

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 04-185

DATE June 4, 2004

C.D. 11

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: TAYLOR YARDS – PARK DEVELOPMENT - W.O. #E1904346 APPROVAL OF INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

* K. Chan	<u>kc</u>	J. Combs	_____
H. Fujita	_____	J. Kolb	_____
M. Mariscal	_____	F. Mok	_____
K. Regan	_____	G. Stigile	_____



 General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Review and consider the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and the associated Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Plan (MMRP) prepared by the City's Bureau of Engineering, 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; and
2. Recommend that the City Council review, consider and adopt the IS/MND and MMRP, with Council making the same findings as the Board, and that BOE file a Notice of Determination with the Los Angeles City Clerk and the Los Angeles County Clerk within 5 days of Council's adoption.

SUMMARY:

The proposed Taylor Yards – Park Development project, which is currently under design, involves the development of a 40-acre park at Parcel D of the former Taylor Yard railroad site located at 1900 North San Fernando Road. The City of Los Angeles (City) will lease 20 acres from the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State) for active park uses. The City's portion of the park would accommodate several recreational activities, including soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, football, and tennis along with a 2,500 square foot community center, public restrooms and children's play areas. The remaining 20 acres of the site will be developed and operated by the State with passive recreational features, such as picnic areas, outdoor amphitheater, trails, and habitat restoration. Other project components include streetscape improvements, parking lot construction,

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lighting, support facilities, and landscaping. The objective of the project is to develop a seamless park design that will be a substantial benefit to the community at large.

Funding for the City's portion of the project is anticipated to be from Proposition K, Proposition 40, and Community Development Block Grant Funds.

In accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was prepared for the entire 40 acre project based on an Initial Study, which determined that all potentially significant environmental affects that, 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 February 27, 2004 to March 28, 2004. During this public review period, a total of five timely letters of comment were received from public agencies and one timely letter of comment was received from a citizen. Two late letters of comment were received from public agencies. In response to these comments, minor revisions have been made to the Draft MND; however, no substantial changes in the environmental analysis occurred. In addition, none of the significance determinations have changed since the Draft MND and no new mitigation measures have been added. The changes to the Draft MND include:

- The analysis of Carbon Monoxide concentrations has been expanded in the Final MND (see page 4-8). As discussed in the Draft MND, the project would not result in any Carbon Monoxide hotspots. The Carbon Monoxide model output data has been included in Appendix A of the MND.
- The discussion of groundwater conditions under the site has been updated to include the results of boring samples conducted by the City. These subsurface explorations verified the conclusions of the Draft MND that the probability of encountering groundwater during construction is low (see page 4-19) of the MND.
- Focused surveys for the Western spadefoot toad were conducted at the request of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The surveys were conducted on April 8, 2004, by a qualified State Parks biologist. The results of the survey were negative. A copy of the survey report is provided in Appendix E of the MND.
- Supplemental vegetation surveys were conducted on Parcel D at the request of CDFG. The surveys were conducted on April 20, 2004, by State Parks and EDAW biologists to further characterize the riparian plant communities' present onsite. The results of the surveys are consistent with the Draft MND analysis which stated that the site is not subject to Army Corp of Engineers or California Department Fish and Game jurisdiction. The survey report is included as Appendix F of the MND.

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- Figure 1 was inadvertently omitted from the Appendix B of the Draft MND. This figure is included in this Final MND.

The Final MND, copies of which have been provided to the Board for its review and consideration, includes the revised Draft MND sections as well as two new sections. Section 7.0, Response to Comments, includes copies of the Draft MND comment letters and corresponding responses from the State. Section 8.0, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, specifies all the mitigation measures identified in the MND that will either reduce or eliminate the potentially significant environment impact of the project in accordance with Section 15097 of the State CEQA Guidelines, and provides a checklist to fulfill the project's mitigation monitoring and reporting requirements.

Upon approval of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, staff will proceed with the completion of the construction documents, incorporating the recommendation of the MND, for the proposed project. The completed construction documents will then be presented to the Board for approval and call for bids. It is anticipated that the construction of the proposed project will occur in several phases.

This Board Report was prepared by Kathleen Chan, Prop K Coordinator, and Bureau of Engineering.