

APPROVED

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 07-137

DATE June 20, 2007

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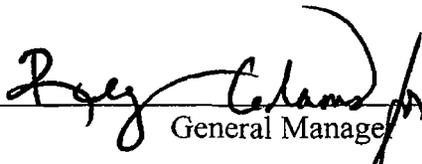
BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. All

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: CITY PARK IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS AND LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER FOR IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENTS AT SELECTED PARK SITES

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



 General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, specifying the terms and conditions for the use of funding provided by the LADWP for the Department's operation of the City Park Irrigation Improvement Program (Program), subject to the approval of the Mayor and the City Attorney as to form;
2. Authorize the Department to receive from the LADWP, initial funding up to \$1,000,000 for the initial implementation of the Program at three park sites – Victory Memorial Grove in Elysian Park, Arroyo Seco Park at Avenue 64, and Mount Carmel Recreation Center;

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3. Direct the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to deposit the initial funding (up to \$1,000,000) as follows, upon inter-departmental transfer from the LADWP:

<u>Park Site</u>	<u>Dept./Fund No/ Account No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Victory Memorial Grove - Elysian Park	88/205/AD05	\$302,800
Arroyo Seco Park (Avenue 64)	88/205/AD06	\$336,200
Mount Carmel Recreation Center	88/ 205/AD07	<u>\$350,500</u>
	Total:	\$989,500

4. Direct the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to establish project accounts for future LADWP Program approved projects and related interdepartmental funding transfers from the LADWP, respectively, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the MOU;
5. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed MOU to the Mayor for review and approval, pursuant to Executive Directive No. 3, and to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form; and,
6. Authorize the General Manager to Execute the MOU upon receipt of the necessary approvals.

SUMMARY:

The LADWP has offered to partner with the Department through the proposed MOU for the initial implementation and subsequent continued operation of the Program. The Program's purpose is to develop and promote water conservation by maximizing landscape water use efficiency at City parks through actions that include, but are not limited to, the repair and/or replacement of existing irrigation distribution systems and the installation of weather-sensitive irrigation control equipment that irrigates on the basis of actual site characteristics and local weather conditions. Under the proposed MOU and related Program, the LADWP will provide funding to the Department up to \$3,000,000 each fiscal year through interdepartmental transfers for irrigation improvements at specified park sites. Each fiscal year the Department shall submit to the LADWP a water conservation work plan which shall set forth in detail, on a park by park (Project) basis, the work to be performed, Project milestones, and the cost estimates for each Project in the respective fiscal year. Upon execution, the MOU and related Program shall remain in effect until June 30, 2011.

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The LADWP will initiate the Program with an initial transfer of funds up to \$1,000,000 allocated to each Project in the following amounts, respectively, for approved irrigation improvements at three park sites: \$302,800 for Victory Memorial Grove at Elysian Park in the Thirteenth Council District (CD-13), \$336,200 for Arroyo Seco Park at Avenue 64 in the Fourteenth Council District (CD-14), and \$350,500 for Mt. Carmel Recreation Center in the Eighth Council District (CD-8). The LADWP recognizes the need to improve the irrigation infrastructure in City parks and proposes to fund irrigation improvement projects at City parks under the Program as an initial step towards addressing these needs. Subsequent to the initial interdepartmental transfer for the aforementioned three Projects (FY 2006-07), the LADWP will provide Program funding up to, and not to exceed, \$1,000,000 for FY 2007-08 and \$3,000,000 each fiscal year thereafter through June 30, 2011. Each fiscal year, available funds will be allocated to the Program contingent upon the LADWP annual budgeting process and the written approval of the Department's annual water conservation work plan for each fiscal year, submitted to LADWP on or prior to October 1st of each preceding fiscal year.

As an acknowledged leader in water conservation, the LADWP recognizes the educational value that this project represents in promoting proper 'smart' irrigation techniques to achieve significant savings in outdoor water use. The ultimate goal of this project is to install the necessary infrastructure that will properly irrigate and promote ease of maintenance at City park sites that are in great need of refurbishment. The benefit to the community and ultimate outcome of these Projects will be long-term water conservation, reduction of dry weather runoff, the elimination of system leakages, and the enhanced health and aesthetics of the three parks through the use of smart irrigation controller technology.

Staff has determined that the irrigation improvement projects engendered by the proposed MOU will consist primarily of the repair and/or replacement to existing subsurface irrigation pipelines and control systems, initially at three different park sites, then subsequently at various selected park sites. Therefore, the first three projects are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1(a), Class 1(17) and Section 1(b), Class 2(5) of the City CEQA Guidelines. The subsequent projects are provisionally exempt pursuant to the same categories, and will be re-evaluated according to CEQA as each project is approved for funding under the program.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the MOU and that proper recognition be given to the LADWP, as represented by its General Manager, Ronald Deaton; its Director of Budget, Rates and Efficiency, Jeff Peltola; and its Water Conservation Manager, Thomas Gackstetter.

Staff has discussed the proposed MOU with the Assistant General Manager of Operations East, and the Superintendent of Planning and Development, and each concurs with staff's recommendations.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

There will be no adverse fiscal impact associated with this project, as the Program operation and related irrigation improvements will be funded through LADWP interdepartmental transfers. The Department and affected communities will benefit greatly from the Program through improved irrigation systems at selected park sites, which will produce increased water conservation and healthier looking parks through reduced dry weather runoff, elimination of irrigation system water leaks, and healthier landscaping.

Report prepared by Tom Gibson, Landscape Architect and Joel Alvarez, Management Analyst, of the Department's Advanced Planning Section and Real Estate and Asset Management Section, respectively.