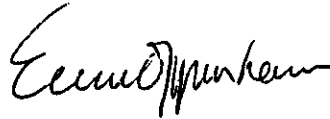


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Recreation and Parks

June 20, 2001

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: ELLEN OPPENHEIM
General Manager



SUBJECT: APPROVAL PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE HANSEN AND SEPULVEDA FLOOD CONTROL BASINS

1. Recently several major development projects and special events such as the Valley Fair, the Major League Baseball Academy, the Children's Museum, and the Boundless Playground have been proposed for the Hansen Dam flood control area. As a result, a review of the protocol used for approval of these types of projects was requested by the Board. The following is an overview of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approval process.
2. The Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Los Angeles currently have two 50 year Master Leases for the Hansen and Sepulveda Flood Control Basins (FCB). These Master Leases outline the permissible recreation functions and activities in which the Department may be engaged in the flood control basins. The leases also note which functions and activities the Army Corps may review. The Master Leases also include a Project Review Protocol allowing the Army Corps the right to review any new projects undertaken by Recreation and Parks in the flood control basins. There is no specific protocol for the review of Department special events outlined in the Master Lease. However, the Corps is contending that rules and regulations published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in May 2000 give them the authority to require the City to seek prior approval of special events and to regulate the use of alcohol at the dam. The Department will seek a legal opinion from the City Attorney's office to determine which document takes precedence.
3. From our review of both the lease and the May 2000 Federal Regulations, the Army Corps of Engineer responsibilities include the following major provisions:
 - a. Approval of entrance and admission fees, charges for goods and services, and conditions under which the City may charge parking fees. The Army Corps may also request attendance figures from the Department.
 - b. Entering into agricultural leases in the flood control basins. However, when the City identifies a need for the property under an agricultural lease for recreational purposes, the Corps may be requested by the City to vacate the agricultural lessee.
 - c. The right to regulate parking, traffic flow plans, requests to install structures, and landscaping.

d. The right to regulate the hours of operation, "Quiet Hours," sound equipment, possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages, smoking, possession of firearms, and issue fireworks permits. The Army Corps may also prohibit gambling or other concessions not conducive to good public morals.

e. The responsibility to regulate swimming, scuba diving, and camping activities. Additionally, the Army Corps regulates sanitation, grey water, refuse, gasoline storage, fires, campfires, burnable materials, and the control of pets and livestock.

4. Prior to implementation or construction, conceptual approval for a project must be sought from the Corps. The proposed project must be consistent with the Corps Master Plan for the flood control basin in terms of "type, impact, and recreational value." The scope of the project must be reviewed by the Corps to ensure that the flood storage capacity within the basin will not be affected. Additionally, the Department must conduct a public review process, approved by the Corps prior to implementation. If a proposed project is not consistent with the Master Plan, a revision must be completed by Army Corps staff prior to proceeding with implementation of the project.

5. Conforming with the Corps of Engineers Hansen Dam master Plan, the Department conducted a feasibility study and prepared a facilities site plan to show the status of land open to development at Hansen Dam. The feasibility study was developed taking into consideration the relationship between existing facilities, proposed facilities, and facilities that are in the planning or construction phase. Six sites that are suitable for new or expanded facilities were identified and are available for development. Several community workshops were conducted by department staff to discuss ideas and possible uses for each identified area in the basin. The open workshops were very well received by the community. Several hundred community members attended and were given an opportunity to present proposals and indicate their preferences. When the results of the community workshops were determined, schematic plans and cost estimates were completed by department staff. An informational memorandum containing the results and plans of the feasibility study was submitted to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners on July 7, 1999.