

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

**APPROVED**  
MAY 16 2007

NO. 07-119

DATE May 16, 2007

BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. Various

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ORDINANCE PROHIBITING SMOKING AND OPEN FLAME IN LOS ANGELES CITY PARKS

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

[Signature]  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board request the City Attorney to prepare and submit forthwith to City Council an ordinance, containing an urgency clause due to the current dry, hot weather conditions that could cause wildfires in the parks to break out at any time, amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to prohibit all smoking of any kind and all open flames of any kind in Los Angeles City parks designated by the Department of Recreation and Parks as being in a high fire hazard zone and that this ordinance be seasonal in nature effective each year starting April 1 and concluding November 1, but that the General Manager be afforded discretion to adjust the dates as needed to protect the public from hazardous fire conditions, provided that adequate notice is given to the public by the posting of signs indicating when smoking and use of open flames is prohibited in the designated high fire hazard zone parks.

SUMMARY:

Due to several years of heavy rains and subsequent extremely hot and dry summers, the potential for brush fires in and around Los Angeles City parks is at an all time high. For instance, the recent wildfire in Griffith Park consumed close to 1,000 acres of valuable native habitat and open space. The most common cause of accidental fires in City parks has historically been related to smoking and to cooking fires. With the ever increasing danger of wildfire and the continued heavy use of the City's urban parks, it is necessary to create an ordinance to prohibit both smoking and open flame in City parks.

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This new ordinance will be seasonal and target the extreme high fire period; however, it will allow the Department's General Manager to extend the seasonal period due to climatic conditions and fire potential. The ordinance will identify those parks which are considered to be in areas of high fire danger or in areas where fire could be potentially damaging to surrounding communities and will apply throughout an entire park that is designated as having a high fire potential. Some of these facilities may already reside in mountain fire districts; however, this ordinance will apply to many parks which are not in these districts. Staff will work with the City Attorney to provide a list of designated parks for inclusion in the ordinance and will report back to the Board with the designated list in the near future.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The total fiscal impact of this new ordinance is unknown at this time; however, the only anticipated impact regarding this ordinance would involve potential overtime for enforcement related activities.

This report was prepared by Kevin W. Regan, Assistant General Manager.