

APPROVED
OCT 19 2011

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 11-290

DATE October 19, 2011

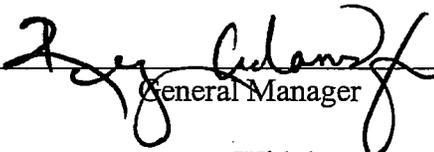
BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 14

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP DIVISION – EL SERENO COMMUNITY GARDEN –
AGREEMENT WITH LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS, INC., FOR
THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE EL SERENO
COMMUNITY GARDEN ON PARK PROPERTY

R. Adams	_____	K. Regan	_____
H. Fujita	_____	M. Shull	_____
*V. Israel	<u>118</u>	N. Williams	_____



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

As Amended

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve a proposed three (3) year agreement (Agreement), substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, between the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Inc., setting forth the terms and conditions for the operation and maintenance of the El Sereno Community Garden, subject to the approval of the Mayor, and of the City Attorney as to form;
2. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed Agreement, to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and concurrently to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form;
3. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the Agreement upon receipt of the necessary approvals; and,
4. Direct the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to deposit fees and utility and other cost recovery reimbursements received from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Inc., in the account and subaccount established in Fund 302 Dept 89 for such purpose.

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SUMMARY:

On May 4, 2011, the Board approved the Policy on Community Operated Open Spaces, Operating Guidelines for Self-Operated Community Gardens and various recommendations for each of the Department's community garden facilities including those community gardens operated by an outside group or organization (Board Report No. 11-121).

On June 15, 2011, the Board approved the establishment of an account and subaccounts for the deposit of annual fees and utility reimbursements received from organizations which operate community gardens independently pursuant to permits or agreements with the Department, and in conformance with the Schedule of Rates and Fees (Board Report No. 11-190).

One recommendation included in Report No. 11-121 was to direct staff to transition the outside group or organization to an agreement for the operation and maintenance of the community garden facility in accordance with the Board's Policy on Partnerships and in conformance to the Community Operated Open Space Policy. Another recommendation was to direct staff to return to the Board for final authorization to execute the agreements.

Subsequently, the Partnership Division initiated discussions with Los Angeles Conservation Corps (Organization), which currently operates the El Sereno Community Garden (Garden), and the parties have agreed to come to mutually acceptable terms and conditions for the operation and maintenance of the Garden through the proposed Agreement. As part of the proposed Agreement, Organization will be responsible, at its sole cost and expense, for all utility, maintenance, and repair costs related to the operation of the Garden. Organization currently pays their utility fees directly to the provider, as this community garden has its own designated utility meter.

In accordance with the Department's Policy on Community Operated Open Space (No. 11-121), during the term of agreement, Organization shall pay an annual Community Garden Use Fee to Department of \$100.00.

The Garden is located at ^{Hwy 6}~~5644~~ Huntington Drive in Council District 14, on a 1.5 acre site and contains 50 community garden plots.

The El Sereno Community Garden is dedicated for community residents to plant organic fruit and vegetables for their families. It is their goal to encourage families and community to eat healthy foods while enjoying gardening. The garden has a section of fruit trees and an area for gardeners who love to grow flowers and succulent plants. There is also an open plaza area that is dedicated to three (3) community events, meetings, workshops, and space for recreation.

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Staff has determined that the execution of the proposed Agreement is for the operation and maintenance of a community garden at an existing park facility involving negligible or no expansion of use and, therefore, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1 (14) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The proposed Agreement will have no impact on the Department's General Fund, as all costs associated with the operations and maintenance of the garden will be paid by Organization, at no cost to the City.

This report was prepared by Deanne A. Dedmon, Recreation Supervisor, Partnership Division.