

APPROVED
SEP 07 2011

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 11-242

DATE September 7, 2011

BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH PARK – CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A COMMEMORATIVE BENCH AND RELATED SITE IMPROVEMENTS TO ACKNOWLEDGE DONORS TO THE ACQUISITION OF CAHUENGA PEAK

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

Ray Salas
General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board grant conceptual approval for the installation of a commemorative bench and associated landscaping and site improvements in Griffith Park to acknowledge donors to the acquisition of Cahuenga Peak and related site improvements.

SUMMARY:

Griffith Park is located at 4730 Crystal Springs Drive in the Hollywood area of the City. This 4,281.73 acre park provides a variety of recreational amenities, programs, and activities for the local community.

On May 17, 2010, in Board Report No. 10-124, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) authorized the acquisition and acceptance of 138 acres of open space property known as Cahuenga Peak. On June 2, 2010, in Board Report No. 10-130, the Board approved the phased acquisition and conveyance of Cahuenga Peak through a process that proposed that the City acquire 122 acres of the Cahuenga Peak property as a first phase and the remaining 16 acres as a second phase.

As detailed in Board Report No. 10-124, the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a non-profit organization, acted as the buying agent for the Cahuenga Peak acquisition and entered into a property sale and gift agreement with the City in order to acquire the entire property and then convey it to the City via grant deed. TPL used public funds, totaling \$5,720,576, and private donations, totaling \$5,979,424, to acquire the property. TPL has completed the acquisition of the Cahuenga Peak property and has conveyed both the first and second phases of the property, which totals 138 acres, to the City.

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In recognition of the help and support of the Tiffany & Co. Foundation, a private donor who contributed significant funding to the effort to acquire the Cahuenga Peak property, TPL is requesting permission to install a commemorative bench and associated landscaping and site improvements in Griffith Park. The commemorative bench would be installed along the "Charlie Turner Trail" in a location that would provide a vista of the Cahuenga Peak property (Exhibit A). TPL will fund the cost for the fabrication and installation of the commemorative bench and the associated site improvements.

TPL is currently in discussion with a potential designer of the proposed commemorative bench but, at this time, no designer has been selected. Conceptually, the commemorative bench will measure approximately 8 - 10 feet long and may feature seating on both sides. The commemorative bench will be designed to be graffiti and vandal resistant and will be constructed of durable, weather resistant, materials. The design of the commemorative bench will be sensitive to, and appropriate for the natural context of Griffith Park. Language recognizing the donations provided by the Tiffany & Co. Foundation would be integrated in to the design of the commemorative bench. In addition to the commemorative bench, TPL is proposing to install minor landscaping and associated site improvements at the site.

Upon conceptual approval of this project, TPL will coordinate site visits with Department staff, the Councilmember of the District, and other stakeholders as necessary, in order to identify the appropriate location for the installation of the proposed commemorative bench and to discuss the proposed site improvements and maintenance. The results of this process will be presented to the Board in a subsequent report.

Staff has determined that the subject project will consist of modifications to existing park facilities and placement of new accessory structures and signage. Therefore, the project is exempt from the provisions of the CEQA pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1,3) and Class 11(1,3) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The approval of the installation of the commemorative bench may have a minor fiscal impact on the Department's General Fund. The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the commemorative bench are anticipated to be funded by sources other than the Department's General Fund. The implementation of the commemorative bench and landscaping may increase the level of daily maintenance required at this facility which will be included in the existing Metro Region park maintenance routes.

This report was prepared by Darryl Ford, Management Analyst II, Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Division.

Exhibit A



Cahuenga Peak

Proposed Bench Location