

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 02-397

DATE November 20, 2002


C.D. 11

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: VENICE BEACH OCEAN FRONT WALK: CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL OF PERMANENT PLACEMENT OF SCULPTURE

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

H. Fujita _____
*M. Matthews MM
L. Barth _____



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Approve in concept the permanent placement of a sculpture at Venice Beach Ocean Front Walk; and,
2. Authorize staff to assist the sponsoring agency, L.A. Louver Art Gallery, with the necessary permits/approvals required for permanent placement of the sculpture.

SUMMARY:

On September 6, 2000, the Board approved the temporary placement of a 60-foot steel and stainless steel sculpture in the Arts Park area of Ocean Front Walk at Venice Beach (Board Report No. 00-332). Though originally planned as a temporary installation, there is interest in retaining this sculpture as a permanent art work at this site.

To accomplish this goal, various permits and approvals need to be obtained from several agencies, including the Coastal Commission, the Department of Building and Safety, and the Department of Cultural Affairs. Also, CEQA clearance and input from the community is necessary prior to authorizing permanent placement.

Permits and approvals had been obtained from the Departments of Building and Safety and Cultural Affairs for the temporary installation in 2000-2001. An administrative Right-of-Entry permit was issued to the sponsoring agency, L.A. Louver Art Gallery, with standard provisions relative to liability, repairs, and maintenance as the responsibility of the sponsoring agency/artist. This permit

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was scheduled to expire in November, 2002 and has been extended to May, 2003 to allow the sponsoring agency sufficient time to obtain the necessary permits and approvals for permanent placement.

The Arts Park area of Ocean Front Walk was originally planned for, and has functioned as, an area for temporary art installations at Venice Beach. A mitigated negative declaration for Ocean Front Walk, including the Arts Park, area was adopted by the Board on January 8, 1997. Additional CEQA clearance will be necessary for the proposed permanent placement.

Staff is recommending approval in concept for this permanent placement. Prior to seeking final approval, the City as lead agency for the project must perform, complete and certify the adequacy of the environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As a result of the information obtained by means of the CEQA process, the Board may modify, condition or disapprove the project and nothing herein shall limit the Board's exercise of its independent judgement and discretion with respect to the project. Further, it is recommended that staff be authorized to facilitate efforts by the sponsoring agency to obtain community input and the necessary permits and approvals for permanent placement. The project will return to the Board for further review and consideration after completion of the CEQA process.

Councilmember Miscikowski and the Pacific Region Superintendent concur with the recommendations in this report.

Report prepared by Camille Didier, Supervisor, Advance Planning/Special Projects.