



REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 139454

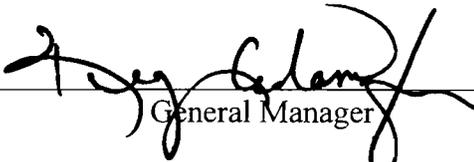
DATE June 5, 2013

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH PARK – NORTH ATWATER PARK – APPROVAL OF WORDING, PLACEMENT AND INSTALLATION OF PLAQUE

R. Adams	_____	K. Regan	_____
H. Fujita	_____	*M. Shull	<u>MS</u>
V. Israel	_____	N. Williams	_____

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Manager

Approved as amended                      Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_                      Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Grant approval for the wording, placement, and installation of a plaque at North Atwater Park, as described in the Summary of this Report; and,
2. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) to issue the appropriate Right-of-Entry (ROE) Permit for the installation of the plaque.

SUMMARY:

North Atwater Park is a 5.36 acre park located at 3900 Chevy Chase Drive and is a sub-park to the larger Griffith Park. This facility includes a baseball diamond, basketball courts, children’s play area, restrooms, volleyball courts, a restored stream and a walking path along the Los Angeles River. The facility is unstaffed. This proposal is for the installation of a plaque at North Atwater Park, near the river, that commemorates the Los Angeles River project as part of President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors program.

In April 2010, President Barack Obama directed all federal agencies to work together to determine how the federal government could do a better job of connecting Americans, particularly youth in urban environments, to America’s Great Outdoors. In July of 2010, a federal delegation which included Ken Salazar, the Secretary of the Interior, the President’s Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and a United States Department of Agriculture Undersecretary held two (2) listening sessions in Los Angeles.

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During the visit, the Los Angeles River was declared to be a traditionally navigable waterway which reinforced its Clean Water Act protection and set in motion the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 2011 decision to allow the first-ever pilot boating program in the river.

In 2011, America's Great Outdoors "50 State Report" was released which prioritized the Los Angeles River Trail System as part of the America's Great Outdoors initiative and selected the Los Angeles River watershed as one (1) of seven (7) nationwide urban waters pilot projects.

Since that time, Secretary Salazar ordered plaques for each of the demonstration projects within the America's Great Outdoor initiative. The plaque commemorating the Los Angeles project has been received, a photo of which is attached to this Report as Exhibit A, and which states:

Los Angeles River  
A PROJECT OF  
AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

The Los Angeles River Project in California is designated a keystone conservation and outdoor recreation project under President Obama's America's Great Outdoors program. Here, we celebrate the partnership and collaboration that resulted in the transformation of the river into a model urban waterway and a new era of public access and use of the river.

2012

National Park Service  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

North Atwater Park has been selected by Mayor Villaraigosa as the site to host the America's Great Outdoors plaque because it is located along the route of National Park Service Juan Bautista de Anza National Trail, it is within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles River Study Area, and because the park represents important public, private and non-profit sector partnerships which are critical to the success of Los Angeles River revitalization efforts.

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article VLL, Section 1, Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA guidelines, which provides for the placement of signs on park property as accessory structures to recreational facilities.

Council District 4 and Department management and staff support this project at North Atwater Park.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There should be minimal fiscal impact as the cost of plaque manufacture has been paid for by the United States Department of the Interior. Minor costs to the Department will be for the installation of the plaque by in-house construction forces.

This Report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Branch.

# Los Angeles River

A PROJECT OF

## AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

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EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 5, 2013

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PLAQUE

Michael Shull, Assistant General Manager, amended the report to add a recommendation to direct himself to find a position for the plaque to be installed that is in the same area, but outside of the Department's park property; however, if his investigation should fail, the plaque be installed as close to the edge on park property as possible.