

**APPROVED**

JUL 08 2009

BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 09-193

DATE July 8, 2009

C.D. 12

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: STONEY POINT PARK - INSTALLATION OF MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN HONOR OF METROLINK ACCIDENT VICTIMS

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General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the installation of a memorial plaque at the Stoney Point Park in honor of Metrolink accident victims; and,
2. Authorize Department staff to install the memorial plaque as stated in the Summary of this report.

SUMMARY:

Stoney Point Park is located on Topanga Canyon Boulevard, in the Chatsworth area of the City. This park site is a picturesque, quiet area, with walking and hiking trails, picnic areas, large rocks and boulders, especially enjoyed by rock climbers, hikers and nature lovers.

On September 12, 2008, a Metrolink accident occurred adjacent to Stoney Point Park. Tragically, twenty-five (25) people were killed. Councilmember Greg Smith, Twelve Council District, members of the Chatsworth, Northridge and other adjacent communities, along with staff from his Council Office, worked to aid, support and comfort the many people affected by this tragic event.

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Councilmember Smith has proposed that a memorial ceremony take place on September 12, 2009, the anniversary of the accident, along with placement of a memorial plaque at Stoney Point Park. The plaque would be placed on a large rock at the north side of the park, on a hill overlooking the Metrolink tracks.

The plaque would be made of bronze, approximately 12" X 18" in size, and would contain the twenty-five (25) victims' names who perished that day, the figure of a dove (in remembrance and as a symbol of peace), the dedication date, the Councilmember's name, and the following memorial phrases:

"In loving memory of all those who perished in the Metrolink and Union Pacific train collision on September 12, 2008" (all the names would then be listed, followed by another phrase): "Your lives will be in our hearts forever".

The proposed plaque would provide a symbol and a comforting memory from this terrible tragedy, where many community members and Council Office staff came together for the common good, and tended to those in need, giving of themselves and helping others, in a humanitarian way. The plaque would also provide solace to relatives and friends of those who passed away on this fateful day.

The Office of Council District 12 and the Superintendent of Valley Region are in favor of the recommendations contained in this report.

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA guidelines, which provides for the placement of signs on park property as accessory structures to recreational facilities.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

No significant fiscal impacts will be incurred, as plaque and installation costs will be paid for by Councilman Smith.

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