

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 01-163

DATE May 16, 2001

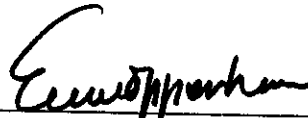
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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ORCUTT RANCH - CHANGE OF OPERATING HOURS

J. Combs _____
*A. Corrales _____
J. Duggan _____
H. Fujita _____

J. Kolb _____
M. Tamuri _____
M. Matthews _____



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board modify the operating hours at Orcutt Ranch to open at sunrise and close at sunset, and forward this request to the City Council for approval and amendment of Municipal Code Section 63.44 B.14(c) to include Orcutt Ranch.

SUMMARY:

Orcutt Ranch is a 24-acre former estate in West Hills which includes a stately Spanish-style home, formal gardens, and citrus groves. In 1966, the City purchased the property from the Orcutt family and designated it as Historical Monument No. 31. The facility serves as a horticultural center, district maintenance yard, and community gardens. Also, the Department initiated wedding rentals in the late 1970s.

The park should be closed from sunset to sunrise for safety and security reasons. Operationally, staff plans to close the service yard parking gate at 5:00 p.m. and leave a pedestrian gate open until sunset. Also, the facility is staffed with a resident caretaker to enhance security and provide patron assistance. The practice in the past has been to restrict public access after 5:00 p.m. regardless of the daylight hours.

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The Board can administratively establish earlier closing and later opening hours for any of the facilities under its control (City Charter Sec 170 et seq.) However, without approval of the Council by ordinance, such actions would not have the force of the law.

Report prepared by Linda J. Barth.