

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Recreation and Parks

March 5, 2003

TO: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

FROM: 
Manuel A. Mollinedo
General Manager

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT

On September 20, 2002, the Board awarded a construction contract to S. J. Amoroso Construction Co., Inc. (Board Report #02-339). The Bureau of Engineering (BOE) is providing full-time project management services during the construction of the renovation at the Observatory.

The contractor began work and has completed the majority of the exterior building lead based paint abatement. Interior abatement and demolition work is well under way on lower Level 1, and lower Level 2. The Planetarium floor has been abated and the planetarium projection screen is being abated and demolished at this time.

Documenting of the historic fabric of the building is continuing. Photo documentation, crating and removal to temporary storage is being completed for doors, metals, stone benches and light fixtures. The front granite steps have been documented and removed for offsite storage. All concrete sidewalks have been removed and the excavation work commenced on site on February 18, 2003. Building shoring is underway, weather permitting.

Construction change orders, at this point, can be described as routine in nature with no large or problematic issues discovered to date.

Some time has been lost due to rain; however, other than rain the project remains on schedule.

The budget has not changed since award.


Report prepared by Larry Gonsalves Construction Management Group BOE.

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

March 5, 2003

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM:  MANUEL A. MOLLINEDO, General Manager
Department of Recreation and Parks

SUBJECT: REPORT ON TIGER WOODS YOUTH LEARNING CENTERS

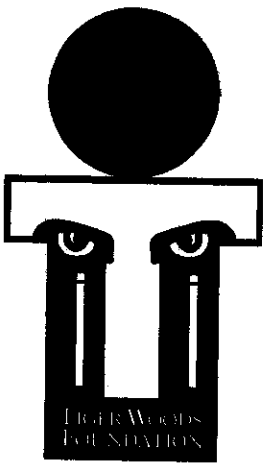
At the September 4, 2002, meeting of the Board and Recreation Park Commissioners, Commissioner Hammond requested staff to contact the Tiger Woods Foundation which was at that time in the process of locating a Tiger Woods Youth Learning Center in Southern California. In the weeks following that meeting, numerous attempts were made to contact the Executive Director, Gregory McLaughlin, via phone and e-mail. Despite repeated calls, staff was unable to communicate directly with Tiger Woods Foundation staff.

Upon reporting these efforts, staff was further advised by the Commission to attempt to make contact with the Tiger Woods Foundation through our Department contacts at the Nike Corporation who partnered with the Department to install an artificial turf soccer field at Ross Snyder. This effort also proved unsuccessful in opening a dialogue with the Tiger Woods Foundation.

On January 13, 2003, a formal letter was sent to Mr. Gregory McLaughlin to which a response was received (see attached). In the letter Mr. McLaughlin states that the Tiger Woods Foundation is embarking on a \$25 million capital campaign for the Tiger Woods Learning Center in Orange County and is unsure at this point if a second site will be developed. The decision to develop a second site will be made in three to five years and would include Los Angeles as a potential venue. The Tiger Woods Foundation also expressed an interested in maintaining a future dialogue and has extended an invitation to the City of Los Angeles to attend the ground breaking ceremony for the learning center on April 16.

Staff will keep the Board advised of any new developments with the Tiger Woods Foundation.

This report was prepared by James Combs, Assistant General Manager, Community Services Branch.



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PGA Professional
Tiger Woods

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Earl D. Woods

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Gregory T. McLaughlin, Esq.

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February 5, 2003

Mr. James Combs
Assistant General Manager
Department of Recreation & Parks
200 North Main Street, 13th Floor
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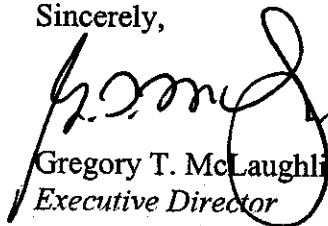
Dear Mr. Combs:

Thank you for your letter dated January 13, 2003 and your interest in the Tiger Woods Foundation.

