

**APPROVED**

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

**JUN 27 2013**

NO. 13-178

DATE June 27, 2013

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 1

**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

**SUBJECT: ELYSIAN PARK – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER FOR THE ELYSIAN RESERVOIR AND PARK ENHANCEMENT FUND**

R. Adams _____	K. Regan _____
H. Fujita _____	M. Shull _____
*V. Israel _____	N. Williams _____

General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), on file in the Board Office, for the Elysian Reservoir and Park Enhancement Fund, as described in the Summary;
2. Approve in concept the scope of the proposed improvements in Elysian Park consisting of landscaping and road modifications on the Avenue of the Palms and Phase 1 irrigation pipeline replacement in the Park (Improvements) and direct staff to begin detailed design;
3. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed MOU to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and concurrently to the City Attorney for review as to form; and,
4. Authorize the General Manager or his designee to execute the MOU upon receipt of the necessary approvals.

SUMMARY:

The LADWP Board of Commissioners approved the Elysian Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project in order to ensure the quality, reliability, and stability of the City of Los Angeles drinking

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water supply and to comply with updated United States Environmental Protection Agency water quality standards. The specific project approved was installation of a floating cover over the Elysian Reservoir; the LADWP Board certified an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project.

A component of the final approved project was the establishment of the Elysian Reservoir and Park Enhancement Fund (Fund) in the amount of \$3,160,000.00 (\$3.16 million) for the purposes of providing funds for multiple improvement projects in Elysian Park. On December 11, 2012, the Los Angeles City Council adopted the LADWP Board's approval of the Elysian Reservoir Water Quality Improvement Project (Council File Number 12-0761); as part of that action, the Council requested that the LADWP work with the Citizen's Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP) to assure that the Elysian Reservoir and Park Enhancement Fund would be used to maximize the community's objectives. RAP has also been integrally involved in those discussions.

The outcome of the joint consideration among LADWP, RAP, Council District 1, and CCSEP, is to apply the Fund to two projects: Avenue of the Palms landscaping and road modifications, and irrigation pipeline replacement.

The Avenue of the Palms work will consist of the removal of those palm trees that are diseased and the planting of new palm tree saplings along the entire stretch of Avenue of the Palms that will eventually replace the current aging palms; it also includes installation of a smart irrigation system, the placement of boulders to protect the saplings, and the possible narrowing of the road along Avenue of the Palms to facilitate parking. The irrigation pipeline replacement project to be performed under this MOU will be Phase I of a larger project to replace all of the existing aging potable main line and fire line pipes in Elysian Park with new recycled water piping. This funding will be used in the area identified by RAP as Phase I, which encompasses the western side of the Park including generally the irrigated areas along Stadium Way and Angels Point. Phase 1 is the most critical area to upgrade as the deteriorating condition of the existing pipe is the most critical.

RAP is in a position to design and perform the proposed Improvements through use of as-needed contracts and in-house staff and to take the lead on coordinating progress on the improvements with the CCSEP, as requested by Council. LADWP has proposed an MOU to effectuate the one-time payment of the Fund (\$3.16 million) and to assign responsibility for accomplishing the Improvements.

The proposed MOU provides desperately needed funding for two (2) problem areas in Elysian Park. Disease and age have started claiming the historic palm trees on the Avenue of the Palms, and a replacement program that incorporates phased replacement with more appropriate palm species is necessary to preserve this unique Los Angeles landmark. The aged and dilapidated irrigation system urgently needs replacement to ensure appropriate irrigation of plants and trees, with an end to wasted water and swampy conditions due to broken lines, and a reliable water supply for fire suppression.

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The Superintendent of RAP's Metro Region, RAP grounds maintenance staff, and the staff of Council District 1 have been involved in discussions about use of the Fund at Elysian Park, support the project, and concur with these recommendations.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Staff has determined that the subject project will consist of the maintenance of existing landscaping and replacement irrigation systems involving negligible or no expansion of use. Therefore, the project is exempt without exception from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(8), Class 4(2), and Class 2(5) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There will be no fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund, as the proposed improvements in Elysian Park will be funded entirely by the Elysian Reservoir and Park Enhancement Fund and on-going maintenance of the completed improvements will be commensurate with, or lower, than the existing costs of maintaining those features in Elysian Park.

This report was prepared by Michael A. Shull, Assistant General Manager, Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Branch, and Vicki Israel, Assistant General Manager, Partnership and Revenue Branch.