

APPROVED

APR 18 2018

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

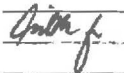
NO. 18-073

DATE April 18, 2018

C.D. 14

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: EAGLE ROCK RECREATION CENTER – NEW DOG PARK AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS (PRJ21058) PROJECT – APPROVAL OF FINAL PLANS – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(3), CLASS 4(3) AND CLASS 11(3) OF THE CITY CEQA GUIDELINES (MINOR ALTERATIONS OF EXISTING STREETS AND PEDESTRIAN TRAILS, TREE PLANTING AND LANDSCAPING AND PLACING OF MINOR STRUCTURES ACCESSORY TO EXISTING FACILITIES)

AP Diaz		V. Israel	_____
* R. Barajas		S. Piña-Cortez	_____
H. Fujita		N. Williams	_____



General Manager

Approved X

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the final plans and specifications for the Eagle Rock Recreation Center – New Dog Park and Park Improvements (PRJ21058) Project (Project), substantially in the form on file with the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' (Board) Office;
2. Recommend that the City Council request the City Attorney's Office to draft an ordinance amending Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 63.44 B.2(d) in order to authorize the designated fenced area consisting of approximately 0.99 acre in Eagle Rock Recreation Center as an off-leash dog exercise and training area, for final approval by City Council;
3. Recommend that the City Council approve the ordinance amending LAMC Section 63.44 B.2(d), as prepared by the City Attorney;
4. Find that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption;
5. Authorize RAP's 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; and,

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6. Authorize the RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

Eagle Rock Recreation Center is located at 1100 West Eagle Vista Drive in the Eagle Rock community of the City. This 20.68-acre park features a community center, childcare center, children's play areas, multipurpose fields, tennis and basketball courts, and outdoor fitness equipment. An estimated 1,750 City residents live within a one-half (½) mile walking distance of Eagle Rock Recreation Center. Due to the facilities and features it provides, Eagle Rock Recreation Center meets the standard for a Community Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan.

The proposed project, Eagle Rock Dog Park, is located at the Eagle Rock Recreation Center in Council District 14. More specifically, the dog park is proposed to be located on the eastern side of the park near the intersection of Figueroa Street and the 134 Freeway on ramp.

The Project was initiated at the request of the local community through Council District 14. Funding was initially identified in the RAP's Budget for the Project in Fiscal Year 2016/17 at which time, the design process started.

OFF LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREAS – RAP POLICY AND GUIDELINES

On October 6, 1999, the Board approved an Off Leash Dog Exercise Area Policy (Report No. 382-99) (Attachment No. 2). The purpose of the RAP's Off Leash Dog Exercise Area Policy (Policy) is to establish a mechanism by which dog owners have the opportunity to recreate with their dogs off-leash within designated park areas. The Policy is used in conjunction with RAP's Off-Leash Dog Exercise Area Guidelines (Guidelines). The purpose of the Guidelines is to assist in the design, development and operation of off-leash dog exercise areas in the City of Los Angeles. The Policy and Guidelines are attached to this report (Attachment No. 2).

As detailed in the Guidelines, the key factors to be considered in selecting an off-leash dog exercise areas are distance from adjacent land uses, relationship to other recreational uses, size, availability of parking, and accessibility. Per the Guidelines, designated off-leash dog exercise areas should meet the following standards:

1. Be far enough away from a residential or commercial land use that the single-event sound of a dog bark would generally be perceived as a background sound or would be screened by traffic noise. To achieve this objective, the off-leash area should be:
 - a) at least one hundred fifty (150) feet from residences and separated by a street or non-residential structure, and

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- b) at least eighty (80) feet from commercial uses; if the wall of the commercial building that faces the off-leash area is windowless, a distance setback may not be required.
- 2. Be large enough to accommodate an area for big dogs (3.0 acres or larger) and include an area for small or timid dogs (0.75 acre or larger).
- 3. Be accessible to disabled users.
- 4. Be situated on property that is not currently developed for recreational use and/or in areas of parks that are not heavily used for other recreational activities so as to reduce the potential for conflict.
- 5. Not displace another organized recreational use or priority unstructured use in a park given the City's limited park resources and need for active recreation and passive open space areas.
- 6. Have sufficient adjacent parking, preferably off-street, that does not require users to cross a street; curbside parking is less desirable. A park in a multi-family residential neighborhood requires fewer spaces, whereas a park in a single-family residential neighborhood or non-residential area requires more spaces.
- 7. Be situated within a six-foot high minimum perimeter chain link fence with a concrete mow strip. Natural barriers such as steep hillsides, if feasible, may be utilized in lieu of fencing.

