

# APPROVED

01-18-2017

BOARD REPORT BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS NO. 17-010

DATE January 18, 2017 C.D. 15

## BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: SAN PEDRO EXIT PARK – RENAMING SAN PEDRO EXIT PARK TO “LOS ANGELES SISTER CITIES PLAZA”; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA), 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 CSD \_\_\_\_\_ N. Williams \_\_\_\_\_  
H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_

*fur*

Ramon Barajas for  
General Manager

Approved ✓ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Grant approval to rename San Pedro Exit Park as “Los Angeles Sister Cities Plaza”;
2. Authorize the installation of appropriate park 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 RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

### SUMMARY:

San Pedro Exit Park is a new park project located in the San Pedro community at 406 North Gaffey Street. On February 3, 2016, the Board approved the final plans and specifications for the Exit Park (Report No. 16-051). This facility is currently designated as Exit Park in keeping with RAP policy of assigning temporary names for administrative purposes; however, it has never undergone a community-driven naming process.

In July 2016, Councilmember Joe Buscaino, Fifteenth Council District (Council District 15), submitted a request to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners to consider naming the facility currently known as Exit Park as the “Los Angeles Sister Cities Plaza.”

## BOARD REPORT

PG. 2 NO. 17-010

The design of this Park is the result of several community meetings with local stakeholders. A prominent feature in this design is a court of twenty-five flags honoring the City of Los Angeles Sister Cities. As stated in the letter from the Councilman Buscaino, "San Pedro is a port city, and the Port of LA is the City's gateway to the rest of the world, therefore I find it fitting to propose naming this new park the Los Angeles Sister Cities Plaza. The park will not only be a permanent tribute to LA's Sister Cities, but also symbolizes the interconnectivity of Los Angeles – serving as a constant reminder of both the global impact Los Angeles makes and countless lives from around the world who helped build this great City." The letter proposing the name Los Angeles Sister Cities Plaza and renderings of the Plaza are attached hereto as Exhibits A and B.

On September 19, 2016, Councilmember Joe Buscaino attended the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council to present the proposed park name. Subsequently, Council District 15 Office staff developed and distributed a survey regarding the proposed park naming through their social media channels, which reach over 13,700 viewers per week. Over one hundred and fifty (150) responses were received with eighty-nine percent (89%) of responses in favor of the proposed name. The only other name proposed was 'Sestra le Citta' which translates as Sister Cities in a combination of Croatian and Italian.

RAP 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 Los Angeles Sister Cities Park is neutral in connotation, and is representative of a unique feature of the port community of San Pedro.

Fabrication and installation of the sign will be included in the building process of the Park.

RAP management and staff are in support with the recommendations. This proposal was reviewed by the Facility Repair and Maintenance Task Force at their September 21, 2016 meeting, at which time the Task Force recommended that the proposal be forwarded to the full Commission for consideration following additional community outreach.

The proposed Project involves minor construction of an on-premises sign for the purpose of renaming the park, which is accessory to the Park. Therefore, RAP Staff recommends that the Board determine that the subject Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (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 Park as the Park signage will be paid for through construction funds.

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

BOARD REPORT

PG. 3 NO. 17-010

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Exhibit A – Letter from Councilmember Joe Buscaino
- 2) Exhibit B – Park Project Rendering



**JOE BUSCAINO**  
Councilmember, 15th District

July 1, 2016

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department  
Office of the Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 86328  
Los Angeles, CA 90086

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you to begin the process of proposing a name for a new park in my district. Over the past couple of years, my office has been working tirelessly to create an open and welcoming environment for visitors coming in to San Pedro.

One of these efforts has been the conversion of an old, vacant lot into a park on Gaffey St. near the 110 freeway on and off ramps. Referred to as Exit Park during the planning process, this elegant new plaza will greet visitors to San Pedro with a monument to all of Los Angeles' Sister Cities - symbolizing San Pedro's role as the City's gateway to the rest of the world.

The eye-catching appeal of this park will come from the twenty-five flags - one for each City of Los Angeles' Sister Cities' countries- flying throughout the park. Some of the cities represented include Ischia, Italy; Split, Croatia; Nagoya, Japan; and more. The park will also feature 24 drought tolerant and California native trees to create a dense canopy over the pedestrian walkways lined with native perennials and succulents to allow residents to stroll through the space as they continue down San Pedro's main corridor.

