

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

APPROVED

NO. 14-062

DATE March 5, 2014

APR 02 2014

C.D. 4 and 13

**BOARD OF RECREATION
& PARK COMMISSIONERS**

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH PARK – PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (W.O. #E170202A)
PROJECT – ADOPTION OF THE INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL OF THE
PROJECT

R. Adams	<u> </u>	V. Israel	<u> </u>
*R. Barajas	<u><i>arj</i></u>	K. Regan	<u> </u>
H. Fujita	<u> </u>	N. Williams	<u> </u>

Neil Israel
General Manager

Approved Disapproved Withdrawn

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Review, consider, and adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), on file in the Board office and on the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) website, www.laparks.org, for the proposed Griffith Park - Performing Arts Center (W.O. #E170202A) project, finding that all potentially significant environmental effects of the project have been properly disclosed, evaluated and mitigated in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State and City CEQA Guidelines, and that the IS/MND reflects the RAP's independent judgment and analysis;
2. Review, consider, and adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Program in Chapter 5 of the IS/MND that specifies the mitigation measures to be implemented in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15407(d));
3. Grant conceptual approval of the proposed project, as described in the IS/MND; and,
4. Direct staff to file a Notice of Determination with the Los Angeles City Clerk and the Los Angeles County Clerk within five (5) working days of the Board adopting the IS/MND.

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SUMMARY:

Griffith Park is one of the largest municipal parks in the nation, approximately 4,200 acres in size. The Park was established in 1896 by the donation of private land owned by Colonel Griffith J. Griffith to the City of Los Angeles and is under the jurisdiction of RAP. In 2009, the City designated Griffith Park as Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) No. 942. The project site is located adjacent to the old Los Angeles Zoo area. The proposed Griffith Park - Performing Arts Center (W.O #E170202A) project would include the construction of the outdoor performing arts stage and associated improvements to be constructed in two (2) phases. The first phase will include construction of a 45 foot by 45 foot stage with two (2) artistic overhead structures, undergrounding of existing utility lines, and renovation of existing restrooms for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, installation of lighting, and ADA picnic and viewing areas. The second phase will include installation of an ADA-compliant prefabricated modular pedestrian bridge, ADA improvements to paths, installation of path lighting, refurbishment of existing stairs, and ADA parking improvements. Electrical connections would be provided, but no permanent sound amplification equipment or speakers would be installed as part of the project. Lighting fixtures would be installed solely to provide safety and security and would be in a rustic or rural style in keeping with the existing visual character of the Old Zoo area and Griffith Park in general.

In accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a IS/MND was prepared for the project. The IS/MND, which was based on an Initial Study, determined that all potentially significant environmental effects would be mitigated to a level of less than significant. The IS/MND was circulated to all interested parties and responsible agencies for a thirty (30) day review and comments period from December 19, 2013 to January 22, 2014. During this public review period, a total of eight (8) emails and/or letters with comment on the IS/MND were received. The comments primarily addressed aesthetics, cultural resources, biological resources, noise and parking effects of the project. All comments have been addressed and incorporated into the final IS/MND for the Board's review and consideration. The comments resulted in only minor changes in the IS/MND, and these changes have been shown in the errata section of the final IS/MND. A Mitigation Monitoring Program has been prepared that specifies all the mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND, which will either reduce or eliminate the potentially significant environment impacts of the project to a level less than significant, in accordance with Section 15097 of the Sate CEQA Guidelines. The mitigations measure included in the IS/MND and Mitigation Monitoring Program will be implemented prior to and during construction, as applicable, to mitigate impacts.

Funding for this project will be from the Proposition K program. Assuming adoption of Final IS/MND by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners, Bureau of Engineering (BOE) and RAP staff will proceed with the design of the project and completion of the construction documents. The completed construction documents will then be presented to the Board for approval and call for bids.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no immediate fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund. The assessments of the future operations and maintenance costs have yet to be determined and will be addressed in future budget requests.

This Report was prepared by Sean H. Phan, Project Manager, BOE Recreation and Cultural Facilities Program and reviewed by Paul Davis, Environmental Specialist III, Recreation and Park; Neil Drucker, Program Manager, BOE Recreational and Cultural Facilities Program; Ted Allen, Acting Deputy City Engineer, Bureau of Engineering; and Cathie Santo Domingo, Superintendent, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch, Department of Recreation and Parks.