

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 02-381

DATE November 6, 2002

CD _____

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF USED AND OBSOLETE GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY
PLANETARIUM SEATS TO THE FRIENDS OF THE OBSERVATORY

J. Combs _____
*A. Coroalles _____
J. Duggan _____
J. Kolb _____

H. Fujita _____
M. Matthews _____



General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board find that the Griffith Observatory planetarium seats to be removed as part of the renovation project are used and obsolete and would be disposed of; and,

That pursuant to Administrative Code Section 7.78, the Board find it appropriate to transfer said seats to the Friends of the Observatory (FOTO), subject to the concurrence of the City Purchasing Agent and adoption of a Resolution by the City Council.

SUMMARY:

On October 30, 2002, the Griffith Observatory broke ground on an extensive renovation project. A component of that project, reconstruction of the interior of the Planetarium Theatre, encompasses removal of obsolete equipment and seating, and replacement with new equipment and seating, among other elements. The wooden Planetarium Theatre seats with wooden headrests are well past their useful life; over the last ten years, keeping at least a portion of the seats in safe repair has been costly because of their obsolescent manufacture and parts. The removal of the seats will be starting in short order.

FOTO has requested that the Department transfer the used and obsolete seats to their organization for various purposes, including fundraising for the Observatory's renovation and historic documentation. In as much as the seats would otherwise be disposed of and cannot be reused by the Department, and subject to the concurrence of the City Purchasing Agent and the City Council by resolution, staff recommends that the Board approve the transfer of the seats.