

APPROVED
JAN 20 2010

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 10-015

DATE January 20, 2010

BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 13

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ELYSIAN PARK - RIVERSIDE PARK OUTDOOR DEVELOPMENT (PHASE I)
(#1234A) (W.O. #E1906090) – ADOPTION OF MITIGATED NEGATIVE
DECLARATION

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

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Review, consider and adopt the Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for Elysian Park-Riverside Park Outdoor Development (Phase I) Project, finding that on the basis of the whole record of proceedings of the project, including the IS/MND and any public and agency comments received therefrom, that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment, and all potentially significant environmental effects of the project have been properly disclosed, evaluated, and mitigated in the IS/MND in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State and City CEQA Guidelines, and reflects the Board's independent judgment and analysis;
2. Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan published under separate cover that specifies the mitigation measures to be implemented in accordance the with CEQA Guidelines (Section 15074(d));
3. Approve the Elysian Park - Riverside Park Outdoor Development (Phase I) Project as described herein; and,
4. Direct staff to file a Notice of Determination for the adopted IS/MND with the Los Angeles City Clerk and the Los Angeles County Clerk within 5 days of the Board's approval.

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SUMMARY:

Submitted is the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for approval of the Elysian Park - Riverside Park Outdoor Development (Phase I) (#1234A) (W.O. #E1906090) project, located at 1800 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90039.

In 1999, the City purchased the 18-acre property located west of the intersection of Riverside Drive and Stadium Way as the site for the proposed Riverside Park, an extension to Elysian Park. The site contains two relatively flat areas separated by a slope between the lower and mid-level of the property, which will be used for the active recreation development of the new park. An upper level includes very steep slopes and a small flat area for future park development that is accessible from Landa Street. Due to limited funding, the park has to be developed in phases. Phase I of the project represents the development and improvements of the first five acres of the lower and mid-levels of the site. The proposed scope for Phase I include the following features:

1. A permeable paved parking lot with accessible parking stalls to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance
2. New trail system with nature interpretive area and outdoor classroom.
3. New service connections for water and electrical utilities.
4. Two multipurpose game courts, a multi-purpose sports field, picnic areas, children's play area, landscape, irrigation, benches, fencing, and a nature interpretive area and outdoor classroom.
5. Bio-swales for the capture and infiltration of on-site storm water.
6. A maintenance access road connecting the low- and mid-levels of the park.

The City Engineer's estimate for the construction costs of this project is \$1,300,000. Funds are available from the following funding accounts:

<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>	<u>FUND/DEPT/ACCT NO.</u>
Proposition 40 Urban Park Act ¹	205/89/WV04
Proposition 40 Per Capita ¹	47T/89/TBD
Proposition 40 RZH ¹	47W/89/TBD

¹ Funding sources for the project are California State Prop 40 funds. The Proposition 12/40 Cash Flow account (managed by CAO & CLA - LA for Kids Steering Committee) will be used to cash flow the project and will be promptly repaid upon reimbursement of funds from the State.

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In accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Mitigated Negative Declaration (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 17, 2009 to October 19, 2009. Several comment letters were received on potential environmental effects that have been incorporated into the final MND, copies of which have been provided to the Board for its review and consideration. However, the comments did not require any additional environmental analyses or substantive changes to the MND. Several additional comment letters have not been incorporated into the final document because they were received after the close of the public comment period. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan has been prepared that specifies all the mitigation measures identified in the MND, which will either reduce to a level of insignificance or eliminate the potentially significant environment impact of the project.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The project will be funded by a combination of the aforementioned funding sources. There is no immediate fiscal impact to the Department's General Fund. However, operations and maintenance costs will be evaluated and included in future Department budget requests.

This report was prepared by Paul Davis, Environmental Specialist, and reviewed by Mike Shull, Superintendent, Planning and Construction Division, Department of Recreation and Parks and Willis Yip, Project Manager, Bureau of Engineering (BOE) Architectural Division.