

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 03-46

DATE February 5, 2003


C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE AND DEDICATION OF A PORTION OF THE EAST WILMINGTON GREENBELT

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

H. Fujita _____
* B. Lukehart BSC
L. Barth _____


General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Adopt the proposed Resolution, on file in the Board Office, accepting the non-financial transfer of jurisdiction of the northern and southern portions of a narrow strip of property called the East Wilmington Greenbelt, dedicating said property as park land in perpetuity; and,
2. Accept and dedicate a triangular plot in the middle of the Greenbelt, which was donated to the Department in 1981, but never formally accepted.

SUMMARY:

For a number of years the residents of the Wilmington area of Los Angeles have enjoyed various recreational activities on the northern portion of a narrow strip of approximately 7.26 acres called the East Wilmington Greenbelt. The entire Greenbelt extends from Sanford Avenue north to Blinn Avenue and was donated twenty years ago to the City by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company.

It was the City Council's intent that the northern portion of the Greenbelt be transferred to the Department of Recreation and Parks, but this never occurred (Council File 76-1440). As a further complication, a recordation error transferred the entire Greenbelt to Habitat for Humanity when it developed affordable housing on the middle portion in the mid-1990s. The error was corrected in July 2001. The City regained ownership of the portions of the Greenbelt not used for Habitat housing, but jurisdiction did not pass to the Department of Recreation and Parks.

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In order to achieve resolution, the Councilmember for the Fifteenth District sponsored a motion adopted on October 22, 2002, directing the Los Angeles Housing Department, with the assistance of the Department of General Services, to transfer the southern and northern portions of the Greenbelt, which are not used for Habitat housing, to the Department of Recreation and Parks (Council File 02-1839, APN 7425-036-800 or 031 and 7425-023-804). The transfer was recorded by Los Angeles County on December 20, 2002 (No. 02-3140028).

In addition, the Board is being asked to accept and dedicate a small triangular plot in the middle of the Greenbelt just north of the Habitat housing that was donated by a private party to the Department of Recreation and Parks in 1981 (APN 7425-032-900). Although the donation was properly recorded by Los Angeles County, there is no indication that it was ever formally accepted by the Department. Accomplishing these dedications will remove major jurisdictional hurdles to future recreational improvements on the Greenbelt.

Staff have determined that this transfer between City departments will not have a significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. This determination is based on Article II, subsection 1 of the City CEQA Guidelines. Future development of the property is uncertain at this time and would be the subject of a separate environmental review if and when a project is identified.

The Superintendent of Pacific Region and the Councilmember for Council District Fifteen concur with staff's recommendation.

This report was prepared by Joan Reitzel, Senior Management Analyst, Real Estate and Asset Management.