

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 04-212

DATE June 16, 2004

C.D. 10

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: **ORCUTT RANCH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (W.O. #E170211B) - APPROVAL OF INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

* K. Chan	<u>kc</u>	J. Combs	_____
H. Fujita	_____	J. Kolb	_____
F. Mok	_____	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Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____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 and 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 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, with Council making the same findings as the Board, specify that the City Engineer, located at 650 S Spring St and the City Clerk, located at 200 N Spring St, are the custodians of the documents and other material which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the City Council's decision is based 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 Orcutt Ranch Improvement Project, which is currently under design, involves several components:

1. Enhance accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 through improved parking, walkways and public restroom improvements;

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2. expand the educational opportunity and experience at the park through upgrade of the outdoor classroom facility, expansion of the interpretive program and improvement of the exhibit areas, all of which would entail construction of structures fixed to a permanent foundation;
3. Correct existing drainage problems on the site to ensure park-user safety and to help preserve historic structures; and
4. Return portions of the Dayton Creek stream channel to a more natural state so as to help resolve drainage/flooding issues, repair ecological damage, improve water quality, retain the historic ambience, and enhance the park visitor experience.

Funding for the City's portion of the project is anticipated to be from Proposition K.

In accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was prepared for the entire project 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 from April 23, 2004 to May 22, 2004, but was extended to June 4, 2004 to provide additional opportunities for public and agency review. During this public review period, one letter of comment was received from the State Department of Fish and Game.

Copies of the MND have been provided to the Board for its review and consideration. The 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.