

APPROVED

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 14-134

DATE June 11, 2014

JUN 11 2014
BOARD OF RECREATION
& PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 14

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: PERSHING SQUARE – CHESS TERRACE (PRJ20819) PROJECT –
ALLOCATION OF ZONE CHANGE FEES; EXEMPTION FROM THE
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

<i>for</i>	R. Adams _____	V. Israel _____
	*R. Barajas <i>CSD</i> _____	K. Regan _____
	H. Fujita _____	N. Williams _____

Neil Israel for
General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Authorize the reallocation of \$4,575.33 in Zone Change Fees, currently allocated to the Palm Court Improvement project at Pershing Square (PRJ1396A), to the Pershing Square - Chess Terrace (PRJ20819) project;
2. Approve the allocation \$40,099.02 in Zone Change Fees from Pershing Square Account 89440K-PS for the Pershing Square - Chess Terrace (PRJ20819) project, as described in the Summary of this Report; and,
3. Find that the actions taken by the Board herein are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

SUMMARY:

Pershing Square is located at 525 South Olive Street, in the Jewelry District of Downtown Los Angeles. This 5.02 acre facility, which is located atop an underground public parking facility, provides a large plaza, landscaped areas, and community rooms, for the use of the general public and the surrounding community. Pershing Square provides space for special programming and events such as concerts and ice skating. Due to the size of the park, and the facilities, features, and programs it provides, Pershing Square meets the standard for a Community Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2

NO. 14-134

Department staff has determined the renovation and improvement of the bosque, along 5th Street between Olive and Hill streets, near the northwest corner of the park, into a chess terrace is necessary and will be of benefit to park users and the surrounding community. The scope of the project would include the installation of new landscaping, hardscape, irrigation, and four (4) new chess tables. The Pershing Square Park Advisory Board has secured, through a donation, the four (4) new chess tables that are to be installed in the new chess terrace. It is estimated that the landscape, hardscape, and irrigation improvements for this project will cost approximately \$40,000.00.

On October 3, 2008, the Board approved the allocation of \$190,000.00 in Zone Change Fees for the Pershing Square - Palm Court Improvement (PRJ1396A) project (Board Report No. 08-209). This project is complete and there is \$4,575.33 in unexpended Zone Change funds available for reallocation to other projects.

Staff recommends that \$4,575.33 in unexpended Zone Change funds from the Pershing Square - Palm Court Improvement (PRJ1396A) project be reallocated to the Pershing Square - Chess Terrace (PRJ20819) project. Additionally, there is \$35,523.69 in Zone Changes funds in the Pershing Square Account 89440K-PS that is available and currently unallocated to any project. Staff recommends that this additional \$35,523.69 in Zone Change funds also be allocated to the Pershing Square - Chess Terrace (PRJ20819) project.

Upon approval of this report, the total Zone Change Fees allocation for the Pershing Square - Chess Terrace (PRJ20819) project would be \$40,099.02. These Zone Change Fees were collected within two (2) miles of Pershing Square, which is the standard distance for the allocation of Zone Change Fees for Community Parks and facilities.

Staff has determined that the subject project will consist of modifications to existing park facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use and placement of new accessory structures. Therefore, the project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1,3) and Class 11(3) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The approval of this allocation of Quimby Fees will have no fiscal impact on the Department as the implementation of the proposed park capital improvements will not increase the level of daily maintenance required at this facility.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 3

NO. 14-134

The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by Quimby Fees or funding sources other than the Department's General fund.

The maintenance of the proposed park improvements can be performed by current staff with no overall impact to existing maintenance services.

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