

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
Department of Recreation and Parks

June 19, 2002

To: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

From: MARJORIE MATTHEWS, Acting General Manager



Subject: STATUS OF CABRILLO BEACH GRANT

In June 2001, the Board approved and submitted a grant application for \$1.2 million in State Clean Beaches Initiative funds to address poor water quality problems at Inner Cabrillo Beach. Funding sources have changed necessitating the transfer for lead responsibility over the administration of the grant to the Port of Los Angeles.

The State Water Resources Control Board approved the original Department proposal, which included a public education program, physical improvements to the beach, and alternative recreational opportunities during unhealthful beach conditions. However, due to the Governor's cutbacks on the State budget, Proposition 13 monies rather than State General funds would be used to fund the proposal. In October 2001, the Department revised and resubmitted a proposal for a new Clean Water Act grant which required greater emphasis on demonstrating definitive, long-term solutions to water quality problems.

The granting agency requested that the Port of Los Angeles take the lead on this grant due to its greater ability to effect long-term solutions to the problem. The Department has no objections with the Port taking the lead and will continue to work closely with the Port to ensure that the Department's original educational and recreational components are retained in the resubmitted grant.

BACKGROUND

Water Quality Problems at Cabrillo Beach

The Inner Cabrillo Beach area, which the Department operates and maintains, has experienced problems due to poor water quality for a number of years. Negative effects include potential health risks from exposure to contaminated beach water and the need to close the beach to recreational users when contaminant levels exceed acceptable thresholds.

For more than 40 percent of the year 2000, the beach was posted with signs warning of contaminated water. The beach's poor track record is also reflected in various reports, including the Los

Angeles County Grand Jury Report, which cited Inner Cabrillo Beach as being one of the dirtiest beaches in the area. It also received an "F" grade for four of five years by the environmental group, Heal the Bay. This group monitors California beaches, which are graded on an A-F scale, based on the risk of adverse health effects to humans.

Heal the Bay was instrumental in advocating for the development of the State funded Clean Beaches Initiative grant to help clean up polluted beaches and harbors. Organization President, Mark Gold, sits on the grant's advisory committee and has been a strong advocate in ensuring that the State set aside a portion of its allocated grant money for clean-up of Inner Cabrillo Beach.

#### Request for the Department to Submit a Clean Beaches Grant

The State Water Resources Control Board issued a request for Clean Beach Initiative grant proposals for projects to reduce health risks and increase the public's access to clean beaches. The Port elected not to compete for the grant. Members of Heal the Bay and other environmental advocacy groups were concerned that no proposals would be submitted to address the problems at Inner Cabrillo Beach. Additionally, Heal the Bay had hoped to include in the grant the development of alternative recreation, specifically, a water play structure, to be used during hazardous beach conditions.

The City's Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) informed the Department of the availability of funds in the Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI) specifically earmarked for Cabrillo Beach. The Department was asked to act as lead agency in submitting a proposal to include the alternative recreation component. Although a water play structure was determined to be infeasible due to high maintenance obligations and other associated problems, an alternative proposal was developed by the Department to help address the water quality problems at Inner Cabrillo Beach. On June 4, 2001, the Department submitted their proposal.

#### The Proposal

In order to address the problem of poor water quality, the Department proposed an innovative multi-faceted project to increase environmental awareness, provide alternative sources of recreation, and improve poor water quality resulting from poor water circulation. Since the property is on lease from the Port, the Department solicited their input and recommendations for the proposal.

The Department's proposal included the following project elements:

1. A sand relocation element to provide immediate improvement to water circulation. Benefits include greater dispersion of bacteria and other contaminants currently found in the wading area.
2. Enhanced pollution awareness education provided through placement of mobile Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Clean Beaches carts and construction of innovative interpretational panels at the lifeguard towers.
3. A marine-themed structure with water misters to provide alternate recreational opportunities during beach closures and installation of interpretive panels sited adjacent to the structure to provide an educational linkage between marine life and pollution problems.

The total cost for this proposal was \$1,217,000.

#### Transition of Funding Source

Department staff met with representatives of the State Water Resources Control Board to discuss the proposal and aspects of the grant process. At that meeting, the Department was informed that the proposal was approved but that the funding source had changed from State General funds to Proposition 13 funding due to the Governor's cutbacks on the State budget. This required a resubmittal of the Department's proposal because the new requirements of the grant changed. The revised Clean Water Act funded grant placed greater emphasis on demonstrating definitive, long-term solutions to water quality problems. The Department resubmitted the proposed grant in October 2001.

