

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 01-385

DATE: October 17, 2001

C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADDITION TO THE AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE MEMORIAL IN JOHN S. GIBSON, JR. PARK, SAN PEDRO

J. Combs	<u> </u>	J. Kolb	<u> </u>
*T. Corrales	<u> </u>	M. Tamuri	<u> </u>
J. Duggan	<u> </u>	M. Matthews	<u> </u>
H. Fujita	<u> </u>		

Margaret Matthews for

 General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board approve the expansion of the American Merchant Marine Memorial, located in John S. Gibson, Jr., Park, in San Pedro. This expansion to the existing commemorative structure will allow for recognition of additional veterans who lost their lives during various national conflicts.

SUMMARY:

The American Merchant Marine Memorial Committee, Inc., an affiliate of the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, celebrated the 12th Anniversary of the dedication of the Merchant Marine Memorial Plaza, on National Maritime Day, May 22, 2001. The Committee announced a capital campaign in 1999 to raise funds to build an addition to the existing memorial, which was gifted to the City, and which was constructed and has been maintained, at no cost to the City, since its installation. This addition will consist of four expanded Walls of Honor which will perpetuate the names of American Merchant Mariners and their ships lost in action during World War II, the Korean War, and the Viet Nam conflict. This project will also improve the existing site by redesigning the fascia of the primary wall, re-tiling the fountain, and adding a decorative bronze compass rose to the original plaza.

The capital campaign has a fund-raising goal of \$1 million and, as with the original memorial project, will provide for all associated costs of construction, maintenance, and insurance with a provision for an endowment to provide for perpetual maintenance. To date, the committee has raised \$470,000 which includes a \$100,000 grant from the State of California and a \$100,000 capital construction pledge from the Los Angeles Harbor Department. Earlier this year,

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the United States Congress, House of Representatives, approved a \$500,000 matching grant (HR-1088) which is now before the United States Senate. The Committee is close to meeting its fund raising goal and will be ready to start construction on the memorial expansion in John S. Gibson, Jr. Park near the Los Angeles Maritime Museum by January 2002.

It is anticipated that \$500,000 will be used for construction of the expansion, and the remaining \$500,000 will be added to the existing endowment and dedicated for perpetual maintenance. The committee performs its maintenance obligations pursuant to terms of Permit 196, which was issued by the Department in September 22, 1988, and granted for an indefinite period for this purpose. In addition to the existing permit, a right of entry permit will be issued by the Department for construction of the expansion to the Memorial.

The Committee seeks approval from the Department of Recreation and Parks for expansion of the American Merchant Marine Memorial, as depicted in the enclosed architectural plan and rendering as prepared by the San Pedro firm of Joncich, Sturm & Associates, original architects of the Memorial. Planning and Construction staff has reviewed and approved the plans for this expansion. Copies of Amended Permit 196 and the formal agreement with the Harbor Department, pledging contribution in the amount of \$100,000, are on file in the Board office.

Prepared by William Lee, Director, Maritime Museum