

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 04-156


DATE May 19, 2004

C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: APPROVE A RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMIT TO SHAKESPEARE BY THE SEA, INC., FOR USE OF THE POINT FERMIN BANDSHELL AND THE LAWN OF THE BANNING RESIDENCE MUSEUM FOR 22 REHERSALS, AND 18 FREE-TO-THE-PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

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



General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board authorize the staff to prepare and the General Manager to execute a right-of-entry permit to Shakespeare by the Sea, Inc., to allow access to the Point Fermin Park Bandshell and the Banning Residence Museum front lawn, to conduct a series of 22 rehearsals and 18 Shakespeare theatrical performances, with amplified sound, for the general public from May 17, 2004 to August 14, 2004.

SUMMARY:

Since 1998, Shakespeare by the Sea, Inc., has conducted a free annual summer theatre festival at the Point Fermin Park. This festival, modeled after other Shakespeare festivals conducted all over the United States, drew an audience of 12,000 over the nine-week season last year. The quality of the performances has ensured a progressive gain in attendance each year since 1998. The 2004 season of Shakespeare by the Sea will include Richard III and Two Gentleman of Verona. Performances will commence on Thursday, June 17 with 15 performances at Point Fermin, then tour other South Bay venues, including one performance at the Banning Residence Museum, and return to Point Fermin Park for two final performances August 13 and 14.

Shakespeare by the Sea is dedicated to exposing new audiences to quality theatre. It is a cultural opportunity for the public that the Department could not otherwise provide. Through the financial support of grants from the Cultural Affairs Department and sponsorships from the Port

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of Los Angeles, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, *The Daily Breeze*, Cox Communications, ConocoPhillips and Jerico Development, the company is able to continue offering free public performances. For this reason, consideration for use of the facility shall be the public benefit to be gained by the delivery of free, high quality performances to the community.

Councilmember Janice Hahn has agreed to pay utility fees and reimburse the Department for fees for staffing beyond normal business hours. All expenses such as generators, portable stages, and portable toilets, and insurance costs, will be borne by Shakespeare by the Sea, Inc.

The performances will make use of amplified sound through boundary microphones, used for voice projection only.

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1 (14) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

Report prepared by Dale Wong Nguyen, Administrative Resource Division