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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Recreation and Parks

April 2, 2003

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
FROM: MANUEL A. MOLLINEDO, General Manager
SUBJECT: STATUS OF KEN MALLOY HARBOR REGIONAL PARK

This report is to inform the Board of the status of various issues and efforts at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, pursuant to the request of Board President Mike Roos.

PARK OVERVIEW AND HISTORY

Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park is a 231-acre site located in the Wilmington and Harbor City communities. The park includes the 40-acre Lake Machado and approximately 63.5 acres of seasonal wetlands, which represent some of the last surviving wetlands in the Southbay area. It is also home to over 300 species of birds and a variety of animals and plant life. As such, this park is a popular destination for bird watching and nature walks and attracts students from many southland schools and universities who study its flora and fauna.

In its early history, this venue provided sustenance for Native Americans due to its coastal location and the availability of water. In the 1800s, the site was purchased by local freight forwarders and subsequently acquired by the Bixby family, who owned a large portion of what is now Long Beach. Under this ownership, the site served as an unimproved dumpsite for the region. For years afterward, the name "Bixby Slough" had a negative connotation.

In the middle of the 20th century, an effort was launched by the Izaak Walton League to convert the land for public recreational use. The City acquired Bixby Slough in 1953, and its operation was turned over to Recreation and Parks. In 1989, the lake was renamed to honor the Machado family, and in 1992 the park was renamed in honor of Ken Malloy, a long-time park advocate.

As far back as the 1950s, development projects were undertaken to improve lake water, create a wildlife sanctuary, and develop a youth campground. Unfortunately, the environmental quality of the water and land continued to erode due to lack of environmental awareness and increased use of environmentally harmful substances and practices. Although originally intended for boating and fishing, the lake has been designated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board as an impaired water body. Accordingly, boating is no longer allowed on the lake, fish have not been restocked in the recent past, and signage is posted warning of possible contaminants in fish caught in the lake. In addition to water quality problems at the lake, the park has experienced problems with homelessness, with degradation of the natural habitat, and with endangered wildlife. However, over the past year, staff has taken action to abate numerous problems, including the high mosquito count, homeless encampments, and illegal dumping.

KEN MALLOY HARBOR REGIONAL LAKE TASK FORCE

The Department has established a task force to deal with all issues pertaining to Ken Malloy Regional Lake. Major objectives of this group include initiating environmental improvements and identifying proactive measures to address potential wildlife problems. Individual subcommittees have been formed which focus on the specific areas of water quality, capital project funding, security, vegetation and habitat issues, and educational projects and goals. Meetings of the task force and its subcommittees have been well attended with representation by a broad spectrum of integral member agencies including City Sanitation, Environmental Affairs, Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Coastal Conservancy, Los Angeles County Public Works, Los Angeles County Vector Control, the Audubon Society, Harbor Regional Park Advisory Board, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, and staff from the offices of County Supervisor Don Knabe, State Assemblymember Jenny Oropeza, Councilmember Janice Hahn, and Mayor James K. Hahn. A complete list of members is attached.

MASTER PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Efforts have been initiated for long range planning at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. These include development of a master plan, identification of best management practices, and consideration of potential future projects which will assist in optimizing environmental conditions and enhance public access and enjoyment of this nature preserve.

Master Plan/Watershed Management Plan

In early 2001, the State notified the South Bay Audubon Society (Audubon) that it had been awarded approximately \$900,000 in grant funds to develop a master plan and to implement improvements at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Due to its lack of experience in developing a large scale implementation plan, Audubon approached the Department to request that it take the necessary actions to select a qualified environmental consulting firm. Subsequent to a Request for Proposals, the Department selected Parsons Engineering Science, Inc., to develop a watershed management plan, provide a design and habitat improvement report, and to finalize a master plan initiated previously by the Park Advisory Board.

Parsons completed its studies in July 2002, and its results were provided in a three-volume report. Utilizing the information from this report, Department Planning and Construction staff identified five potential projects and prepared plans for each project, with a total cost of approximately \$400,000. Projects include installation of fencing and native plants at various locations to protect the environment by limiting public access, and construction of a public observation deck to enhance public viewing opportunities of wildlife. In anticipation of implementing these projects, the Department requested that Parsons prepare an environmental analysis.

