

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

APPROVED

NO. 09-176

DATE: June 17, 2009

JUN 17 2009
BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 76

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: SEPULVEDA BASIN RECREATION AREA – POSTING OF SIGNS
PROHIBITING THE PARKING OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES OVER 6,000
POUNDS

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

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved *as amended*

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board authorize the posting of signs prohibiting parking of commercial vehicles over 6,000 pounds on any public street located within the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area with emphasis on curtailing inappropriate use of Woodley Avenue between Burbank and Victory Boulevards, as per Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 86.03.

SUMMARY:

Department Staff have evaluated the following information and have consulted with Department of Transportation Traffic Engineering personnel on developing the most effective and proactive response to an increasingly problematic condition.

For an extended number of years, reports from constituents and park staff have noted that drivers of large 18-wheel commercial trucks regularly park their "big rigs" on streets located within the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area (SBRA), especially favoring Woodley Avenue between Burbank and Victory Boulevards due to its expansive flat width and convenient access to nearby freeways and main thoroughfare surface streets.

With population, business and residential density burgeoning within the San Fernando Valley over the past decade, this practice has only increased while options for easily parking large commercial vehicles grow more costly or have become scarce. Although the SBRA officially

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closes each night (LAMC 64.33 B 14) and posted signs prohibit overnight parking, issuing citations to "big rig" drivers has not stemmed this problematic practice.

With economic conditions worsening of late, so too has the practice of illegally parking "big rigs" wherever they can be physically accommodated, especially at the cost of only a parking ticket. Community members and SBRA stakeholders have noted this increasing trend and have begun to lodge more frequent and vociferous complaints accordingly. The very qualities of life that the SBRA was intended to preserve are being eroded by large pollution generating commercial vehicles overtaking precious open space and transforming it into a makeshift parking lot. An ever growing number of concerned constituents do not like what they see at SBRA and are holding their public officials accountable.

The ability to enforce pursuant to LAMC 86.03 provides an effective tactic for ridding the area of the "big rig" parking nuisance. This municipal code direction explicitly authorizes and directs the Board to post and maintain appropriate signs.

LAMC 86.03 STANDING OR PARKING OF VEHICLES – IN PARK

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners is hereby authorized and directed to post and maintain appropriate signs indicating that parking is limited or prohibited on any park-drive, park-road, or at any other place within parks, playgrounds and recreation areas owned or controlled by the City during such hours, or on such days, or both, as is necessary for the safety of the public or the reasonable use or enjoyment by the public of the park, playground or recreation area, and whenever such authorized signs are in place, giving notice thereon that parking is limited or prohibited during such hours or on such days as are indicated on the signs, it shall be unlawful for any person to park any vehicle, motor vehicle or motorcycle at any time during such hours or on such days, or for any length of time prohibited as indicated by such signs.

Staff has determined that the Board's action on this matter will provide for the safety and enjoyment of the public by regulating the reasonable use of park lands and that there will be strong constituent support for a move that improves public safety and enjoyment while simultaneously disenfranchising violators and self-serving interests. Staff from the Army Corps of Engineers, who also has jurisdiction in the Recreation Area, agrees with this proposal.

The sign will measure approximately 9"x12" with red lettering on a white background, and will say: Tow Away Zone, No Parking Anytime All Commercial Vehicles Over 6000 lbs., 86.03 LAMC. (See Attachment.)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

It is estimated that 12 signs is the minimum number required for posting to provide sufficient public notice. The estimated cost for producing 12 signs will be as follows:

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1 1/2' x 2' signs	\$10.00 for each sign blank
	<u>\$20.00 for printing each sign</u>
	\$30.00 sub-total
12 signs needed	\$360.00 Total

Valley region managers have stated that sign costs can be absorbed into the operational budget. It is expected that the City will realize revenue from potential issue of citations to violators.

This report was prepared by Albert Torres, Acting Chief Park Ranger.

TOW AWAY ZONE
NO PARKING
ANYTIME
ALL COMMERCIAL
VEHICLES OVER
6000 LBS.

86.03 LAMC