

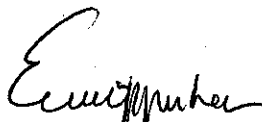
DATE May 1, 2002

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: Trade of Historic Fire Fighting Apparatus from the
Travel Town Museum

J. Combs _____
*A. Corrales _____
J. Duggan _____
H. Fujita _____

J. Kolb _____
M. Tamuri _____
M. Matthews _____



General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board authorize the trade of a 1923 Seagraves Fire Truck (Accession No. 58.07) to the City of Huntington Beach in exchange for a reconditioned forklift and the trade of a 1918 American-LaFrance Ladder Truck (Accession No. 54.07) to the City of San Fernando in exchange for 400 feet of railroad track.

SUMMARY:

At the meeting of October 17, 2001, the Board approved the transfer and assignment or loan of the entire collection of historic Los Angeles fire-fighting equipment to the Los Angeles Fire Department for their new Museum (Report No. 01-394). This action brought to fruition a long-standing commitment of the Department to return the LAFD equipment when they opened their own dedicated museum, and allowed the Travel Town Museum to achieve a major goal of the Master Plan in culling artifacts that were not related to railroading or other transportation history of the Los Angeles area. A component of this action was the pledge from the LAFD that they would assist the Museum in relocating into the vacated exhibit building three wooden narrow gauge railroad cars used in the Owens Valley, north of Los Angeles. This work was successfully completed on April 16 and 17, 2002, in a collaborative effort between City staff, City-registered volunteers, and the LAFD heavy equipment unit.

Remaining at Travel Town after removal of the LAFD equipment were a ladder truck donated to the Museum in 1954 by the City of San Fernando and a pumper truck donated to the Museum in 1958 by the

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City of Huntington Beach. Both cities had indicated interest many years ago in obtaining a return of their respective equipment for display. Again, in conformance with this goal of the Master Plan, and after transfer of the bulk of the fire-fighting collection to LAFD, negotiation of a trade of these artifacts for equipment or material needed at the Museum was timely.

The City of Huntington Beach has offered to the Museum a newly re-conditioned forklift of the size and type found most useful to Museum staff and volunteers in work at the Museum. Currently, the Museum must rent a forklift for service, which costs over \$1000 per month. Receiving a useable unit will result in substantial savings. The City of San Fernando has offered 400 feet of track (800 feet of rail, and ties and other hardware to build 400 feet) to assist the Museum in extending current display tracks and rebuilding old track laid in the early 1960s. Both cities will deliver the offered trade items at no charge to the City of Los Angeles and will also take responsibility for transporting out the fire-fighting trucks. Importantly, these valuable vehicles will be in the hands of historically appropriate entities with resources to care for them, and the Museum benefits greatly from the needed equipment and materials offered in trade.

This follow-up trade closes the chapter on unrelated artifacts at the Travel Town Museum and staff whole-heartedly endorses its finalization as one of many special achievements for the 50th anniversary year of the Museum.

Report prepared by: Linda Barth