RAP's Guidelines note that "if a proposed site does not meet the standards established by these guidelines, it may still be considered provided that it successfully passes the environmental review process which establishes the appropriateness of the site and design criteria, and addresses any health and safety issues."

OFF LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREAS – LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE

Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC), Section 63.44 B.2(d) prohibits dogs off-leash in City parks, unless they are at City parks or portions of City parks approved and designated as dog exercise and training areas by the Board and approved by the City Council by ordinance.

An amendment to the LAMC by the City Council would be required in order to authorize the establishment of an off-leash dog exercise and training area at Eagle Rock Recreation Center.

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PROJECT SCOPE

RAP staff has completed the final plans and specifications for the Project. The Project proposes the development of a new 43,000 square foot (0.99 acre) off-leash dog exercise and training area, installation of shade structures, dog agility equipment, synthetic turf for dogs, a drinking fountain, new trees with irrigation, perimeter fencing, and an ADA accessible access pathway. The new trees are proposed to be Tulip Tree. There is no impact on the existing perimeter trees on site. The final design of the proposed improvements is illustrated on Attachment No. 1.

RAP staff estimates these improvements will cost approximately Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00).

The new off-leash dog exercise and training area that is proposed to be installed is in substantial compliance with the standards identified in the Guidelines. The two areas where the proposed off-leash dog exercise and training area is not fully compliant with the Guidelines are as follows:

- The overall size of the proposed dog exercise and training area is below the standards in the Guideline. However, the proposed configuration best meets the site constraints at Eagle Rock Recreation Center.

Recreation and Parks (RAP) design staff conducted five (5) community meetings to obtain input from the Park Advisory Board and the community. The first Park Advisory Meeting was held on September 5, 2016 at the Eagle Rock Recreation Center and was followed up by a Community Meeting at the Eagle Rock City Hall on October 5, 2016. The final Community Meeting was at the same location, and was held on November 10, 2016. RAP design staff prepared the design plans for the Project and the design was finalized with support from the community.

The Project is proposed to be constructed through RAP's on call contractors list.

PROJECT FUNDING

On March 6, 2018, the City Council approved the Third Construction Projects Report for 2017/18, which included the transfer of \$768,000.00 in Sites and Facilities Fund for the Project (Council File No. 17-0924-S2).

FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

Source	Fund/Dept/Acct	Amount	Percentage
Site and Facilities	209/88/TBD	\$768,000.00	100%
Total		\$768,000.00	100%

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PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

RAP staff has determined that sufficient funding has been identified for the construction of the Project. Construction of this Project is currently anticipated to begin in May 2018.

TREES AND SHADE

A total of sixteen (16) new 24" box trees (Liriodendron Tulipifera (Tulip Tree)) will be added in the proposed dog park area. All existing trees are proposed to remain.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The proposed Project will consist of repair and maintenance of existing streets and pedestrian trails in an existing park; minor alterations to land including new landscaping, and modifications to existing park facilities involving placement of new accessory structures. As such, RAP staff recommends that the Board determine that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3), Class 4(3) and Class 11(3) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by the Sites and Facilities Fund source and therefore, there is no anticipated impact to the RAP's General Fund.

The estimated additional annual maintenance costs for the proposed park improvements will be approximately Fifty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars and Eighty Cents (\$53,334.80), which includes the costs for part-time staff, materials and supplies, and contractual services. Funds for the maintenance of the proposed park improvements will be requested as part of the annual City budget process.

This Report was prepared by Cathie Santo Domingo, Principal Civil Engineer/PM III, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.