

APPROVED
OCT 21 2009

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 09-268

DATE October 21, 2009

**BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: PECK PARK - PROPOSED NAMING OF AN AREA OF THE PARK AS
"HERNANDEZ RANCH", IN HONOR OF ALBERT HERNANDEZ

| | | | |
|------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| R. Adams | _____ | J. Kolb | _____ |
| H. Fujita | _____ | F. Mok | _____ |
| S. Huntley | _____ | K. Regan | _____ |
| V. Israel | _____ | *M. Shull | _____ |

Rahn

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve the proposed naming, and authorize staff to continue the process relative to the naming, of an area at Peck Park as "Hernandez Ranch", in honor of Albert Hernandez.

SUMMARY:

Peck Park is located in the San Pedro area of the City. This is a large community park of seventy-five (75) acres, which includes baseball diamonds, basketball courts, athletic fields, a children's play area, a swimming pool, a child care center, open space park areas and canyons.

From the 1970's to the 1990's, Mr. Albert Hernandez provided neighbors and park patrons with fresh eggs and milk, horseback rides and petting animals in a canyon at Peck Park, with an informal agreement from then Councilmember John Gibson, who allowed him to keep animals in this fenced area of the park. Described as having a "heart of gold" and providing delight in nature and the community, Mr. Hernandez also served as caretaker and watchdog in the canyon that began to attract dumping and other nuisance activities. "Hernandez Ranch" actually began back in 1913, when Frank and Mary Roggero decided to move their milk dairy to the canyon on Miraflores Street. Mr. Hernandez worked for the Roggeros starting in 1955. When the dairy closed in 1975, Mr. Hernandez moved the goats, cows, horses and chickens to Peck Park Canyon, directly above the old Liberty dairy site. Mr. Hernandez passed away in 2003.

Councilmember Janice Hahn has requested that this area of Peck Park be named "Hernandez Ranch" in honor of Mr. Hernandez and his dedicated community service to young and old, providing delightful nature experiences, reminiscent of San Pedro's rural past. There are many

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local residents from San Pedro who remember this hidden playful area. Some even want to bring the animals back. At the present, there is an effort to permit goats on this open space year-round.

The proposed naming may include renovation and installation of an existing sign indicating the location of "Hernandez Ranch", or possibly a memorial plaque.

Subsequent to Board approval to proceed with the process, the appropriate community outreach would be conducted.

Department staff has reviewed this proposal and found no objections. The next step is to continue the Department's process and to determine signage, if any. A Board Report would then be prepared and submitted for the Board's consideration for final approval, with this additional information.

Council District 15 and Pacific Region management are in support of the Recommendation as set forth by the Department.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The naming proposal would have no significant impact to the Department's General Fund. Sign renovation, plaque and installation, if confirmed, would not be paid for by the Department.

This report was prepared by Camille Walls, City Planner, and Melinda Gejer, Planning Associate, Planning and Construction.