

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 01-02

DATE January 17, 2001

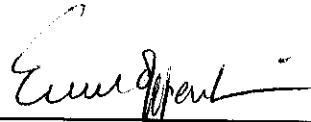
C.D. 06

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: DEL REY LAGOON OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS (#1272B) – ADOPTION OF FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

G. Lum _____
K. Regan _____
S. Klippel _____
J. Combs _____

J. Duggan _____
H. Fujita _____
*M. Tamuri MT _____
M. Matthews _____
A. Corrales _____



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Review, consider and adopt the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) that was prepared for the proposed outdoor improvements at Del Rey Lagoon, finding that all potentially significant environmental effects of the project have been properly disclosed, evaluated and mitigated in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State and City CEQA Guidelines, and that the MND reflects the Department's independent judgement and analysis; and,
2. Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Program found in Chapter 6 of the Final MND that was prepared in accordance with the requirements in Section 21081.6 of CEQA and which specifies mitigation measures designed to reduce or eliminate the potentially significant environmental impacts identified in the MND; and,
3. Direct staff to file the Notice of Determination (NOD) for the project with the Los Angeles City and County Clerks within five days of the Board's action; and,
4. Authorize the Director of Finance to draft a check in the amount of \$1275.00, payable to the Los Angeles County Clerk, for the NOD filing fee.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2

NO. 01-02

SUMMARY:

The Department is proposing certain outdoor improvements at the Del Rey Lagoon Park to improve the ecological health of the lagoon and to upgrade existing deteriorating facilities. Del Rey Lagoon Park is located in an environmentally sensitive area that has been in decline for several years. The ecological decline has been attributed to urban pollution from local stormwater runoff drains, as well as tidal influx from Ballona Creek. Runoff from Ballona Creek has been documented as a source of contamination in Santa Monica Bay and may contribute to the degradation of the water quality of Del Rey Lagoon.

Proposed enhancements to the lagoon would be accomplished in an effort to reduce the growth of weeds and algae and increase the diversity of marine and terrestrial fauna. It is proposed that the lagoon be drained and to allow removal of accumulated debris from the bottom of the lagoon. The enhancements will include the installation of stormwater interceptors (4) and bioswales, which would reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and pollutants entering the lagoon. These "stormceptors" will trap debris and sediments in a separation chamber and screen them through hydraulic action. Oils and grease are expected to be removed at efficiency levels of 80-90% by adding sorbents to the unit. Regular maintenance will be conducted by Department maintenance staff and will be cleaned out approximately 2-4 times per year. Additionally, to prevent large debris from entering the lagoon, steel grates will be installed within the streets where surface water inlets are located.

The existing lagoon shoreline currently experiences considerable erosion, and, as part of the project, portions of the shoreline will be reconstructed as a plantable modular retaining wall with erosion control grids. The erosion control grids would consist of a fabric-type material that protects slopes while enabling vegetation to grow. The construction of two retaining walls is proposed on both sides of the lagoon. One would measure approximately 350 linear feet on the east bank, and the other would measure approximately 230 feet on the west bank.

A tide gate currently connects the lagoon to Ballona Creek to the north. No physical improvements are proposed to the tide gate. However, the Department proposes to maintain more consistent operations of the tide gate to provide more efficient tidal flows into and out of the lagoon. The tide gate will be operated manually on a daily basis in the most effective fashion possible through a contractor hired by the Department.

Proposed improvements to the park consist of replacing the existing play equipment, making parking area repairs, and enhancing the existing landscaping.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 3

NO. 01-02

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for the proposed project and made available to governmental agencies and the general public for review and comments from October 12 to November 13, 2000. One written comment was received from Caltrans raising significant environmental issues to the project. This comment and the corresponding staff response are incorporated into the Final MND, copies of which have been provided to the Board for its review and consideration. Mitigation measures have also been identified which will reduce any of the project's potentially significant impacts to a level less than significant. These measures have been formally documented in the Mitigation Monitoring Program, which is incorporated in the Final MND (Chapter 6). The Mitigation Monitoring Program is also being presented to the Board for adoption as required by the Public Resources Code, Section 21081.6

Councilmember Galanter's office concurs with the findings of the Final MND and recommended Board actions.

This Board Report was prepared by Paul Davis, Environmental Specialist.