We are embarking on a \$25 million capital campaign for the Tiger Woods Learning Center – Orange County. At this time we are unsure if there will be a second center developed. If there is, we would consider Los Angeles as a possible site. However, we are more than 3-5 years away from that decision. We appreciate the City of Los Angeles' interest in the Tiger Woods Foundation and would like to keep dialogue open for the future.

We have a ground breaking ceremony set for April 16th, and would like the City of Los Angeles to attend. Please let me know if you would like an invitation.

Sincerely,



Gregory T. McLaughlin
Executive Director

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Recreation and Parks

March 5, 2003

TO: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

FROM: 
Manuel A. Mollinedo
General Manager

SUBJECT: PROPOSED WORK AT RUNYON CANYON PARK - STATUS UPDATE

The original scope of work for the Runyon Canyon Park - Building Improvements (#1807A) project included a new Ranger Station/Visitor Center, a caretaker's residence and a visitor's parking lot. Due to budgetary constraints and to meet the immediate needs of the neighborhood community, the scope has to be modified as described in this report, while conforming closely to the recommendations and guidelines of the 1986 Runyon Canyon Master Plan.

The core of the new proposed work is based on the vision, in conformance with the Master Plan, of providing a "California native experience" opportunity which patrons may connect with the native ecology and the rich history of Runyon Canyon. The vision can be achieved with the following steps, in the immediate area north of the Fuller Street entrance gate:

1. Site restoration and general clean up including removal of concrete foundation remnants from the former McCormack Mansion and dead of unhealthy trees and other debris;
2. Native plant restoration and additions that are in keeping with the natural and ecological context of Runyon Canyon;
3. Installation of a kiosk structure for interpretive exhibits and displays to engage park visitors about Runyon Canyon's rich environmental and cultural histories, natural landscapes, wildlife habitats, and glamour years of the estate;
4. Addition of a low impact, environmentally friendly visitor's parking lot, paved in permeable gravel or decomposed granite to retain water and minimize water runoff. This parking lot will blend in with the natural landscaping in the adjacent areas, a vivid representation of the synthesis between Runyon Canyon's natural wilderness and its surrounding urban built environment; and,
5. Development of a small fenced-in lawn area that will serve as a secured and controlled passive play area, providing a rare opportunity for children living in a highly urbanized environment to experience a natural setting,

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The goal of the project is to restore the precious wilderness quality in Runyon Canyon within its natural-ecological context including soils, water, vegetation, and wildlife, while at the same time to strike a balance to provide a healthy, safe environment for the park patrons.

The costs for the above implementations can be funded from the Proposition A1 funding. Redesign and community based planning will require an additional \$75,000.00 due to limits on Prop A overhead costs. The Department is working with Council District 4 to locate and secure additional funds and to facilities community outreach.


Report prepared by Paul Tseng, Project Manager.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS**

March 5, 2003

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: 
MANUEL A. MOLLINEDO, General Manager
Department of Recreation and Parks

SUBJECT: PARK RANGER DIVISION SAFETY ISSUES AND SECURITY ISSUES

At meetings on January 8 and 22, 2003, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners requested staff to report on several Ranger safety and Park security topics: 1) the use of surveillance cameras to deter criminal activity at recreation facilities, 2) viable options for upgrading the computer aided dispatch (CAD) system software to meet the information & reporting needs of the Park Rangers, 3) recruitment and retention issues among Ranger personnel, and 4) Ranger injuries resulting from altercations with suspects. The following information is submitted for your review.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

Staff investigated two types of surveillance equipment for deterring crime and vandalism at Park facilities - closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras and Flashcam digital still image portable cameras. Each type of system provides continuous monitoring of selected facilities and has successful track records for deterring illegal activities such as trespassing, vandalism, dumping, lewd conduct, etc. Both systems are ruggedly constructed and vandal resistant.

