

**APPROVED**

APR 05 2007

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 07-81

DATE April 5, 2007

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 2

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: VALLEY COLLEGE BRIDGE - CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL OF A PROPOSAL TO REPLACE THE EXISTING BRIDGE AND TO INSTALL CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS; AND APPROVAL OF A USE AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT AND OF A SUBLICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE SOCIAL AND PUBLIC ART RESOURCE CENTER

R. Adams	_____	J. Kolb	_____
J. Combs	_____	F. Mok	_____
H. Fujita	_____	K. Regan	_____
S. Huntley	_____	*M. Shull	<u>M.S.</u>

[Signature]  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Grant conceptual approval to the proposal by the Social and Public Arts Resource Center (SPARC) to replace the Valley College Bridge with a solar-lit bridge with interpretive stations and the construction of five additional stations along the Tujunga Wash to provide access to the historical content of "The Great Wall of Los Angeles" mural located on the concrete walls within the Tujunga Wash;
2. Approve the proposed twenty-year Use Agreement, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, between City of Los Angeles (City), and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (County) for the continued use of a portion of the Tujunga Wash, located between Burbank Boulevard and Oxnard Street, for the replacement of the aforementioned bridge, installation of certain improvements, and continued maintenance of existing hiking and biking trails;

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3. Approve the proposed twenty-year Sublicense Agreement, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, between City, and the SPARC for the use of a portion of the Tujunga Wash, located between Burbank Boulevard and Oxnard Street, for the replacement of the aforementioned bridge and installation of certain improvements;
4. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed Agreements forthwith concurrently to the City Attorney, for review and approval as to form and, in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, to the Mayor's Office for expedited review and approval; and,
5. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the Agreements upon receipt of the necessary approvals.

*Tricia  
Carey  
email to  
Shue Pan  
cc: Liz +  
Tricia*

SUMMARY:

Since 1977, the Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) has been operating and maintaining existing hiking and biking trails located on the west and east sides of the Tujunga Wash between Burbank Boulevard and Oxnard Street (Attachment A) through Permit 77044-B, issued by the County. The area covered by the aforementioned permit also includes a pedestrian bridge, commonly known as the Valley College Bridge, which was built by the County in cooperation with the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Since 1976, SPARC has been maintaining "The Great Wall of Los Angeles" mural (mural). The mural is a half-mile long monument containing a chronological narrative of, and tribute to, the ethnically diverse peoples of California from prehistoric times to the 1950's. It was painted on a section of the concrete retaining wall of the Tujunga Wash and has been maintained by SPARC under the authority of several permits issued by the County over the years. The project was created and directed by California Chicana muralist Judy Baca.

Over the last 30 years, the mural has suffered extensive damage due to sun exposure and lack of restoration funds and is in need of restoration and preservation efforts.

The Valley College Bridge, which provided access across the Tujunga Wash, has been closed to the public since the mid-1990's due to structural damage suffered during the 1994 Northridge earthquake (Attachment B). The City obtained \$100,000 from Proposition 12 and allocated \$250,000 in funds from the Capital Improvements Expenditure Program, totaling \$350,000 to demolish and replace the bridge. While in the process of moving forward with this project, SPARC approached the City with a proposal to combine efforts and funds to provide additional amenities to the bridge and use area.

SPARC is the recipient of a \$1.29 million grant from the California Cultural Historical Endowment and another \$375,000 from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy totaling \$1.665 million.

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SPARC was able to obtain the funds for the restoration and preservation of the mural, construction of a new solar-lit bridge with interpretive stations, and construction of five additional stations along the Tujunga Wash to provide access to historical content of the mural.

Combining the projects (SPARC-Wall Restoration and Interpretive Station Construction and City-Bridge Demolition and Replacement) provides SPARC with the necessary matching funds it needs to fulfill the requirement of the grant funds it was awarded. The City will benefit by receiving an artistic and visually pleasing pedestrian bridge.