#### Transfer of Grant to Port of Los Angeles

Although the Department received positive feedback from the State regarding the resubmitted proposal, the Department was subsequently informed by the State, in early 2002, that the grant's advisory committee favored a long-term solution for Cabrillo Beach. This group indicated that it would give preference to a project to develop a comprehensive water circulation study. Accordingly, the Port would assume responsibility as lead agency for the project to address water quality problems at Cabrillo Beach. Staff was informed that this decision was made for several reasons:

1. The shift in the funding source placed a more stringent requirement that the proposer demonstrate the effectiveness of proposed long-term solutions. The Department's proposal addressed improved water quality by improving water circulation through removal of sand which had recently (over the last decade) accreted along the shore. The purpose of this removal was to reconfigure the shoreline to help influence positive tidal patterns. However, the State's review committee did not feel that this was a long-term solution, as sand accretion is continual; therefore, sand removal was not a permanent solution.
2. The State's review committee felt that the Port had greater ability to propose, develop, and oversee a long-term solution to the problem. The Port has recently engaged the services of the Army Corps of Engineers to study the effect of Port developments on water circulation patterns at Cabrillo Beach and beyond. Although the Corps' water modeling study, which the Port commissioned, did not specifically address Inner Cabrillo Beach, the State felt that the Port study could be expanded to include this area. In addition, the State expressed a desire to fund research into other potential solutions, such as creating an opening in the breakwater and other ways to improve water quality which the State believes the Port has the capability to accomplish.

#### The Port's Cabrillo Beach Proposal

The Port is currently preparing the third revision to this grant proposal. Although there will be a change in scope of the proposal to focus on scientific water studies and research, the Department continues to work closely with the Port to retain the Department's educational and recreational elements in its resubmitted proposal. The Port has indicated its strong support for the retention of these elements and has made a commitment to include them in its new project proposal.

Staff concurs, overall, that the Port, as the lead agency for the proposal, will provide the best long-term solution for water quality problems at Inner Cabrillo Beach. The Port's support on the educational/alternative recreation components demonstrates the Port's sensitivity to community services and interests.

Prepared by Linda Clifford, Management Analyst II

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Department of Recreation and Parks

June 19, 2002

To: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

From: MARJORIE MATTHEWS, Acting General Manager



Subject: WILMINGTON SENIOR CENTER

The Department has been requested, through Council Motion, to report on the original intent of the new Wilmington Senior Center, how a proposed change of operation by a non-profit group would affect the community, and the feasibility and costs of leasing the center to the non-profit group. This report was submitted to the City Council's Arts, Health, and Humanities Committee on June 14, 2002.

Background Information

Based on a community needs assessment and the award of funds to construct a senior recreation center to serve the active older adult in the Wilmington community, the Wilmington Senior Center was constructed and is scheduled to open on July 1, 2002. The Department submitted a budget request for fiscal year 2002/2003 for staff and equipment to enable operation as a Department-run senior recreation center. During this review, the Budget and Finance Committee requested that the City Administrative Officer (CAO) report on the possibility of transferring the responsibility of the new Wilmington Senior Center to a nonprofit agency in an effort to minimize City spending. The CAO indicated that, subsequent to Board and Council approval, operation of the new facility could be transferred to a nonprofit agency through a lease agreement.

As a result, the City Council passed a motion on May 15, 2002 requesting further information from the Departments of Recreation and Parks and Aging on the feasibility of transferring operations to a non-profit agency and changing the use of the location to a senior multipurpose center to serve the frail elderly.

Department staff's recommendation to the Arts, Health, and Humanities Committee was that the Wilmington Adult Center be operated as intended by the Department with some space made available, at no charge, to the Wilmington MPC as an adjunct to their existing location. We believe that such a collaborative approach would improve the service delivery of the MPC while simultaneously providing expanded recreation programs to active seniors in the Wilmington area.

The following was provided for review by Arts, Health, and Humanities Committee, in response to the request for information.