CCTV (four camera system with digital recorder and one monitor). This is a fixed system with maximum coverage of facilities from points of entry and exit. It produces high quality images of suspects involved in illegal activities and is often a strong deterrent because suspects are fully aware of their presence being monitored and recorded. While cameras can be mounted to focus on potential threat areas, such as the four points of facility, and allows for on-site staff to monitor activity, the downside is that some areas of the park may be left vulnerable. Additionally, this system would require staff to manage the digital sequencing and potentially require additional personnel to monitor camera images if an immediate deterrent response is desired. The cost is \$15,000 per facility to have this system hardwired in and the cameras mounted in strategic locations to monitor park activities.

Q-Star Technology, Flashcam 530 (35mm flash camera, motion detector activated and audio voice warning which warns trespassers that their picture will be taken and law enforcement is being contacted). This is an affordable and portable system that deters vandals in the act. It is self-contained and battery powered so it requires no hard wiring, electrical support, or monitoring

apparatus. It is best utilized in a fixed location that is the target of a chronic problem – graffiti, transients, drugs, etc. Flashcam 530 can be rotated among various high vandalism sites to keep element of surprise at maximum level. However, other than the recorded verbal warning that is activated upon motion, it does not provide any other alerts. It only takes still photographs that would then require additional resources to produce and match against suspects, provided that one's identity is clearly visible in the picture. Cost is \$3,000 per camera and there is no software to download since it is only a 35 mm camera. Special attention regarding the placement and properly securing of these cameras will be determined by each location supervisor since the cameras are portable.

COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD)

In March of 2002, the Ranger Division purchased a PC based CAD system software package, costing \$9,990, from Information Technology, Inc. (ITI), for the Ranger Communication Center. The new software was part of an extensive communication systems upgrade and facility renovation undertaken to improve the working environment of the Ranger Division communication operators. The communication center project was budgeted at \$150,000 and was successfully delivered on budget. A consequence of remaining on budget was a decision to defer the purchase of a complete CAD software package (three modules in all) and purchase only the most essential dispatch software. The decision reduced the software purchase price by 50% and made the new communication center an operating reality.

As currently configured, the Ranger CAD system only utilizes ITI's dispatch software package. The consequences are that the current information system lacks the essential companion software for proper data storage/organization or query tools to enable targeted information extraction. The software module that handles data storage is called the "Records Management System" (RMS) and the software module which enables data extraction is the "Query Tool" (QT). The existing CAD system setup collects dispatch activity information (dispatch activity, time of call, time of response, disposition of call, location, suspect information, etc.) but only produces a very rudimentary data dump (e.g. a run of activity by date) for reporting purposes which must then be manipulated manually in order to produce meaningful statistical data. Reports such as type of crime or type of call cannot be produced without intensive labor.

To address this deficiency, staff contacted the Los Angeles Police Department's Communications Division to discuss possible integration of the Park Ranger's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) with the LAPD's new CAD system. Inquiries were made to determine if missing reporting elements not available in the Park Ranger CAD could be acquired from LAPD's CAD system. After meeting with ITA Systems Monitor Operators, it was determined that LAPD's mainframe based system is not compatible with the Park Ranger Division system.

In search of a long-term solution, staff contacted the current CAD software manufacturer, Information Technology, Inc. (ITI). The ITI representative, after conducting a site assessment, identified two enhancement options available to the current CAD software – 1) outright purchase of the necessary “records management software” and “query tools” or 2) purchase of a subscription based CAD system that would provide software upgrades to the CAD system as well as include the aforementioned software packages for reporting on dispatch activities.

Option #1 (outright purchase) costs \$9,505.00 and includes one year of technical support via telephone help desk. ITI will also send a training representative for a single three day training session for an additional \$3500 plus travel and lodging. This would allow the ten communications operators as well as supervisory staff to be trained on the two dispatch stations. Option #2 (subscription) costs \$499.00 per month (\$5,988 annually) and includes a free upgrade of the CAD system to “Enterprise” level that provides maximum flexibility to redesign functions based on existing Department methods and uses. The monthly subscription only requires a three month minimum commitment (\$1,497) by the subscriber giving maximum flexibility should the need arise to quickly terminate services.