At this time, SPARC, through its consultant, has provided conceptual drawings of the proposed solar-lit bridge with interpretive stations (Attachment C). SPARC has been working with the Bureau of Engineering and will continue to do so as the actual design and construction drawings are being prepared. Upon completion, these will be presented to the Board for final approval.

As indicated, the City has been operating the use area under the authority of Permit 77044-B, issued by the County in 1977. At the request of the County and with City Attorney concurrence, this permit is to be rescinded and replaced with the Use Agreement presented for approval.

The Use Agreement includes appropriately up-dated provisions, including but not limited to insurance, liability, and hazardous materials. The initial term of this agreement is 20 years from the date of execution. The use area shall remain the same and the City will continue to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the improvements within the use area, including the pedestrian bridge and interpretive stations. The City will not be responsible for the maintenance of the mural. The County will enter into a separate Use Agreement with SPARC to address the maintenance of the mural.

One of the major requirements of the grants received by SPARC was the establishment of site control during the repayment period of the grant. It is the understanding of both parties that the execution of a Sublicense Agreement satisfies this requirement. The Sublicense Agreement has an initial term of 20 years which parallels the term of the Use Agreement with the County. It incorporates the standard City mandated provisions and places the responsibility of designing and constructing the pedestrian bridge on SPARC. Also, while general maintenance over the use area and the improvements proposed, including the bridge, will be the responsibility of the City, SPARC will be responsible for the maintenance or repair of any of the artistic elements of the bridge and interpretive stations.

At this time, a Development Agreement between the City and SPARC, which will cover in detail the exact responsibilities of each party and the manner by which the funds are to be expended, is being negotiated and will be presented to the Board for approval at a future date.

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Staff has determined that the subject project will consist of agreements that will allow the replacement of the pedestrian bridge, installation of interpretive signage and restoration of a mural, and therefore, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1) and Class 2(7) of the City CEQA Guidelines. A Notice of Exemption was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on December 18, 2006.

This project has the support from Councilmember for the Second District. In addition, the Assistant General Manager of Operations West and Superintendent for the Valley Region have been consulted and concur with staff's recommendations.

