

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
Department of Recreation and Parks

SUBJECT: BUDGET FOR 2002-03



The Mayor's Proposed Budget has been reviewed, modified, and approved by the City Council, and returned to the Mayor. The Mayor is reviewing the Council modifications at this time. The Department of Recreation and Parks along with all other City departments will be trying to save additional salary funds in the next fiscal year, but we also received funding to operate and maintain 50 new or refurbished facilities. The approved budget includes:

- \$4.1 million and 48 new positions to operate and maintain 50 new or refurbished facilities
- \$4+ million is provided for new or replacement equipment such as aquatic, gardening, exercise, and safety equipment
- \$583,115 for two (2) new positions to assist with the increasing employee relations workload
- \$296,249 for three (3) new positions to operate and maintain the recently refurbished Cabrillo Bath House
- \$104,000 is provided for the replacement of 65 old computers
- \$5.9 million is provided in the Capital Improvement Expenditure Program for improvements underway at several department facilities
- \$250,000 is provided in the Alterations and Improvement (A&I) Fund to replace roofs and air conditioners at nine (9) sites.


Prepared by John Duggan, Chief Financial Officer

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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: DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS/LOS ANGELES UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT LAND-EXCHANGE AND JOINT-USE PROPOSAL FOR
AVALON-SAN PEDRO PARK

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) has been presented with a proposal for a joint-use and land-exchange agreement with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). The proposed agreement would reconfigure the current Avalon-San Pedro Park by developing new park space, nearby, with a new restroom and ball courts.

Avalon-San Pedro Park is also known as the Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard mini-park because it fronts the Boulevard between Avalon and San Pedro. The park consists of 12 adjoining, City-owned lots totaling approximately 0.83 acre. Amenities consist of 2 barbecue pits, benches, tables and waste baskets, two (2) drinking fountains, a bike rack and a playground area with slides and other equipment. The mini-park is mainly used by the surrounding community.

The 12 lots, known as lots 84-95 of the Mettler Tract, were originally purchased for the Department of Public Works for street-widening purposes. When this project was withdrawn, the lots became surplus property. On May 17, 1996, the City Council recommended a transfer of jurisdiction of the 12 lots to the Department of Recreation and Parks through a Motion presented by Councilmembers Rita Walters and Mark Ridley-Thomas (Council File No. 96-0936). A week later on May 24, 1996, the Council, through a substitute Motion presented by the same two (2) Councilmembers, took the following actions relative to the 12 City-surplus lots:

1. Approve the transfer of jurisdiction and control of the subject properties from the Department of Public Works to the Department of Recreation and Parks;
2. Request the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners and the Board of Public Works to approve the transfer of jurisdiction and control of the subject properties; and,
3. Request the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance that would transfer the jurisdiction and control of the subject properties from the Department of Public Works to the Department of Recreation and Parks, subject to the approval of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners and the Board of Public Works.

On July 17, 1996, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners approved, by means of Board Report No. 339-96, the transfer of jurisdiction of the lots and the development of a mini-park with \$300,000.00 in funds allocated by the City Council. Department staff were to develop and maintain the subject property, which subsequently occurred.

However, the transfer of jurisdiction of the 12 lots did not occur; the ordinance was not prepared and presented for Council approval. Therefore, the Avalon-San Pedro Park was never officially accepted by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners or dedicated as park property. The City has a unique opportunity to partner with LAUSD to develop a facility that makes better use of the total land area and that brings added benefits to the general public.

The proposed agreement will necessitate the exchange of the 12 City-owned lots with land that LAUSD is acquiring through condemnation; in return, LAUSD will construct a new Jefferson Elementary School and a new, relocated park that will have enhanced recreational amenities in a larger area than that now used for Avalon-San Pedro Park. The new park will be in the general vicinity of 40th Place and Avalon Boulevard while the total project boundaries are as follows: Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard on the north, 40th Place on the south, Avalon Boulevard on the east and San Pedro Street to the west. A plan of the area, which occupies a City block, is attached.

The proposed agreement gives developmental responsibility for both the school and the new park to LAUSD, which as the lead agency, will also address environmental issues. In the proposed joint-use part of the agreement, the school and park will share the new ball diamond (RAP) and basketball courts (LAUSD), which will be fenced to ensure the security of students during regular school hours but which will be open to the general public during non-school hours.

The Departments of Recreation and Parks and City Planning, LAUSD and the City Attorney's Office have been working together on the components of the proposed land-exchange and joint-use agreement. Staff propose to continue with the project and to report periodically to the Board on findings and recommendations. The project has conceptual support from Council District 9, from the Assistant General Managers of Region Operations and of Planning and Construction and from the Superintendent of Pacific Region.

This report was prepared by John Barraza, Management Analyst II in the Real Estate and Asset Management Division.