

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 13-307

DATE December 11, 2013

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF 2013 VISION PLAN FOR GRIFFITH PARK

R. Adams	_____	K. Regan	_____
H. Fujita	_____	*M. Shull	<u><i>MS</i></u>
V. Israel	_____	N. Williams	_____

[Signature]
 General Manager

Approved *with substitute revision see attached* Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board adopt the 2013 Vision Plan for Griffith Park, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office and in draft form on the Department of Recreation and Park's website at www.laparks.org, as a planning document and tool to consider during future Department activities; including land acquisition, capital improvements, recreation programming, maintenance, partnerships, funding, as well as key areas of concern as detailed in the Plan.

SUMMARY:

The Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) along with the Griffith Park Working Group recently completed the Vision Plan for Griffith Park (Exhibit A) to determine needs and preferences for recreation and parks land, facilities and programs, as well as key areas of concern within Griffith Park.

The Griffith Park Working Group (Working Group) was seated by Councilmember Tom LaBonge in 2005 in response to an unpopular reception to the Draft Master Plan that the Department had commissioned known as the Melendrez Draft. The Working Group met on a regular basis for years with the guidance of various Department staff. When the Working Group completed their version of the draft Vision Plan, it then went back to Department staff for final revision. Once the draft Vision Plan was completed, it was circulated back to the Working Group and other interested parties for a comment period. Each comment received was addressed in the draft Vision Plan, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office and on the Department's website at www.laparks.org.

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The proposed Vision Plan for Griffith Park identifies some key areas of concern regarding the management of Griffith Park. Of primary importance is the recognition of the Urban Wilderness Identity of Griffith Park. Another primary concern is the development of a Park Advisory Board for Griffith Park. A Master/Strategic Plan would further research and analyze additional information relative to area resources, service levels, guidelines, resolving key issues, articulate specific goals, objectives, policies and programs, determine capital improvement plans, implementation schedules, in order to meet existing and future needs. While this Vision Plan is not a Master Plan for Griffith Park, it is the intent of the Working Group, the Department, the City and the public that the ideas contained within the Vision Plan be considered in making decisions for Griffith Park until such time that a full Master Plan be developed and adopted.

Upon adoption of this Vision Plan, the Department will place the Final Vision Plan and associated Appendices and Comments on the Department website to facilitate public access to the document.

Department staff supports the information, preliminary findings and recommendations contained in the Report, and will use this as a valuable planning tool to consider in Department activities within Griffith Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Vision Plan for Griffith Park is a planning tool to be considered for guiding future recreation and park activities, and does not make a commitment to any specific project that may result in physical environmental impacts. Therefore, the Vision Plan for Griffith Park constitutes a planning study as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [Pub. Res. Code 21102 and 21150] and is statutorily exempt from the provisions of the CEQA pursuant to Article II, Section 2(d) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

Until such time as a Master Plan is developed in accordance with the Vision Plan for Griffith Park that contains specific actions, which constitute a project under CEQA, there will be no CEQA compliance requirements. Any projects proposed in connection with the with the intent of the Vision Plan prior to the adoption of a Master Plan will be evaluated independently for potential environmental effects on a case-by-case basis in compliance with CEQA requirements as they apply.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no immediate fiscal impact due to the adoption of this Vision Plan for Griffith Park.

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

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 8, 2014

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ADOPTION OF 2013 VISION PLAN FOR GRIFFITH PARK

(Original Date – 12/11/13)

Mr. Regan, Ms. Israel, and Ms. Santo Domingo, presented the report in detail to the Commission. Public comment was invited on the item. Four requests for public comment were received and such comments were made to the Commission.

Tom LaBonge, Councilmember, Fourth District also addressed the Commission and public on the item.

President Sanders introduced a substitute motion to adopt this Vision as “The Vision for Griffith Park,” and to remove the word “plan” in all places at which it appears after the word “vision.” He further motioned that the cover of the Vision be amended to be solely the photograph of the mountain lion with the City lights behind him. The motion was moved by Vice President Stanley, and seconded by Commissioner Werner. There being no objections, the substitute motion was unanimously approved.