


FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Recreation and Parks

May 21, 2003

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: 
MANUEL A. MOLLINEDO
General Manager

SUBJECT: MASTER PLAN FOR GRIFFITH PARK

In early 2002, Councilmember Tom LaBonge, in whose district 4107-acre Griffith Park rests in its entirety, introduced a motion directing Recreation and Parks to work with other City agencies to produce a new or updated Master Plan for Griffith Park. The Department has been moving forward on this project and I am pleased to offer a status report.

The first step undertaken was to define a scope for a revised or new Master Plan. Staff reviewed the 1968 and 1978 Master Plans, summarizing the planning goals and specific objectives from both and indicating what had and had not been accomplished in the intervening years. An ad hoc group of Department, Council, and Zoo staff was convened to review this information and, in light of current information, known public concerns, and relevant issues, to develop a scope of work.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has existing contracts with a number of major planning and landscape architecture firms for services on an as-needed basis, and the Department turned to this contractor source for the right firm to produce the Master Plan. A letter of invitation was issued in August, 2002, proposals were due in late September, and interviews were held with the two proposing firms, Melendrez Design Partners and Mia Lehrer & Associates, in mid-November. In December, the firm of Melendrez Design Partners was selected and a notice to proceed was issued in January, 2003, for a total cost not-to-exceed \$375,000. A portion of this cost, \$185,000, has been allocated from the Department's unencumbered and unallocated fund balance at the end of the 2001-2002 fiscal year. The balance of costs and expenses will be paid through a mix of appropriate surcharge and special funds connected to facilities in Griffith Park, such as the Golf and Concessions Surcharge Accounts. The Master Plan process is scheduled to take about one year, and so staff anticipates bringing a draft Plan for consideration of adoption by the Board in about February of 2004.

Goals for the Griffith Park Master Plan are:

- Define current and future public use of the entire Park
- Establish natural resource protection objectives and policies
- Supply sustainability project recommendations for near- and long-term future development
- Identify short- and long-term improvements for enhanced public enjoyment and safety, and for natural resource protection
- Document improvement concepts for the purposes of seeking funding
- Provide a model for external support
- Create a cohesion among the Park's many facilities and features in terms of policy, plans, and public image
- Develop guidelines for managing Park operations and maintenance to support the plans and recommendations derived from this planning process
- Institute a mechanism for active, meaningful, positive public participation in decisions under consideration by Park Management

The Department is excited about this project, rightly referred to by one of the proposers as the most important Park Master Plan under preparation in the country at this time. We plan intensive stakeholder input to the process and welcome the suggestions and involvement of the Board of Commissioners. Much preliminary research has been accomplished by Melendrez and their team, and a one-day staff workshop was held on May 6, 2003. Initial public input will be received through a series of workshops to be held at the Friendship Auditorium on June 9, 16, and 23, 2003, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Councilmember LaBonge is planning a press conference to help inform the public about this outreach and to invite maximum public participation in the workshop.