

APPROVED
JUNE 18 2020
BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 20-101

DATE June 18, 2020

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: PROPOSED INCREASES TO THE GRIFFITH PARK PAY PARKING FEES

AP Diaz	_____	* S. Piña-Cortez	<u>now</u>
H. Fujita	_____	C. Santo Domingo	_____
V. Israel	_____	N. Williams	_____



General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Authorize Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to amend the Griffith Park Pay Parking section of the Schedule of Rates and Fees as detailed in Attachment 1 of this Report effective upon the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' (Board) approval of this Report;
2. Authorize RAP's General Manager, or designee, to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

In September 2016, the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners (Board) approved Report No. 16-186, which considered the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Griffith Park/Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan (CPEP), beginning the process of installing Pay Parking Kiosks along Western Canyon Road, West Observatory Road, East Observatory Road and the main parking lot of the Griffith Observatory (Observatory) in Griffith Park. The intended goals of CPEP include the following: providing daily DASH Bus and parkwide shuttle service to the Observatory; reducing the number of automobiles driving up to the Observatory and generating revenue to subsidize the LADOT DASH service, while paying for an improved Traffic Control Program.

In March 2017, the Griffith Park/Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan began full operation. Since its inception, it has become a popular and successful program offering multi-modal options with robust daily DASH bus services for visitors to Griffith Park and the Observatory.

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In July 2018, the Board approved Report No. 18-128, which established a revised rate structure to reflect time-of-year changes in demand for parking and vehicle traffic traversing through Griffith Park, especially on the roads leading to the Observatory. The goal was to support RAP's continuous efforts to further reduce automobile traffic from entering Griffith Park, while encouraging multi-modal options, particularly through public transit. Revenues were to be used to further promote public transit through marketing, increased bus services from the Red Line Station, establishment of offsite parking, further development of a park-wide shuttle system (including shuttle service to the areas along the north end of the park, such as Travel Town and the Los Angeles Zoo), and to support operations as proposed in RAP's fiscal year 2020-21 budget as approved by the Mayor and City Council. The new fee structure had a three (3) tier system based on anticipated traffic congestion and parking demands.

In the last two years, use of the DASH Observatory/Los Feliz has made that LADOT bus line one of the busiest in the city. As planned, funds from the paid parking program have supported the bus service, vital park improvements, and the development of the Parkline Shuttle service. In that time, demand for the limited parking in Griffith Park has remained very strong and regularly exceeds the available supply. With the recent COVID-19 Pandemic, guidelines have been put in place that require extra staffing to promote social distancing, use of face coverings, increase of sanitizing work areas and limiting patron access to trails, park roads and parking lots. For that reason, and consistent with the priorities in the Mayor's proposed fiscal year 2020-21 budget, RAP is proposing to change the rates in the three-tier structure. The new rates would be:

- \$10.00 per hour during low parking demands such as extended periods of poor weather conditions.
- \$15.00 per hour during moderate parking demands such as off-season months.
- \$20.00 per hour during high parking demands such as special events at Griffith Observatory or Griffith Park, holiday periods and summer months.

At the discretion of the Griffith Region Superintendent, a short-term rate of up to Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) per hour could be implemented on a temporary basis if there is a finding that additional resources such as Park Rangers, Department of Transportation (DOT) Officers, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and RAP Maintenance crews are needed for safety and sanitation purposes during unusual, extraordinary occurrences. Examples include the Solar Eclipse in 2017 and the Space Shuttle flyover in 2012 that brought record breaking crowds of tens of thousands of visitors at the same time, causing extreme stresses on the park, park personnel and the surrounding neighborhoods.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED

There are approximately six million people who visit Griffith Observatory area annually.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

RAP staff has determined this action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c) as it is an activity that will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and consequently is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378. Therefore, no CEQA documentation is required.

FISCAL IMPACT

This amendment to the Griffith Park Pay Parking section of the Schedule of Rates and Fees is expected to provide additional funding to RAP's Special Fund and offset some of the costs associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic requirements for social distancing.

This Report was prepared by Sean Hinton, Acting Superintendent, Griffith Region.

LIST OF ATTACHMENT

Griffith Park Pay Parking Schedule of Rates and Fees

ATTACHMENT 1

PAY PARKING LOTS

(Revised 8/17) 7/18- 6/2020

Fees collected from facilities listed below are deposited into the Special Fund Account as follows:

- 100% to Cabrillo Beach Parking Lot
- 100% to Harbor Parking Lot
- 85% to Westwood Parking Lot
- 100% to Hoover Parking Lot
- 100% to Griffith Pay Parking Lot

Remaining monies are deposited into the Department of Recreation and Parks General Fund Account.

CABRILLO BEACH PARKING LOT

RATES

Sunday through Saturday 5:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Vehicles	\$1.00/per space per hour (\$9.00 Max)
Oversized/Trailer/Bus	\$2.00/per space per hour (\$15.00 Max)
(Vehicles with attached trailers are permitted to stay overnight with paid parking only)	
Filming	\$2.00/per space per hour

A \$4.00 flat fee will be offered to private parties renting the Cabrillo Beach Bath House and Cabrillo Marine Aquarium with a minimum bulk purchase of 50 parking stalls.

**School buses with students K-12 attending a Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Tour are admitted free Monday through Friday. All other buses must pay oversized rate.

CABRILLO PARKING LOT EXEMPTIONS

The following groups will be exempt from parking fees provided they comply with established procedures issued by the Park Services Parking Office.

1. Polar Bears – A Cabrillo Beach Booster Club that was established in 1936
2. School buses transporting groups which have booked guided or self-guided tours with Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
3. Attendees of Department sponsored events
4. Attendees of cosponsored Department, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium or Bathhouse events, with the approval of the Assistant General Manager or designee
5. City and County staff scheduled to work at facilities located at Cabrillo Beach
6. Fee exemptions may be extended to Friends of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium or volunteers with written approval by the Assistant General Manager or designee

HARBOR PARKING LOT

RATES

Monday through Sunday 5:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	\$1.00/per space per hour (\$5.00 Max)
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Filming \$2.00/per space per hour

HOOVER PAY PARKING LOT

Sunday through Saturday – 24 hour's daily

RATES

Vehicles \$1.00/per space per hour

Filming \$2.00/per space per hour

WESTWOOD PAY PARKING LOT

RATES

Monday through Friday only 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Permit -\$125.00/month, per space or \$1,500.00 if purchased annually

Monday through Friday only 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Parking Meter - \$1.00/per space per hour

GRIFFITH PARK PAY PARKING

Hours:

Monday through Friday 12 noon to 10 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

\$10.00 per hour during low parking demands such as extended periods of poor weather conditions.

\$15.00 per hour during moderate parking demands such as off-season months.

\$20.00 per hour during high parking demands such as special events at Griffith Observatory or Griffith Park, holiday periods and summer months.

At the discretion of the Griffith Region Superintendent, a short-term rate of up to Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) per hour could be implemented on a temporary basis if there is a finding that additional resources such as Park Rangers, Department of Transportation (DOT) Officers, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and RAP Maintenance crews are needed for safety and sanitation purposes during unusual, extraordinary occurrences. Examples include the Solar Eclipse in 2017 and the Space Shuttle flyover in 2012 that brought record breaking crowds of tens of thousands of visitors at the same time, causing extreme stresses on the park, park personnel and the surrounding neighborhoods.