

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 03-381

DATE December 10, 2003

C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: EAST WILMINGTON - REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND RELOCATION OF THE PROJECT TO THE NEW SITE

L. Barth \_\_\_\_\_  
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F. Mok \_\_\_\_\_  
G. Stigile \_\_\_\_\_

  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Review and consider the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and the associated Mitigation Monitoring Plan (MMP) prepared by the City's Bureau of Engineering for the East Wilmington Community Center finding that all potentially significant environmental effects of the project have been properly disclosed and evaluated in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State and City CEQA Guidelines, and that the IS/MND reflects the Department of Recreation and Parks' independent judgment and analysis;
2. Recommend that the City Council review, consider, and adopt the IS/MND and MMP, with Council making the same findings as the Board;
3. Direct Staff to file a Notice of Determination with the Los Angeles County Clerk within 5 days of Council's adoption;
4. Recommend the Steering Committee and City Council find the original project site for the East Wilmington Community Center is infeasible; and,

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5. Recommend the Steering Committee and the City Council find that the new project site in the Greenbelt serves substantially the same community and approve the new site for the project.

SUMMARY:

On June 13, 2001, the Board awarded a construction contract in the amount of \$2,221,000 for the construction of a new community center on the greenbelt in East Wilmington (Board Report No. 01-218). The contract was subsequently cancelled by the Board on January 23, 2002, because the parking variance for the project had not been completed as anticipated.

The community was adamant that the portion of the greenbelt on which the new building was sited was the wrong site for a community center. The Council Office and the community worked together to find another site in the greenbelt that could be used for the community building without sacrificing already developed park land.

On February 5, 2003, the Board accepted and dedicated another portion of the green belt (Board Report No. 03-46), and it is in this location that the Prop K program is proposing locating the new building.

The program has had an environmental assessment completed for the new site and proposes that the existing plans for the original community building will be site-adapted to the new site at the north end of the greenbelt.

Department staff has reviewed the new site and the environmental documents. The project will be forwarded to the Steering Committee, after Board review and approval, and finally to Council for final action. Staff recommends the Board find the new site serves substantially the same community of East Wilmington as it is only a few blocks north of the original site and forward the project to the Steering Committee for further action.

In accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was prepared based on an Initial Study which determined that all potentially significant environmental effects would be mitigated to a level less than significant. The MND was circulated to all interested parties and responsible agencies and filed with the State Clearinghouse for a 30-day review and comment period from October 30, 2003 to December 1, 2003. No substantive comments were received on environmental issues. However, all comments have been incorporated into the final MND, copies of which have been provided to the Board for its review and consideration. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program has been prepared that specifies all the mitigation measures identified in the

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MND which will either reduce or eliminate the potentially significant environment impact of the project. It was determined that the project, as proposed, will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on wildlife resources or their habitats as defined by Fish and Game Code 711.2 with adoption and implementation of the appropriate mitigation measures.

Report Prepared by Kathleen Chan, Project Manger II, and Paul Davis, Environmental Specialist III.