, City Planner, Planning and Development.

EXHIBIT A

On May 8, 2007, a raging brush fire destroyed over 1,000 acres of Griffith Park. A monumental effort was made by firefighters of the Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments and fire agencies from around the state. Due to the gallant efforts of firefighters on the ground and in the air, they protected the historic Merry-Go-Round, Griffith Observatory and Greek Theatre from destruction. No one was injured and no Los Feliz homes were destroyed.

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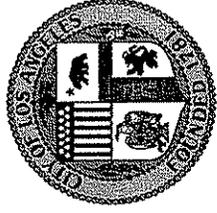
On behalf of a very grateful City, we say *"Thank you."*

ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA

Mayor

Board of Recreation and Park
Commissioners

TOM LABONGE
Councilmember, 4th District



May 8, 2008

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MAY 7, 2008

08-122:

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Commissioner Barry Sanders directed that Exhibit A of the Report be amended to include the acknowledgement of the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners onto the plaque.