Although it was initially anticipated that the grant would cover the cost for these projects as well as the costs for all Parsons studies, the grant was revoked in May, 2002, due to State budgetary problems. However, the Department was obligated to pay Parsons \$300,000 for work it had undertaken on the Master Plan without the expected reimbursement from the State grant secured

by Audubon. An environmental review remains to be completed before any capital improvements can proceed. Parsons was asked to provide a proposal for the environmental work and their fee would be \$115,000. No funds are available at this time to proceed with the environmental review.

At this time, the five Parsons projects, as well as other potentially feasible projects, are under review by the Harbor Regional Park Task Force. Other potential projects include those to address water quality through dredging, and infusion of imported water. Prior to requesting funding or implementation of any future project, emphasis will be placed on prioritizing the projects and determining projects to pursue based on long-term goals and objectives, feasibility, and other criteria such as availability of funding for particular types of projects and governmental regulatory compliance issues.

Recently, the California Coastal Conservancy retained a consultant to address related regional issues and has asked the consultant to dedicate time toward identifying sequencing issues and other concerns specific to Harbor Regional Park. This will greatly assist project selection and enhance funding opportunities.

Potential Funding Opportunities

Potential sources of funding are being sought including grants from several State agencies, the Army Corps of Engineers, and other sources. With guidance from the Coastal Conservancy's consultant on logical project sequencing and combining project elements to address environmental problems in a more holistic manner, the Department feels that strong project proposals can be submitted.

The Proposition K Program lists \$1,000,000 for future water quality and filtration improvements at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Money may be available from sources such as the Montrose Settlement, which will fund \$30,000,000 in projects to address pollution from DDT emanating from the Torrance Montrose plant. In the first round, projects will be funded to protect marine animal life which may have suffered from the effects of the DDT. Specific to Harbor Regional Park, the presence of bald eagles and peregrine falcons at the Park may qualify for funding; however, only low levels of DDT have been detected on site. Future calls for bids under the Montrose Settlement fund a broader range of potential projects.

STATUS OF IMMEDIATE EFFORTS

Mosquito Abatement

On July 16, 2002, Los Angeles County Vector Control reported that mosquito counts in the north end of the lake were high and recommended that the Department remove 40 percent of the tule plant growth in the lake to aid in reducing the mosquito numbers. The Department secured an emergency permit from the California Fish and Game to allow it to cut tule during the nesting season of the protected Least Tern birds, native to the lake. The cutting of tule continued through the summer, and the mosquito counts were back down to acceptable levels by mid-September 2002.

As we enter the 2003 mosquito season, the lake is in the best condition that it has been in for many years. On-going cutting of the tule, which grow in marshy lowlands, has been performed by Department staff. The Department will again apply for a permit to allow it to cut tules through this year's Least Tern nesting season, which began March 15 and ends October 15, to keep the growth under control. The Los Angeles Conservation Corps assisted with hand-cutting of tule along the eastern and western lake shores during January 2003.

After a tour of the lake two weeks ago, County Vector Control complimented the Department on the condition of the lake. They anticipate that we will reach required compliance for mosquito control.

Trash and Debris

The recent rains have washed inordinate amounts of storm drain runoff into the lake. The majority of the new trash in the lake enters from the Wilmington Drain. Staff performs daily trash and debris removal using boats and nets. Trash barriers have been constructed at the mouth of the outlet drains near the boat house. Efforts are underway, in cooperation with County Flood Control, to construct a barrier at the Wilmington Drain.

Employee Office Trailer

An 8' x 10' portable office was placed at the Boathouse area of the park. This trailer will be used by recreation staff who will provide on-site interaction with park patrons and will assist in prevention of illegal or environmentally harmful activities. Occupancy by recreation staff and determination of hours of operation are pending installation of electricity and telephones.

Homeless Encampment And Other Security Issues

The Park Rangers and maintenance staff have performed six clean-ups of the park, from October to March, to address illegal encroachment by the homeless. Prior to each effort, 72-hour notifications were posted to give the residents of the homeless encampment an opportunity to remove their belongings and relocate. Park Rangers have been working with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to provide shelter for the homeless. The clean up efforts have also been responsible for removal of ten tons of trash and debris from this site.

Security Lighting

The Department of Water and Power (DWP) installed four new light poles as part of its city-wide Security Lighting program which is a partnership program with Recreation and Parks, DWP, and the Mayor's Office. The lights, which were installed near the children's play area, are operated by an automatic timer.

