



## REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2

NO. 04-334

### SUMMARY:

Representatives from KCCLA and KNT0, acting in the interest of the government of the Republic of Korea, have met with Department staff several times over the last year to discuss repairs and improvements to the Korean Friendship Bell and Visitor Information Center at Angels Gate Park in San Pedro. The Korean Friendship Bell was donated by the Republic of Korea around the time of this nation's bicentennial celebration in commemoration of the friendship between South Korea and the United States. Placed at Angels Gate Park, a former military base turned over to the City of Los Angeles to be a public park, the Korean Friendship Bell was installed within a decorative roof structure and placed amidst a plaza. Convenient parking is adjacent, and across from the parking lot is a building that has served in part as an office for park staff and in part as a Visitor's Center for additional information about the Korean Friendship Bell and Korean culture and history. The discussions between Recreation and Park staff and the KCCLA and KNT0 have focused primarily on repairing or replacing the Visitor's Center roof, air conditioning and heating, floor, and windows and doors, as well as performing other refurbishment such as repainting and replacing light fixtures. Ramps, railings, and doors will be added to improve ADA accessibility. Although the Korean Friendship Bell's structure needs more significant repairs in the near future, the deterioration currently exacerbated by pigeons perching in the structure can be mitigated by modest bird repellent systems.

The Department estimates the cost of the planned project to be about \$150,000.00, including a 15% contingency and an allowance for design overhead and permits. Funds will be conveyed to the Department by KCCLA/KNT0 upon execution of the Agreement to Accept Gift, which commits the Department to completion of the project. Environmental Management staff has determined that the subject project will consist of interior alterations to an existing structure involving remodeling and minor construction to meet current standards for public health and safety and, therefore, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1 (1, 4) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

The project will be accomplished by a mix of Department staff, hiring hall labor, and some specialty work done by existing City contractors, such as installation of the heating and air conditioning. The attached Agreement to Accept Gift incorporates a detail of the components of the project and costs of each component. If any funds remain after completion of the agreed-upon work, those funds shall only be used for future or other repairs or improvements to the Visitor's Center or Korean Friendship Bell.

Staff is enthusiastic about embarking on this work to improve and enhance the Visitor's Center at Angels Gate Park and to take steps toward better conditions for the Korean Friendship Bell. The partnership offered by the KCCLA and KNT0 through funding the project is an excellent example of the ability of the Department to leverage the abilities of internal staff with financial support to achieve enhancements for our patrons and visitors.

Report prepared by Linda Barth.