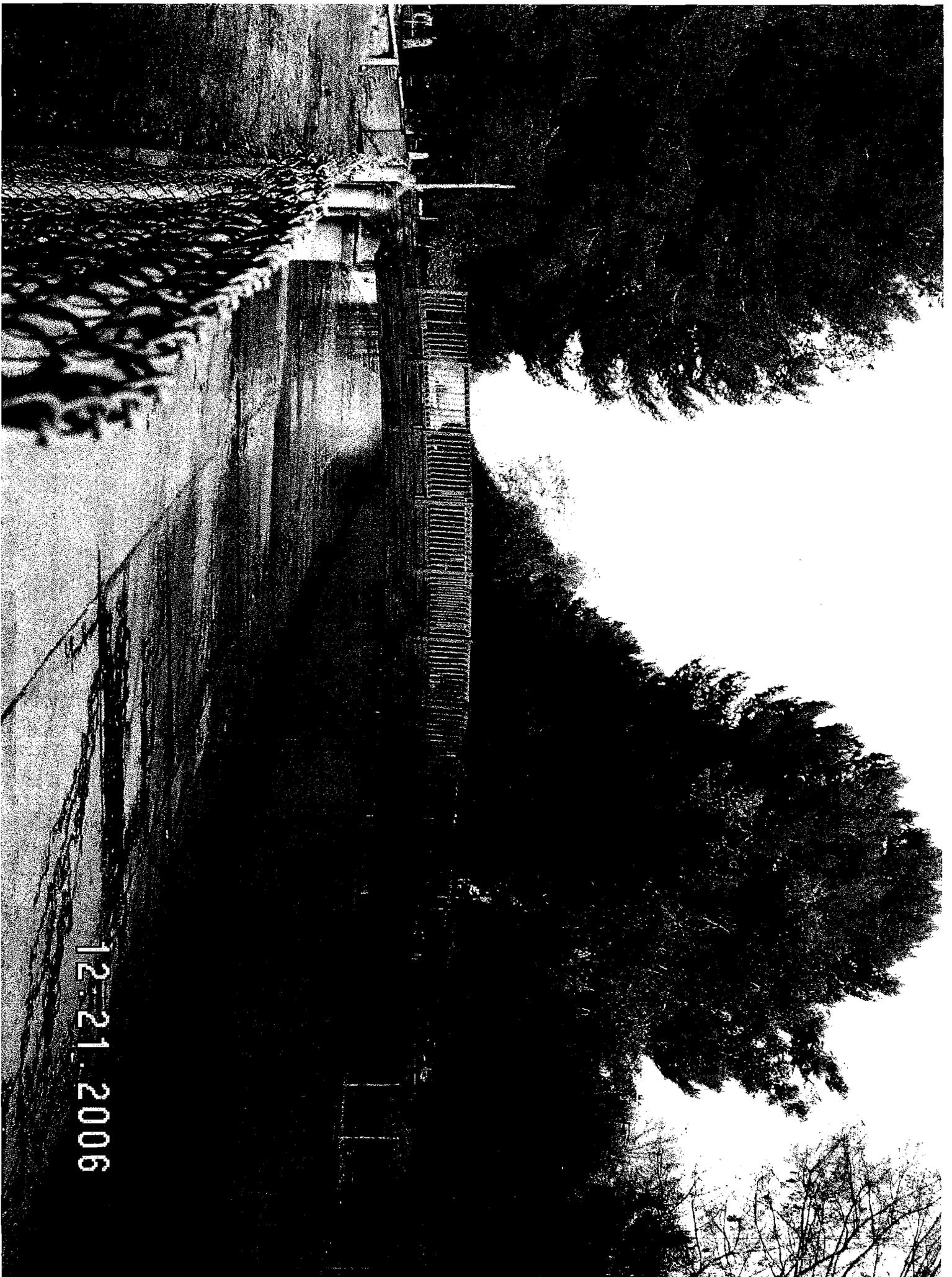
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no significant fiscal impact to the Department's budget as the proposed project has its own budget and does not require additional Department funds to complete. There could be some slight increase in maintenance costs when the pedestrian bridge and interpretive stations are complete. This may require additional resources which would be requested through the Department's standard budget process.

Prepared by Cid Macaraeg, Senior Management Analyst II, Real Estate and Asset Management.