Abandoned Animals

Signage was installed at the park informing the public that abandonment of animals is illegal pursuant to the California Penal Code. Los Angeles Department of Animal Services Control Officers have increased patrols of the park and continue to impound stray animals and cite owners of off-leash dogs.

Illegal Dumping

Signs have been posted and no acts of illegal dumping have occurred in the last six months. In particular, efforts were focused on the disposal of stale bread products by a local bakery to feed the ducks. This action increased pollution at the lake in many ways, including increased coliform levels, and also increased the duck population. Staff contacted the bakery, and all dumping has subsequently stopped.

Maintenance staff also took corrective action to prevent illegal dumping of household appliances and furniture, building materials, and other items near the South Area Service Yard. Posting of "No Dumping" signs and installation of fencing and t-gates have greatly minimized illegal dumping activity. Additional patrols by Park Rangers and other staff will also assist in preventing future occurrences of all types of illegal dumping.

Harbor Regional Park Task Force Member List

Agency	Name	Subcommittee
Audubon Society	Jess Morton	Capital Improvements; Education; Water
Audubon Society/Harbor Regional Park Advisory Board	Martin Byhower	Water; Education
California Coastal Conservancy Wetland Recovery Project	Karen Bane	Water; Capital Improvements
City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Dept.	Craig Tranby	Water
City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation	Mike Mullin	Water
City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation	Sheila Brice	Water
City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation	Shokoufe Marashi	Water
City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation	Wing Tam	Capital Improvements; Water
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Assistant General Manager - Region Operations	Tony Corrales	
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Forestry	Nestor Farao	Vegetation
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Forestry	Teresa Prosciewicz	Vegetation; Water
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department General Manager	Manuel A. Mollinedo	
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Grants Administration	Steven Uranga	Capital Improvements
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Grants Administration	Susan Huntley	Capital Improvements
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Harbor Park Golf Course	Beverly Cox	Vegetation
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Maintenance	Stephen Moe	Water
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Pacific Region	Linda Clifford	Water; Capital Improvements
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Pacific Region Maintenance	Juan Benitez	Vegetation
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Pacific Region Maintenance	Ron Berkowitz	Vegetation
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Pacific Region Recreation	John Popoch	Capital Improvements; Education; Security; Vegetation; Water
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Pacific Region Recreation	Phillip Orland	
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Pacific Region Recreation	Tim Hayes	Security
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Pacific Region.	Gat Lum	Capital Improvements; Education; Security; Vegetation; Water

Harbor Regional Park Task Force Member List

Agency	Name	Subcommittee
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Park Rangers	Rick Beutell	Security
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Planning & Construction	Bob Fawcett	Capital Improvements
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Planning and Construction	Leila Barker	Water; Capital Improvements
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department Planning and Construction	Richard Klink	Capital Improvements
City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks Department- Forestry	Gerry Pinnere	Vegetation
City of Recreation and Parks Department - Personnel	Charles P. Holbrook	Education; Capital Improvements
Community Redevelopment Agency of L.A.	Daniel Weissman	Water
Council District 15	Claudio W. Gallegos	Vegetation; Security
Council District 15	Elise Swanson	Security
Council District 15	Sergio Carrillo	
County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works	Dave Rydman	Water
Economic Development Corporation	Frank O'Brien	Capital Improvements
Greater Los Angeles Co. Vector Control District	Jack Hazelrigg	Vegetation
Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District	Mike Shaw	Vegetation
Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District	Minno B. Madon	Vegetation
Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District	Stephanie Miladin	Education
Harbor Regional Park Advisory Board	Mitch Heindel	Vegetation
LA County Sanitation Districts	Monica Gasca	Water
Los Angeles City Attorney's Office	Justin Houterman	Security
Los Angeles County Dept. Public Works	Ed Teran	
Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Edward Monge	Vegetation
Office of Senator Debra Bowen	Arlene Pinzler	
Office of Mayor James K. Hahn	Abigail P. Zimmerman	Capital Improvements
Office of State Assemblywoman Jenny Oropeza	Veronica Zendejas	
Office of Supervisor Don Knabe	Dickie Simmons	Water
Regional Water Quality Control Board of Los Angeles	Shirley Birosik	Water; Capital Improvements
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles	Earle Hartling	Water
US Fish & Wildlife Serv.	Neil Mendelsohn	Security
West Basin Municipal Water District	Mark Tettemer	Water
Wetlands Recovery Project	Mary Loquvam	Education; Water