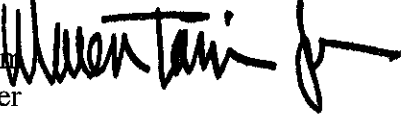


FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Recreation and Parks

January 9, 2002

TO: Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

FROM: Ellen Oppenheim 
General Manager

SUBJECT: MACARTHUR PARK - OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS
N. OF WILSHIRE (#1227E)

The following information report is provided in response to concerns expressed by a private citizen at the November 28, 2001 Board Meeting, regarding the drainage problem in MacArthur Park North of Wilshire. In preparing the improvements, the Department was aware that water at the park is lower than the adjacent streets by twenty feet in some areas. According to Geotechnologies, Inc., who conducted the geotechnical engineering investigation, this is an area of "perched water". Perched water is water that is trapped above a layer of bedrock. MacArthur Park Lake is also "perched water". The portion of the park North of Wilshire was at one time part of the lake, therefore, the water is very near the surface.

Several solutions were researched, among them collecting water in drain pipes and transporting to the storm water system in the street. The storm water system proved to be too high, and pump costly. In addition, Geotechnologies, Inc. predicted that the pump would have to run day and night, possibly lowering MacArthur Park Lake.

Another potential solution was importing soil to raise the existing elevation. This solution would have required import of at least ten (10) feet of fill over the entire park, which would have consumed all the project funding without providing any recreational value to the community. Due to finding constraints, the final design consisted of removing three (3) feet of existing soil from the lowest area and replacing it with a more porous soil mix. Also, as recommended by Geotechnologies, Inc., the irrigation system was replaced, eliminating potential leaky lines that may have added to the problem.

At the design phase of this project, it was known that within the available funding, we could improve the condition, but would not solve the problem completely. It is a fact that, after big rains, the lowest areas will not be playable for a couple of days. The Council Office at the time was aware of the situation and was not deterred. They believed that the community would be gaining badly needed recreational space, and concurred in moving ahead with the Prop K project funds to make improvement to the current park.

Prepared by Virginia Hatley.

W.A. #8988/1186