TUJUNGA CHANNEL: BIKE TRAILS, GREAT WALL BRIDGE

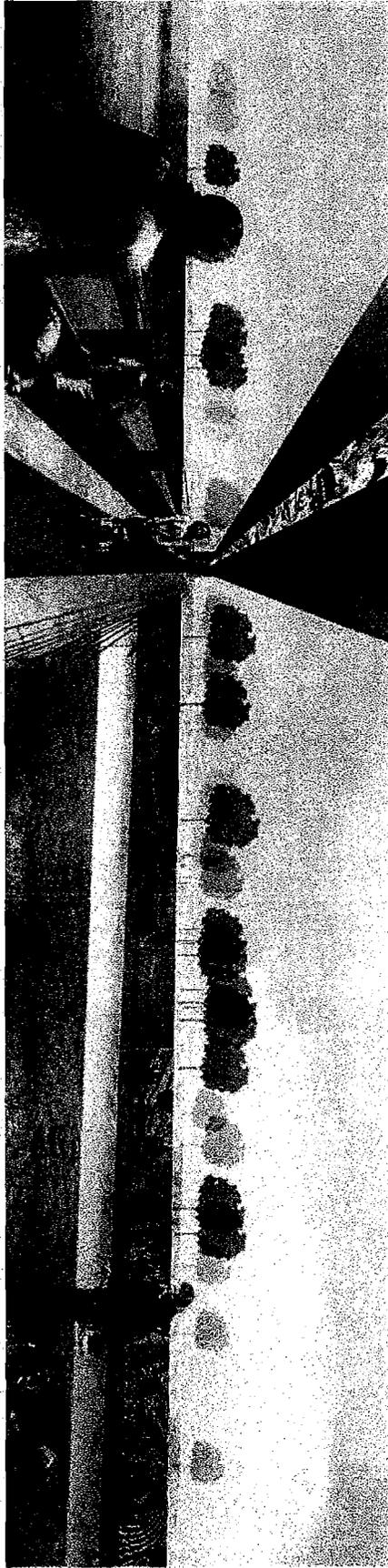




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ATTACHMENT B

WHY



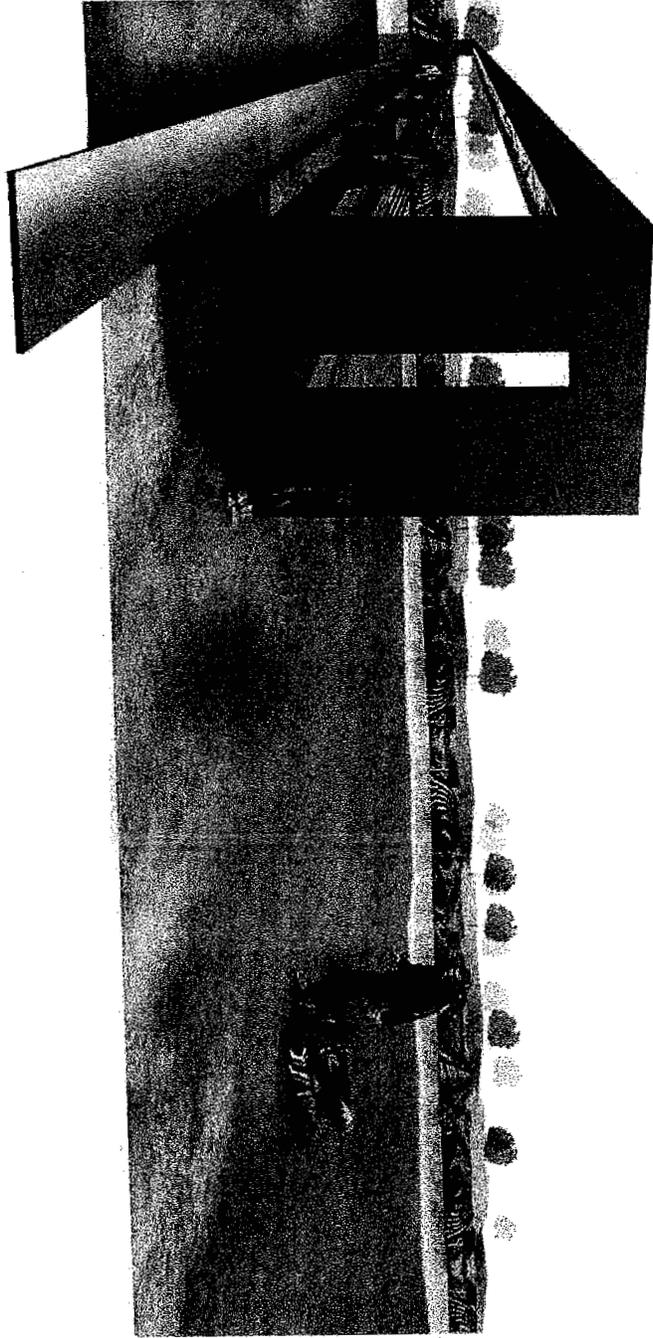
ATTACHMENT C-1

WESTERN STATE COLLEGE

**WHY**  
GROUP



WHY



**WHY**

