

APPROVED  
DEC 09 2009

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

NO. 09-301

DATE December 9, 2009

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: OPERATIONS EAST – GRIFFITH-METRO REGION - DONATION FROM  
CASEY McCAUGHN TO TRAVEL TOWN TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

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

[Signature]  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board accept the donation as noted in the Summary of this report and that appropriate recognition be given to the donor.

SUMMARY:

Operations East, Griffith-Metro Region, is receiving an in-kind donation with an estimated total value of \$28,000 from Casey McCaughn. The donation consists of a hand carved redwood statue of the legendary railroad engineer Casey Jones. When complete, the 3,000 pound redwood sculpture will stand approximately fourteen feet tall with a four foot diameter base. The Casey Jones sculpture will be displayed at the Travel Town Transportation Museum, located at 5200 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, California 90027.

Casey McCaughn is an artist who specializes in wood carving; she has devoted herself to mastering the art of sculpting lifelike figures out of wood with a chainsaw. Casey McCaughn has agreed to a public exhibition of her talent with a chainsaw by creating the Casey Jones statue at the Travel Town Museum. Department staff has selected a safe and secure location for the wood carving exhibition and ultimate display of the statue. Spectators will be able to watch the chainsaw carving from a safe distance behind secure barricades.

The Travel Town Transportation Museum located inside Griffith Park is a fitting location for a statue of the legendary railroad engineer Casey Jones. The museum strives to preserve and celebrate the railroad heritage of the western United States from the 1880s to the 1930s. The

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museum collection includes sixteen locomotives and twenty-two samples of various types of rolling stock. The legendary railroad engineer Casey Jones was killed in a railroad accident on April 30, 1900 in Vaughan, Mississippi. He has been credited with saving the lives of all the passengers and crew members aboard his passenger train on the night of the accident. Following the accident, it has been reported that his body was discovered with one hand on the airbrake lever and one hand on the train whistle cord; it is believed that he died trying to warn passengers and crew of the impending collision with the train whistle as he struggled to slow the train down before impact. The artist Casey McCaughn has expressed a desire to create a lasting tribute to a very brave and heroic figure from America's railroading past.

Griffith-Metro Region and Council District 4 staff endorses the opportunity to showcase the talent of a female chainsaw sculptor. The sculpture of railroad engineer Casey Jones will compliment the Travel Town Transportation Museum's collection of locomotives and rolling stock. The museum encourages the general public to donate artifacts and various types of railroad memorabilia to the museum's permanent collection.

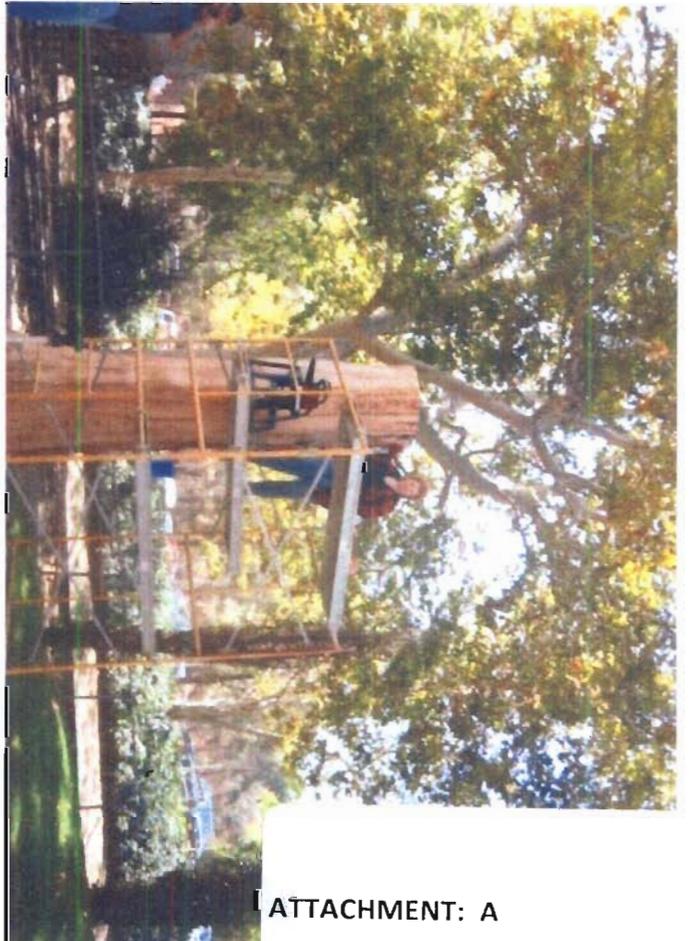
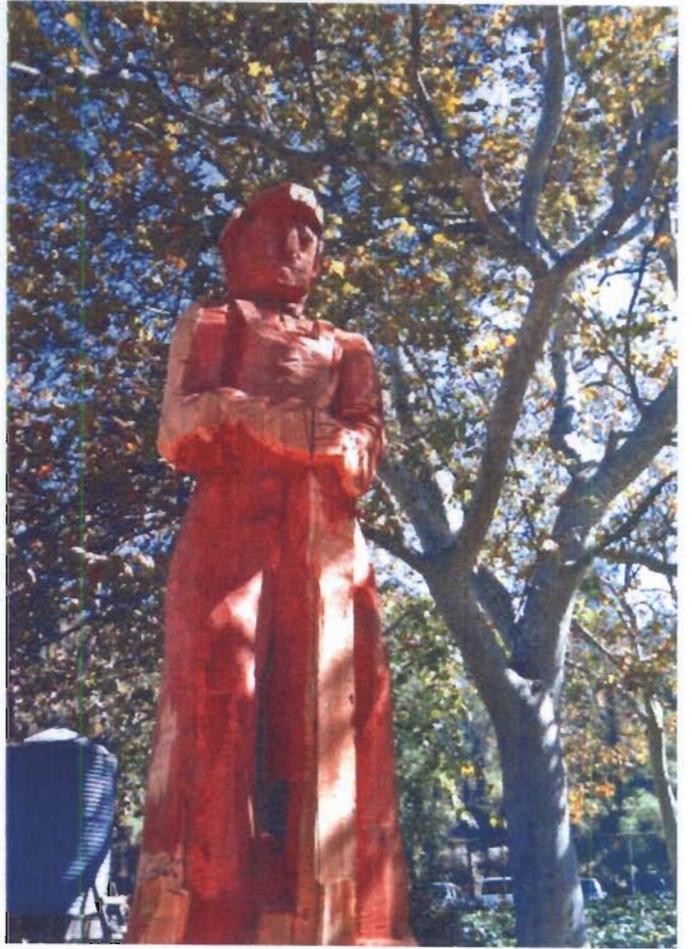
The final finish of the sculpture will consist of a clear marine grade exterior wood sealant; long term maintenance of the sculpture will require re-sealing due to weather exposure. Once completed, the sculpture will be subject to the requirements of California Civil Code Section 987, requiring notice to the artist or the artist's heirs to its defacement, mutilation, alteration or destruction, including prior notification of removal and relocation.

(See Attachment A)

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Acceptance of this donation results in minimal fiscal impact on the Department's General Fund.

This report was prepared by Jason Kitahara, Sr. Recreation Director II, Griffith-Metro Region.



ATTACHMENT: A