San Pedro is a port city, and the Port of LA is the City's gateway to the rest of the world, therefore I find it fitting to propose naming this new park the Los Angeles Sister Cities Plaza. The park will not only be a permanent tribute to LA's Sister Cities, but also symbolizes the interconnectivity of Los Angeles – serving as a constant reminder of both the global impact Los Angeles makes and countless lives from around the world who helped build this great City.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Buscaino".

**JOE BUSCAINO**

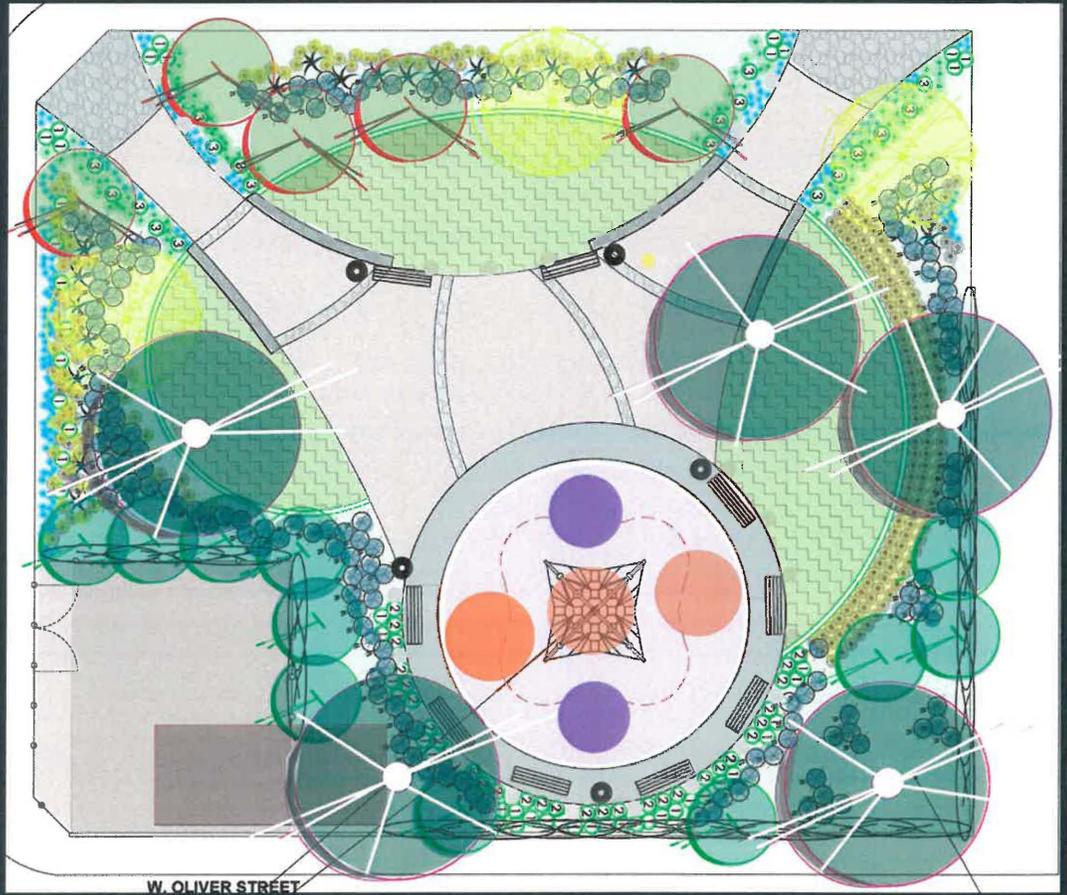
Councilmember, 15th District

The Department of Recreation and Parks & Councilman Joe Buscaino Present

# LA Sister Cities Plaza at Exit Park!

Construction Begins:  
Summer 2016

*The elegant new plaza will greet visitors to San Pedro with a monument to all of Los Angeles' Sister Cities - symbolizing San Pedro's role as the City's gateway to the rest of the world.*



- Twenty-five flags - one for each Sister City country - will fly throughout the park representing cities including Ischia, Italy; Split, Croatia; Nagoya, Japan; and more.
- The plaza - on the corner of Gaffey St. and O'Farrell St. - will feature 24 drought tolerant and California native trees to create a dense canopy over the pedestrian walkways lined with native perennials and succulents.



COUNCILMAN  
@JOEBUSCAINO  
[www.LA15TH.com](http://www.LA15TH.com)



**EXIT PARK**

