

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 02-236

DATE: June 5, 2002

C.D. 15 _____

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL OF AN OFF-LEASH DOG PARK ON KNOLL HILL

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



 Acting General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Approve, in concept, the agreement between the Port of Los Angeles and Recreation and Parks for the creation and maintenance of an off-leash dog park on Knoll Hill.
2. Concur with the findings of the environmental review by the Port of Los Angeles that the proposed construction of the off-leash Dog Park is exempt from the requirements of the CEQA in accordance with Article VII, Class 4 (7), and Class 11 (2), (3) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.
3. Request the City Council to pass the Ordinance amending Section 63.44 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, as prepared by the City Attorney; and
4. Upon City Council approval of the Ordinance, direct staff to file a Notice of Determination with the Los Angeles City and County Clerks.

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SUMMARY:

Over the last few years, dog owners on the Palos Verdes Peninsula have requested that a portion of land be designated as an off-leash dog park. One of the main proponents for this type of development has been Peninsula Dog Parks, Inc. (Peninsula DPI), a non profit organization, based in San Pedro. This group has been involved in raising funds for this cause, and has gained support from the local community and Councilmember Janice Hahn, and her predecessor, Councilmember Rudy Svorinich to develop an off-leash dog park.

Peninsula DPI contacted Recreation and Parks and the Port of Los Angeles, to request assistance in locating a suitable venue. Initially, potential venues to be considered included vacant Navy property along Western Avenue. However, discovery of the presence of Blue Butterflies on the property may preclude use of this site.

Although a permanent site has not yet been found, the Port has agreed to provide up to 3 acres of land on a temporary basis, on Knoll Hill, in San Pedro, for creation of an interim dog park. Temporary use has been granted, as plans for future use of this site are not final. The term will be for one year, with 3 one-year renewal options.

The Port is currently improving the land, in preparation of a targeted early summer opening. Improvements include fencing, double gates, posts to mount disposal bags, and water lines. The Port will also be responsible for repairs to these improvements.

The Department of Recreation and Parks will be the lessee in an agreement with the Port, and provide ongoing maintenance. This agreement will be at no cost to the Department. This agreement is being drafted by Port City Attorney staff and is slated for approval by the Board of Harbor Commissioners on June 12, 2002.

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Negotiations are in progress regarding Port support in the amount of \$20,000 annually to help fund the maintenance provided by the Department. In the event that the Port is unable to provide these funds, Councilwoman Janice Hahn has made a commitment of \$20,000 from her General City Purposes account for the first year of operations.

The Port has conducted an environmental review and determined that the proposed construction of the off-leash Dog Park is exempt from the requirements of the CEQA in accordance with Article VII, Class 4 (7), and Class 11 (2), (3) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

Although the Port has its own Local Coastal Program, it has been determined that this development does not require a Coastal Development Permit, as it is not within the Coastal Zone.

This project requires a modification to the City Municipal Code, to allow dogs to remain off-leash within a designated area of Knoll Hill. This requires approval by City Council through an Ordinance. The City Attorney is preparing an Ordinance amending Section 63.44 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code authorizing the designated area of Knoll Hill as an off-leash dog exercise area.

The Department will form an advisory committee with Peninsula DPI, to assist in the monitoring of the off-leash dog park. In addition, Peninsula DPI, Recreation and Parks, and Council District 15 staff will continue to pursue other potential sites in the areas, as permanent venues, should one become necessary.

Council District 15 and the Superintendent of the Pacific Region concur with the recommendations and findings of this report.

Prepared by Linda Clifford, Management Analyst II