

MOTION

The initiative to house 209 unsheltered individuals at Echo Park Lake was the single largest housing event in the history of the City. Starting in early 2021, until the recent park closure, there has been a consistent provision of resources offered to people experiencing homelessness. Unfortunately, the City must assess and take the burden of costs associated with impacts to the park itself, and damage to city property: the removal of over 85,000 lbs of solid waste, the repair of many broken light fixtures and electrical components, water fountains and piping, restroom facilities, landscaping and other park amenities.

Echo Park Lake is one of the iconic crown jewels of our City's park system. On March 1, 2006 the park was formally named as a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument; the designation covers the entire park grounds north of the 101 freeway, including the recreation center, lotus bed, boat house, "Lady of the Lake" statue and landscape features. Echo Park Lake has recently undergone a major renovation and modernization with funds from the 2004 \$500 million ballot initiative, Proposition O. A refurbished Echo Park was reopened to the public in 2013 after a \$45 million water quality improvement investment.

The Department of Recreation and Parks maintains and operates the recreation center, and parkland surrounding the lake. The Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) maintains the natural habitat within the lake's shoreline. It is important to have a full accounting of the joint efforts between the Department of Recreation and Parks, and LASAN for the upcoming park reopening. This report must include information and data starting January 2020 until the present time, from both agencies. LASAN worked with unsheltered individuals to safely store personal property: 236 storage boxes and 94 storage bags and the city obtained direct attestations when an individual chose to discard property. LASAN should describe the process of collaborating with individuals at the lake to safely store and retrieve belongings. Additionally, the report should describe discarded and or confiscated items that could have posed a threat to public safety.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) to report on damages and estimated costs to make repairs to Echo Park Lake, including rehabilitation efforts of natural habitat within the shoreline, and a full accounting of all personal property stored or confiscated as delineated in the body of this motion.



Presented By: _____

MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District



Seconded By: _____

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