

APPROVED
FEB 02 2011

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 11-041

DATE February 2, 2011

**BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

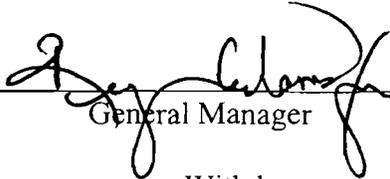
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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

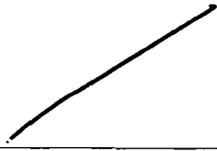
SUBJECT: ELYSIAN PARK – THE INSTALLATION OF A TREE AND PLAQUE IN HONOR OF LOS DESTERRADOS AND LOUIS A. SANTILLAN

R. Adams _____
V. Israel _____
H. Fujita _____
S. Huntley _____

F. Mok _____
K. Regan _____
*M. Shull _____



General Manager

Approved  _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board grant final approval for a tree and a plaque to be installed in Elysian Park in honor of Los Desterrados and Louis A. Santillan.

SUMMARY:

Elysian Park is a regional park located at 929 Academy Road. This facility is a 544.6 acre park, which includes walking paths, hiking trails, picnic areas, benches, landscaping and irrigation as well as special amenities such as the Grace E. Simmons Lodge.

On December 15, 2010, the Department of Recreation and Parks was contacted by Council District with a request to install a tree and a plaque in Elysian Park in honor of Los Desterrados. Los Desterrados literally translates to The Uprooted and refers to the residents of Chavez Ravine who were evicted in order to build a public housing project on a consolidated site including parts of both Chavez Ravine and Elysian Park. That project proved to be unpopular and was never built. Several years later the area was developed as Dodger Stadium. Los Desterrados is a group comprised of those residents and their descendents. Los Desterrados were originally organized by Mr. Louis Santillan and still meet regularly in Elysian Park to commemorate the community. The plaque would be dedicated to Mr. Louis A. Santillan.

Council Office 9 and Department staff met with a representative of the Citizen Committee to Save Elysian Park on December 23, 2010 to determine an appropriate location for the installation of the tree and plaque. After viewing several locations it was determined that the Elysian Fields portion of the park would be most suitable. The tree will be a Palo Verde (desert museum

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variety) which is also the name of one of the three main neighborhoods that comprised the Chavez Ravine community. Council Office 9 staff also attended the regularly scheduled meeting of the Concerned Citizens to Save Elysian Park on January 5, 2011 in order to present the proposal to the entire committee. No objections were found with the proposal.

The proposed plaque will follow the Department's plaque policy in that it will be made of bronze with a maximum size of 12"x18". The plaque will be manufactured with an anti-graffiti coating in order to minimize any potential damage. The plaque will be attached to a boulder to complement the natural aesthetics of Elysian Park and be placed adjacent to the Palo Verde tree. The proposed plaque language is as follows:

LOUIS A. SANTILLAN
"LOU"
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
OF LOS DESTERRADOS
(THE UPROOTED) FORMER RESIDENTS OF CHAVEZ RAVINE

JULY 19, 1979

(PVLBCHA)

PALO VERDE, LOMA, BISHOP CULTURAL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article VLL, Section 1, Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA guidelines, which provides for the placement of signs on park property as accessory structures to recreational facilities.

Council District 1 and Metro Region management and staff have reviewed this proposal and found no objection.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Fiscal impacts will be negligible as Council Office 9, as the applicant, will be responsible for the installation of both the tree and the plaque. Department staff may assist in the installation of the plaque. Maintenance of the plaque should be minimal as it will be manufactured with an anti-graffiti coating. The tree will be installed by TreePeople who have an MOU with the Department.

This Report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning and Construction.