

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 02-181

DATE May 1, 2002

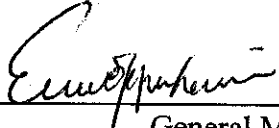
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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: SOUTH WEDDINGTON PARK: AUTHORIZE THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MTA) TO FUND AND CONSTRUCT A PARK WALL ALONG THE PERIMETER OF THE PARK

J. Combs _____
A. Corrales _____
J. Duggan JD
J. Kolb _____

H. Fujita _____
*M. Tamuri _____
M. Matthews MM



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Accept the MTA's proposal to fund, design and construct a park wall along the perimeter of South Weddington Park; and
2. Authorize MTA to proceed with the construction of the park wall and to maintain said wall for a period of no less than one year;

SUMMARY:

On April 21, 1999, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Report No. 174-99) approved the issuance of a temporary, revocable Right-of-Entry Permit (No. 475) to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to use portions of South Weddington Park. MTA needed the permit in order to facilitate the construction of the Universal City Metro Red Line Subway Project adjacent to the Hollywood Freeway (101).

The completion of the subway project involved significant improvements and changes to sections of nearby public streets and to the park. In anticipation of these changes, certain restoration and improvements to the park were negotiated with MTA prior to the start of the subway project. During the course of the subway's development, additional park issues evolved. Nearby residents raised the issue of freeway noise, perceived to be a direct result of the subway project. Through collaborative efforts by Council District Four, County Supervisor Yaroslavsky, the MTA, the Department and community leaders, the construction of a wall along the perimeter of the park was proposed. MTA proposed to fully fund, design and construct the wall, including landscaping and irrigation components. On September 19, 2001, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Report No. 174-99) approved MTA's conceptual proposal.

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG.2

NO.02-181

MTA has developed design plans for the wall including related landscaping and irrigation to the specifications of the Department (Attachment A). MTA or their designated representative will be responsible for full maintenance of the wall project for a minimum of one year, at which time the vegetation is expected to cover the entire wall, thereby substantially reducing the maintenance needed for graffiti abatement to the wall, subsequently, the Department will assume the maintenance.

MTA has determined that the proposed wall project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Classes 3 - Section 15303(e) (Attachment B).

On behalf of the Department, MTA submitted the necessary application and design plans to the Cultural Affairs Commission for review and approval at their April 18, 2002 meeting. The wall project was unanimously approved by the Board.

Rene Weitzer of Council District Four and the Valley Region Superintendent of the Department of Recreation and Parks have been consulted and concur with the project recommendations.

Report prepared by Blanca Gomez-Revelles, Management Analyst II, Real Estate and Asset Management Division