


FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

June 5, 2002

TO: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

FROM: MARJORIE MATTHEWS 
Acting General Manager

SUBJECT: RUSTIC CANYON RECREATION CENTER - FACILITY ENHANCEMENTS
(#1030D)

On Monday evening, May 13, 2002, a community meeting was held at Rustic Canyon Recreation Center to familiarize the community with the scope of the facility enhancement project that is currently in the bidding and award phase of development.

On May 1, 2002, the Board approved the plans and called for bids to be received on May 28, 2002 (Board Report No. 02-180). The proposed construction involves upgrading and automation of the park irrigation system, relocation of the back flow preventors, regrading and replanting of the existing slopes to prevent erosion, replanting existing empty planters, installation of a new ADA accessible walkway from the recreation building to the lower park area, installation of a new stair from the parking lot to the lower park and from Latimer Street entrance to the tennis courts, installation of mow strips and walls where needed, replacement of broken light poles in the parking area and related improvements.

There are some members of the community that believe that this project will destroy the rustic, natural beauty of the park. The community does not object to the new irrigation system or to making necessary repairs. They appear to be objecting to a low retaining wall varying in height from 6-inches to 3-feet that is being installed to help control erosion. They also object to the removal of 150 trees, a small portion of the hundreds of trees that will remain at the facility. They also object to planting flowers and shrubs under the existing oak trees because they believe that this planting will kill the oaks. The community believes that they were excluded from the planning process because the VNOC meetings were not advertised throughout the community

Subsequently, Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski met with the community to hear of their concerns and on May 23, 2002, the Councilmember met with Recreation and Parks staff to determine the next course of action. Councilmember Miscikowski wants to receive bids, as scheduled, on May 28, 2002. Before the contract is awarded, another community meeting will be held to tell the community what staff has done to mitigate their concerns about the project. As part of the meeting, Councilmember Miscikowski proposes to hold a work shop to show community members exactly what the project entails. Staff has already reduced the number of trees that will be removed. Additionally, staff will redo some of the graphics that were previously presented to the community to emphasize the large number of trees that will remain after the project is completed. The council office and staff are working diligently to alleviate the community concerns. It is believed that most of the community will be satisfied with the project when it is completed.

Report prepared by Richard Klink, Contract Administrator.