

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 02-233

DATE June 5, 2002

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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE USE OF TOYON CANYON LANDFILL FOR LAPD BICYCLE TRAINING ACTIVITIES

J. Combs	_____	J. Kolb	_____
*T. Coroalles	_____	M. Tamuri	_____
J. Duggan	_____		
H. Fujita	_____		

*Margie Matthews*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Designate areas in the Toyon Canyon Landfill for a pilot program allowing use by the Los Angeles Police Department for officer bicycle training; and
2. Find that the pilot program is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 pursuant to Article III, Section 2 (d) and Article VII, Section 1 (f), Class 6 (2) of the City's CEQA Guidelines; and
3. Direct staff to prepare, and the General Manger or her designee to execute, a right-of-entry permit with the Los Angeles Police Department to conduct 96 hours per year of bicycle training at Toyon Canyon Landfill; and
4. Direct staff to post the necessary notices in the affected locations to alert the public as to the limited use of these paths for authorized users only.

SUMMARY:

The Los Angeles Municipal Code, section 86.04, prohibits riding of bicycles on park property designated as a trail by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners. LAMC section 63.44 requires that a bicycle can only ride on paths designed and provided for bicycle purposes.

Prohibited by the Los Angeles Municipal Code to ride on current

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trails in Elysian and Griffith Parks, and seeking a location that could be specifically designated for unpaved bicycle riding that would not interfere with current park patron activity, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), with assistance from Councilmember Tom LaBonge's office, identified Toyon Canyon, currently used as a landfill within Griffith Park, as a suitable location where they could fulfill their California police officer standards training, which requires three hours of bicycle training on mountainous dirt paths during each officers' 40-hour training program.

To demonstrate its support of identifying a place within the City of Los Angeles where LAPD could train, the City Council, on May 15, 2002, adopted a motion requesting that the Department designate paths within Toyon Canyon, subject to concurrence of the Bureau of Sanitation, the current permittee, for use by LAPD to conduct bicycle training up to 96 hours per year.

Department staff determined that, on a pilot basis, it would recommend support of this use, as its impacts to the current landfill environment would be minimal and since the location is not open to the public, concerns over the safety of this area for multiple uses would not be an issue.

While the Department has been working on developing new trail opportunities for mountain bikers since December 1996, and continues discussion with the community on developing a mountain bike policy, it is the intent of the Department to return exclusive use of Toyon Canyon as a landfill upon vacation by LAPD, and not to convert the area into a mountain bike trail for public use. The Department is currently piloting a mountain bike program at Mandeville Canyon. The proposed mountain bike policy first draft has been reviewed by the public and an additional community meeting is planned for additional review of the policy in the near future.

Department environmental staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 pursuant to Article III, Section 2 (d) and Article VII, Section 1 (f), Class 6 (2) of the City's CEQA Guidelines.

This report was prepared by Glenn Robison and Dale Wong Nguyen.