

APPROVED  
MAY 20 2011

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 11-136

DATE May 20, 2011

BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: WATTS CULTURAL CRESCENT SKATE PARK PLAZA – CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL OF SKATE PARK PROJECT – RIGHT OF ENTRY PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO DEVELOP A SKATE PARK ON COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY PROPERTY

R. Adams	_____	K. Regan	_____
H. Fujita	_____	*M. Shull	<u><i>M. Shull</i></u>
V. Israel	_____	N. Williams	_____

*[Signature]*  
General Manager

Approved *[Signature]*

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Conceptually approve a proposed Skate Park project to be developed on a portion of real property owned by the Community Redevelopment Agency/Los Angeles (CRA/LA) in the Watts Corridors of the South Los Angeles region known as the Watts Cultural Crescent (Property); and,
2. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to negotiate and enter into a Temporary Right of Entry Permit with CRA/LA to allow access to the Property the construction and development of the proposed Skate Park on the Property and help satisfy requirements for funding and to address land tenure issues.

SUMMARY:

In 2010, discussions for the development of a skate park began between the CRA/LA, RAP, the Tony Hawk Foundation and the Annenberg Foundation. Through a community process, the skate park project became a reality, resulting in the proposed donation of the skate park from the Tony Hawk Foundation and the Annenberg Foundation to RAP. Currently, the CRA/LA is in the process of conveying the Property to the City of Los Angeles (City). Once the conveyance is completed, the City Council will be requested to transfer jurisdiction and control of the Property to RAP as dedicated park property in perpetuity subject to this Board's approval. The Department of General

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Services will be authorized to prepare the necessary transfer documents. The proposed plan is to design and build the proposed Skate Park Plaza on the Property.

The Property is located at 17780 East Santa Ana Boulevard and the proposed Skate Park Plaza will be approximately 19,000 square feet in size. The proposed Skate Plaza will feature a 6-stair skate element with ledges, blocks, rails, where grinds and slides are performed, or what Skaters refer to as Hubbas. There will be skateable art pieces as well. The Skate Park Plaza will also have benches that can be used to skate on. As part of the design, a center metal trellis/lattice structure will be built to tie into the design motive created by the Watts Towers. The Skate Park Plaza will have colored concrete patterns with complementary swirls that will be designed to complement the Watts Towers. To make the Skate Park Plaza aesthetically pleasing to every user, the Skate Park Plaza will include sustainable landscaping which will consist of low maintenance California native grasses that will be watered with a Smart Irrigation system. The site for the Skate Park Plaza lies immediately adjacent to the towers on the south east edge of the Watts Cultural Crescent.

The new Skate Park Plaza will provide daily skating and sporting recreation for low-income and underserved youth that are not currently available in this area. RAP will maintain the Skate Park Plaza. The facility will not require staffing, and the operating hours will be from sunrise to sunset and will conform to the current ordinance regarding this type of skate park. It is projected that the Skate Park Plaza will provide recreational activities for many youth in the community on a daily basis.

Until such a time as jurisdiction and control of the land and amenities/improvements is transferred to RAP, the proposed Temporary Right-of-Entry Permit (ROE), with the CRA/LA is necessary to allow access to the property. The proposed ROE, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, prepared by CRA/LA staff and reviewed by the City Attorney will also help satisfy land tenure and funding requirements allowing development of the project to continue, and demonstrate continued support for this Skate Park Plaza development project.

The Environmental Staff has determined that the development of the subject property for park purposes as a skate plaza, and ultimately the transfer of the property for dedication as a park, is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4 (3), Class 11 (3) and Class 25 (5) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

This Project has the support of Council District 15 and the Mayor's Office. Staff has determined that the surrounding community would benefit from the development of this facility at this location and that the project would not interfere with the current usage at the park.

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Staff from Recreation Branch and Council District 15 have been consulted and concur with this Report's recommendations.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There will be no cost to RAP for the approval of the project or the approval of the Right-of-Entry Permit for this parcel. All costs will be incurred by the CRA/LA, Tony Hawk Foundation and the Annenberg Foundation. The proposed project once completed will require an increase in maintenance cost demands and will require a budget increase which will be requested through the Department's standard budget process.

This Report was prepared by John Barraza, Management Analyst II of Real Estate and Asset Management, Planning, Construction, and Maintenance.