

APPROVED

FEB 06 2008

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 08-39

DATE February 6, 2008

BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 3

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: MASON/VANALDEN GREENWAY - PROPOSED USE AGREEMENT WITH  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT'S DESIGN

R. Adams _____	J. Kolb _____
H. Fujita _____	F. Mok _____
S. Huntley _____	K. Regan _____
V. Israel _____	*M. Shull <u>City for M.S.</u>

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the proposed Use Agreement with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for the Los Angeles riverfront greenway between Mason Avenue and Vanalden Avenue, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, subject to approval of the Mayor and of the City Attorney as to form;
2. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit forthwith the proposed Use Agreement concurrently to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3 and to the City Attorney and to request expedited review in light of March 31, 2008, deadline for its execution;
3. Authorize the General Manager to execute the Use Agreement upon obtaining the required approvals; and,
4. Direct operations staff to provide recommendations concerning the final design of the Mason/Vanalden Greenway to the Bureau of Engineering project manager.

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### SUMMARY:

The City is undertaking several projects to restore habitats, improve stormwater retention/reuse and create recreational amenities along sections of the Los Angeles River. In response to this activity, on November 9, 2007, the Board approved the processing of two Use Agreements with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, an entity within the County Department of Public Works (Report No. 07-255). One Agreement involves the maintenance by Recreation and Parks of an existing, half-mile greenway on the south side of the river in Studio City. The greenway extends eastward from Whitsett Avenue to Laurel Canyon Boulevard; midway is the Laurelgrove pedestrian bridge, the maintenance of which is the subject of the second Agreement.

Approval is now being sought for a thirty-year Use Agreement for another greenway, not yet developed. It will also be in the San Fernando Valley on the south side of the river. This two-mile greenway in the communities of Canoga Park and Winnetka is Phase I of a project called the "Canoga Park Greenway". Phase I will extend eastward from Mason Avenue to Vanalden Avenue (Thomas Guide page 530-D6/G6). The project manager from the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) considers that the available funding is sufficient to complete this phase.

Additional funding is being sought for two subsequent phases of the project; these later phases will nearly double the greenway's length and will involve other entities. The County, through its Los Angeles River Headwater Project, is expected to develop a greenway eastward from Jordan Avenue (near Owensmouth) to Mason Avenue and also plans to construct a pedestrian bridge over Browns Canyon Wash, which joins the Los Angeles River just west of Mason Avenue. As currently proposed, the complete Canoga Park Greenway will connect to an extension of the Orange Line pedestrian/bike path and, together with the County project, provide a 14-mile loop of pathways. At the eastern end, the loop will connect to another network of paths within the Sepulveda Basin Recreation area.

The current design of the Mason/Vanalden Greenway features a pedestrian/bike path with several access ramps, native plantings, interpretive signage and benches. Permeable concrete paving along the route and a bioswale will capture stormwater runoff. Because the proposed Use Agreement requires the Department to undertake certain ongoing tasks with respect to the Mason/Vanalden Greenway, it seems prudent for operations staff to participate in the final design.

The Board Report on the Laurel Canyon Greenway envisaged that future City-County agreements concerning the Los Angeles River would be associated with an "umbrella" or master agreement. This is still the plan; however, in June 2007, funding of nearly \$2 million for the Mason/Vanalden Greenway was secured from a Proposition 50 grant program administered by the California Resources Agency. Staff learned from the BOE project manager that the grant requires a Use Agreement with the County to be executed by March 31, 2008. Given the preliminary state of negotiations on a master agreement and its potential connection to an even broader joint-powers

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agreement, the Department was asked by BOE to recommend approval of a separate use agreement for the Mason/Vanalden Greenway.

On July 20, 2007, City Council approved the entire Canoga Park Greenway as one of several prioritized projects under the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan. On May 9, 2007, Council had previously approved the Plan's Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Statement (C. F. No. 07-1342 and S2). As for the Phase I segment of the Canoga Park Greenway, it has been determined that the segment's development is a tiered project of the River Master Plan and is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(3) and Class 4(3) of the City CEQA Guidelines. BOE intends to file a Notice of Exemption as part of the implementation process.

The Assistant General Manager of Operations West, the Superintendent of the Valley Region and the Office of Council District Three concur with staff's recommendations.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Valley Region personnel estimate that upon assuming maintenance responsibility for the Greenway, there will be initial equipment costs of approximately \$85,000. Annual maintenance costs will be approximately \$75,000. It is anticipated that construction of this project will be complete around the end of 2010. Annual maintenance costs will be included in the budget request for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Report prepared by Joan Reitzel, Senior Management Analyst in Real Estate and Asset Management.