Option #1 is a one time purchase price which over the long-term is the lower cost option. The decision to go with Option #1 should be considered only to the extent that the Department’s Systems Group has the capability and resources to support the software and hardware associated with the Ranger CAD. Alternatively, the Option #2 subscription service provides on-going support and training necessary to operate the CAD system as well as technical support function to assure problems are resolved in a timely fashion. Both ITI proposals have been forwarded to the Systems Programmer Supervisor for analysis and supporting recommendation.

Funding for the CAD upgrade has not been identified at this time.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

There are currently 46 Park Rangers out of a total of 64 positions that are deployed to over 385 parks within the City of Los Angeles. An additional 49 part-time Exempt Security Officers, known as Park Safety Officers, are responsible for securing ninety parks, daily. The Park Ranger Division responds to approximately 900 service calls a month. At any one time, there are two to thirteen Rangers on staff to service the entire city. Full staffing levels would increase coverage from four to fifteen Rangers on staff at any one time. The following chart depicts the typical deployment of Rangers during the times specified utilizing the current staffing levels.

<u>Time</u>	<u>No. On Duty Rangers</u>
7:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	2
12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	9
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	13
5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.	11
10:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.	4

Note that there are no Rangers on duty between 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. although the communication dispatch center is open 24 hours and available to receive calls for service and make appropriate notifications.

The current staffing levels for the Park Ranger Division are as follows:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Total Positions</u>	<u>Number Filled Positions</u>	<u>Number Vacant Positions</u>
Chief Park Ranger	1	1	0
Senior Park Ranger II	3	1	2
Senior Park Ranger I	6	6	0
Peace Officer Park Rangers	42	26	16
Civilian Park Rangers	12	12	0
Total	64	46	18

The Park Ranger vacancy level is currently at 29%. Over the last six years, the Ranger vacancy level has averaged 25% with a low of 15% in 1998 to a high of 35% in 2001. Because the Department was successful in gaining exemptions from the current and recent hiring freezes for Park Ranger vacancies, an aggressive recruitment campaign has been undertaken through a coordinated effort with the City Personnel Department. The Department of Recreation and Parks is currently evaluating the potential effects of modifying the minimum education requirements for Rangers from a 4 year to 2 year degree or equivalent to increase the qualified applicant pool. The union also initiated negotiations with the City to increase the base salary of Park Rangers in an effort to compete with other agencies, including law enforcement, that have typically offered more attractive salaries and advancement opportunities for the same target candidates. Ranger staff have conducted ten campus visits to local colleges within the last year in an effort to attract applicants for Park Ranger (visits to four-year college campuses) and Park Safety Officer (two-year college campuses) positions.

Additionally, Ranger staff have set up informational booths at high schools and emergency preparedness fairs to increase visibility and establish contact with potential recruits.

The Department has initiated upgrades in the workplace environment in an effort to retain staff and increase morale. A new dispatch center was recently completed and new administrative offices will soon be available. Proposals are also being considered by Department management and the union to modify Ranger deployment from three existing shifts to two shifts in an effort to provide two person patrols in the late afternoon and evening to address safety concerns during the periods of greatest criminal activity. Rangers are being sent to the Interpretation in Recreation Areas seminar at the California State Parks Training Center in Asilomar to provide training that is more typical of the Park Ranger Division's core mission. Dialogue with union representatives has increased to further define and coordinate goals and objectives to increase efficiencies.

INJURIES DUE TO ALTERCATIONS

A review of injury claims filed by Park Rangers beginning in FY 1997-1998 to the present indicates that there have been seventeen injuries sustained during an altercation with a suspect. On average, Ranger Division staff are dispatched to approximately 11,000 calls each year. The following chart summarizes claims resulting from altercations for the Park Ranger Division. The most prevalent forms of injury appear to be strains and contusions related to chasing and physically apprehending uncooperative suspects.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Claims Resulting from Altercations</u>
97/98	3
98/99	3
99/00	5
00/01	3
01/02	1
02/03	2
Total	17

This Informational Board Report was prepared by James Combs, Community Services Branch.