

MOTION

Over the course of the past decade, the City has been interested in acquiring the Taylor Yard G2 parcel located 2.5 miles northeast of downtown. The parcel consists of 42 acres along the Los Angeles River and the Rio de Los Angeles Park. The site is ideal for the development of a vast wetlands/water-cleansing landscape and public green space in an area of the City with limited open space.

The Army Corps of Engineers has also included the greening of the site within its Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Feasibility Report. The concept envisions a 300 foot widening of the Los Angeles River for the formation of the wetlands and riverfront space.

The Taylor Yard parcel is owned by Union Pacific Railroad Company and has been used as a railroad switching and maintenance operation since the 1920s. Union Pacific has been phasing out its operations and is currently interested in selling the property.

The Los Angeles River Revitalization Corporation has been working with Union Pacific encouraging the sale of the parcel to the City. Recognizing the significance of the parcel for improved water quality benefits, the City's Proposition O Clean Water Bond program has set aside funding for the potential acquisition of the site.

Given the current interest in selling property, the City should pursue the potential purchase of the site by authorizing City staff to enter into immediate negotiations with Union Pacific. As part of this process, the City should also initiate its asset valuation protocols to ensure it is getting a fair market price including evaluation of any remediation/cleanup activities.


If the Taylor Yard G2 parcel is acquired, it will be the region's premiere urban ecosystem green space- supporting riparian habitat, diverse native vegetation and abundant wildlife. The parcel will also serve to improve the environmental health and welfare of City residents for generations to come.


I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, in conjunction with the City Administrative Officer and the Department of General Services, immediately enter into negotiations with representatives of Union Pacific Railroad Company to seek the potential acquisition of the Taylor Yard G2 parcel.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of General Services initiate its property/asset valuation protocols to determine a fair market price for the parcel, including the cost of any remediation activity.

I FURTHER MOVE that these Departments, along with the City Attorney, report back to the City Council in Closed Session on December 17, 2013 on the status of negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad Company; and if there is an need to take further action.

PRESENTED BY: 
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ORIGINAL