Original Use of the Facility

Of the 24 senior centers throughout the City, only one, the Anderson Senior Center, is located in the Harbor area. This center is located in San Pedro and primarily serves seniors within a two to three mile radius of the facility. However, most seniors in Wilmington live three to five miles from Anderson and require a more convenient location close to public transportation. Many of these seniors attend senior clubs and programs offered at facilities closer to where they live. Unfortunately, due to the restricted space and hours of operation at these locations, programs and activities are severely limited. The Wilmington Adult Center is envisioned by the Department to address this need.

Although an MPC has existed for years in the Wilmington community providing daily assistance services and programs, respondents to the 1999 Recreation and Parks' Community Needs Assessment survey clearly indicated that an additional senior center and a different set of senior programs were needed. This position is strengthened by the response of attendees at a regional workshop who specifically indicated that a senior center was needed in Wilmington, not another MPC or relocation of the existing MPC site.

The Wilmington Adult Center was designed to be a senior center, with the senior community playing an active and integral part in the process. The new facility features large craft rooms, billiards areas, a large multipurpose room, and a stage for performances, large meetings, and social activities. The design was reviewed and supported by the community and by former Councilmember Rudy Svorinich. MPC sites, on the other hand, are usually designed with many smaller rooms conducive to the consultative type of social services offered at an MPC.

Operational Feasibility

The services offered at senior centers and at multipurpose centers are not duplicative. This was confirmed in the CAO/CLA report (Assignment 01-10-1079). A distinct difference exists between the services that a senior center provides and those provided by an MPC. An MPC generally serves the frail elderly by providing assistance with daily living needs such as meal provision, help with housework and chores, social services, and similar programs. On the other hand, a Department of Recreation and Parks senior center serves an active and healthy older adult. Services and programs at our senior centers include various recreation and fitness programs, art classes, social clubs and other activities to promote the health and well-being of the active older adult.

While some MPCs may offer limited recreational and educational classes, for the most part these are adjuncts rather than core services. Depending on their funding source, MPCs in the City are obligated to provide the specific services listed below.

Title IIIB Services:

- Homemaker assistance (shopping, light housekeeping, meal preparation, etc.)
- Money management (paying bills, filling out various forms)
- Chores (heavier house or yard work and other miscellaneous chores)
- Personal care (assistance in daily living activities)
- Case management
- Community and consumer services

Proposition A Services

- Transportation assistance

Title IIIC Services

- Congregate meals (cafeteria style)
- Homebound meals

The Department of Recreation and Parks has the responsibility to provide all of our residents with recreation programs and services. Senior citizen recreation programs and services have been a core function of the Department of Recreation and Parks for over 65 years. We operate 24 senior centers, three multipurpose centers, and oversee the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Federation of Senior Citizen Clubs, and the Senior Citizen Section.

Recreation and Parks classes at the new Wilmington facility have been designed to meet the needs of the active older adult. Proposed classes include:

Health/Fitness

Tai Chi  
Yoga for Energy  
Lite Aerobics  
Beginner Golf  
Singles/Doubles Tennis

Dance Classes

American Swing  
Line Dancing  
Ballroom Dancing

Art and Culture

Beginning Scrapbooking  
Victorian Pressed Flowers  
Mosaic Table Workshop  
Floral Design  
Quick Quilt Making

Special Interest

Strength Fitness  
Adult Chorus  
Computer for Beginners  
Only Appetizers

Impact to the Community

Shifting the use of the new building to a non-profit group would reduce City expenditures by approximately \$14,358 in one-time start up costs and \$212,971 in recurring, annual costs. This budgeted amount is detailed, as follows:

One-Time Start Up Costs

Equipment	\$	9,193
Operating Equipment	\$	<u>5,165</u>
Total	\$	14,358

Recurring, Annual Costs

Full Time Staff	\$	112,005
Part Time Staff	\$	43,449
Contract Services	\$	16,800
Operating Supplies	\$	26,720
Maintenance Material	\$	8,000
Office Supplies	\$	5,000
Printing	\$	<u>1,000</u>
Total	\$	212,974

This is the amount allocated by the Mayor for the Department to operate the Wilmington Adult Center. The savings would come at the expense of recreation programs for the active older adult. The MPC would gain a City-owned building designed to be a senior center from which to execute their current programs for frail, older adults, while the Department would lose the opportunity to provide additional recreational services to the active senior community.