

APPROVED
4-05-2017

BOARD REPORT BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS NO. 17-080

DATE April 05, 2017 C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ANGELS GATE PARK – GAFFEY STREET POOL – NAMING GAFFEY STREET POOL AS HEY ROOKIE POOL; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 11 (1) OF THE CITY CEQA GUIDELINES (MODIFICATIONS OF AN EXISTING PARK FACILITY WITH NO EXPANSION OF USE))

AP Diaz _____ V. Israel _____
*R. Barajas *[Signature]* _____ N. Williams _____
H. Fujita _____

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Name Gaffey Street Pool as "Hey Rookie Pool";
- 2. Authorize the installation of appropriate signage;
- 3. Find the project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11 (1) and Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA guidelines, and direct Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to file a Notice of Exemption; and,
- 4. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) for the purpose of filing a Notice of Exemption.

SUMMARY:

Angels Gate Park is located in the San Pedro community at 3601 Gaffey Street and contains Gaffey Street Pool, which is located at 3351 Gaffey Street. This feature is currently designated Gaffey Street Pool in keeping with Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) policy of assigning temporary names for administrative purposes but has never undergone a community-driven naming process.

Gaffey Street Pool is currently undergoing renovations. The pool has been shuttered since the early 1990's when it was drained and closed due to deterioration. Over Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) has been allocated from various sources (Harbor Department, Proposition K, RAP) to this pool and bathhouse renovation project, which is scheduled to be completed in

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Spring, 2017. The local community has had opportunity to provide input on this renovation project. One request heard from the Community repeatedly is that the pool, when reopened, should revert back to its historic name of Hey Rookie Pool.

In 1942, Fort MacArthur Garrison soldiers wrote and produced "Hey Rookie", a stage show that ran for nine months at the Belasco Theatre before being sent overseas. The "Hey Rookie" swimming pool was built in 1943 with funds generated by the "Hey Rookie" show. Once built, the pool continued the public service of the "Hey Rookie" show by providing an entertainment venue for various aquatic shows called Aquacades and serving as an aquatic training venue for soldiers. In the postwar years, the pool was used as a recreation facility for the public and for soldiers of the Fort. In 1965, the property was leased by the Secretary of the Army to RAP, which lease remained in place until the property was eventually declared surplus and acquired by RAP. The pool is not referred to by name by the Army in the original lease and has been referred to by RAP as Gaffey Pool and Gaffey Street Pool. To date, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) has not taken an action to officially name the pool.

RAP's staff has evaluated the proposed naming and finds it to be in compliance with the Board adopted Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for Parks and Recreational Facilities as the name Hey Rookie Pool is the historic name of the feature, is neutral in connotation, and is representative of a unique feature of the community of San Pedro.

Park signage is included in the construction budget. It is not anticipated that additional funds will be required.

RAP management and staff are in support with the recommendations. This proposal was reviewed by the Facility Repair and Maintenance Task Force at their March 1, 2017 meeting, at which time it was recommended that the proposal be forwarded to the full Commission for consideration.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed project involves minor construction of an on-premises sign for the purpose of renaming the pool, which is accessory to the park. Therefore, staff recommends that the Board determine that the subject project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA Guidelines. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk within five (5) working days of the Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There shall be no fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund for the naming of this Pool as the signage is included in the construction project.

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

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List of Attachment

- A) Gaffey Pool within Angels Gate Park

Gaffey Pool within Angeles Gate Park

