

APPROVED  
NOV 15 2010

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 10-319

DATE November 15, 2010

BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 12

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ALISO CANYON PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (W.O. #E170101) –  
ROAD / TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT /  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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

[Signature]  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Review, consider and adopt the Final Environmental Assessment/Mitigated Negative Declaration (EA/MND) prepared for the proposed Aliso Canyon Park Improvements Project, finding on the basis of the entire record of proceedings in the project, including the EA/MND and any comments received, 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 State and City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines and reflects the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' (Board) independent judgment and analysis;
2. Review, consider and adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Plan, published under separate cover, that specifies the mitigation measures designed to reduce or eliminate the potentially significant environmental impacts identified in the EA/MND, in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15074 (d));
3. Direct Staff to file the Notice of Determination (NOD) for the project with the Los Angeles City and County Clerks within five working days of the Board's adoption of the EA/MND;

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4. Direct Staff to complete the project design and the related construction documents, including specifications and plans for the eventual delivery of Aliso Canyon Development Project; and,
5. Authorize the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to issue a check in the amount of \$2,085.25 from the available Proposition K (Department No. 10/Fund No. 43K/Account No. G268), payable to the Los Angeles County Clerk, for the NOD filing fee (\$75) and California State Department of Fish and Game Fee (\$2,010.25).

### SUMMARY:

The City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering (BOE) and Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) propose to construct the Aliso Canyon Park Improvements Project. The project is designed to provide improvements to neighborhood recreational facilities. Aliso Canyon Park is located within a horse keeping community. The project was initiated at the request of Council District Twelve (CD12), and an Aliso Canyon Park committee was formed to give input on potential designs that would accommodate equestrian, hiking and biking uses while maintaining the natural integrity of the park. The proposed project is partially funded by Proposition K. The development of the proposed project is expected to provide a much-needed recreational amenity to the community because it would ensure safe, enlightened patronage and stewardship of an important regional resource, the Aliso Canyon Park. The proposed action would maximize the use of the City's Proposition K funds for recreational development.

The Aliso Canyon Park - Improvements Project consists of a 7-acre equestrian day-use and park facility at a former, privately-owned equestrian site within Aliso Canyon Park in the Community of Porter Ranch (Figure 3). Located on Rinaldi Street, between Hesperia and Chimineas Avenues, Aliso Canyon Park is an existing, undeveloped City park, covering approximately 60 acres in area.

The project includes a parking area for six (6) equestrian trailers and twenty-four (24) passenger vehicles, along with a (220-feet by 110-feet) riding ring, a small (27-foot long by 5-row) bleacher, meadow areas, walking paths, and a bio-swale, as well as picnic areas with both covered and uncovered tables. A modular restroom is included in the base project description. Amenities further include a bike rack, as well as horse waterers, hitching posts, split rail fencing, and landscaping with California native plant species. Moreover, the access road will be demolished and re-graded to meet a ten (10) to one (1) slope ratio.

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Aliso Canyon Creek is an ephemeral stream that supports riparian woodland vegetation. Two (2) potential crossings over the creek (one for equestrians and one for pedestrians) are being considered. The equestrian bridge would span a distance of about 60-feet, and be located at an existing wet crossing, while the pedestrian bridge would span a distance of about 50-feet, and be located about 600 feet to the south and opposite from the equestrian parking area. Both bridges would provide access to an existing horse/pedestrian trail that follows along the western bank of Aliso Creek. The trail extends into upper Aliso Canyon. Once completed, the facility would be operated and maintained by RAP.

The action is proposed by BOE as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The MND was prepared in accordance with CEQA, Public Resources Code §21000 et seq., and the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) 15000 et seq. The Draft EA/MND was circulated for public review and comment from July 29, 2010 until August 31, 2010. A notice of intent/availability was mailed to interested parties and to owners and occupants of properties adjacent to proposed project site. The notice was also filed with the City and County Clerks. The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study were made available for review at the Granada Hills and Porter Ranch Branch Libraries, as well as on-line at BOE's website.

The final version of the Biological (Wildlife) Resources assessment was not received in time to be included in the publication of the draft EA/MND. Consequently, the draft EA/MND was circulated with the preliminary biological wildlife assessment study included as Attachment C. Nevertheless, just prior to circulation, four mitigation measures were added in response to recommendations made in the final biological (wildlife) resources assessment, and a corrections page was inserted in the draft MND. The final Biological (Wildlife) Resources report was subsequently made available on-line at BOE's website.

Nine comments were received on the draft EA/MND within the prescribed comment period, including one comment from the California Department of Fish and Game. Comments were incorporated into the final EA/MND. The revisions did not necessitate any change in the findings and conclusions of the Initial Study. No significant impacts are anticipated as mitigation measures will be implemented for this project. The draft EA/MND underwent no revisions subsequent to public circulation and no significant impacts are anticipated from the project following implementation of the identified mitigation measures.

Based on the review of all comments received, RAP concluded that no fair or reasonable arguments have been made that identified new environmental impacts from the project or that would require additional mitigation measures. In addition, City environmental staff has determined that there have been no substantial changes in the environmental conditions at the park or in the design of the project since the preparation of the EA/MND. Therefore, no revisions to the EA/MND, or additional public review and re-circulation are required. A

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separately bound Environmental Assessment/Mitigation Monitoring Program specifies that all the mitigation measures identified in the EA/MND that would either reduce or eliminate the potentially significant environment impacts of the project. It was determined that the project, as proposed, could individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on wildlife resources or their habitats as defined by Fish and Game Code 711.2. This required a formal review of the EA/MND by the California State Department of Fish and Game and will require the payment of a \$2,010.25 fee at the time the Notice of Determination (NOD) is filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk. The EA/MND, along with the Public Review Record and Mitigation Monitoring Program documents, the originals of which are in the custody of the BOE located at 1149 S. Broadway, have been provided to both this Board and the Commission for Fish and Game for their review, consideration and adoption.

Subsequent to this Board's approval, review of the EA/MND and staff's filing of the NOD with the City and County Clerk's, assuming there are no challenges to same, BOE will prepare the final plans and specifications, and return to this Board to request the authority to advertise the project for bid and award.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no fiscal impact to the Department's General Fund at this time. Future operating costs are yet to be determined.

This report was prepared by Erick Chang, Project Manager, BOE Recreational and Cultural Facilities Program, and William Jones, BOE Environmental Management Group. Reviewed by Neil Drucker, Program Manager, BOE Recreational and Cultural Facilities Program; Deborah Weintraub, Chief Deputy City Engineer, Bureau of Engineering; and Michael A. Shull, Superintendent, Planning and Construction Division, Department of Recreation and Parks.

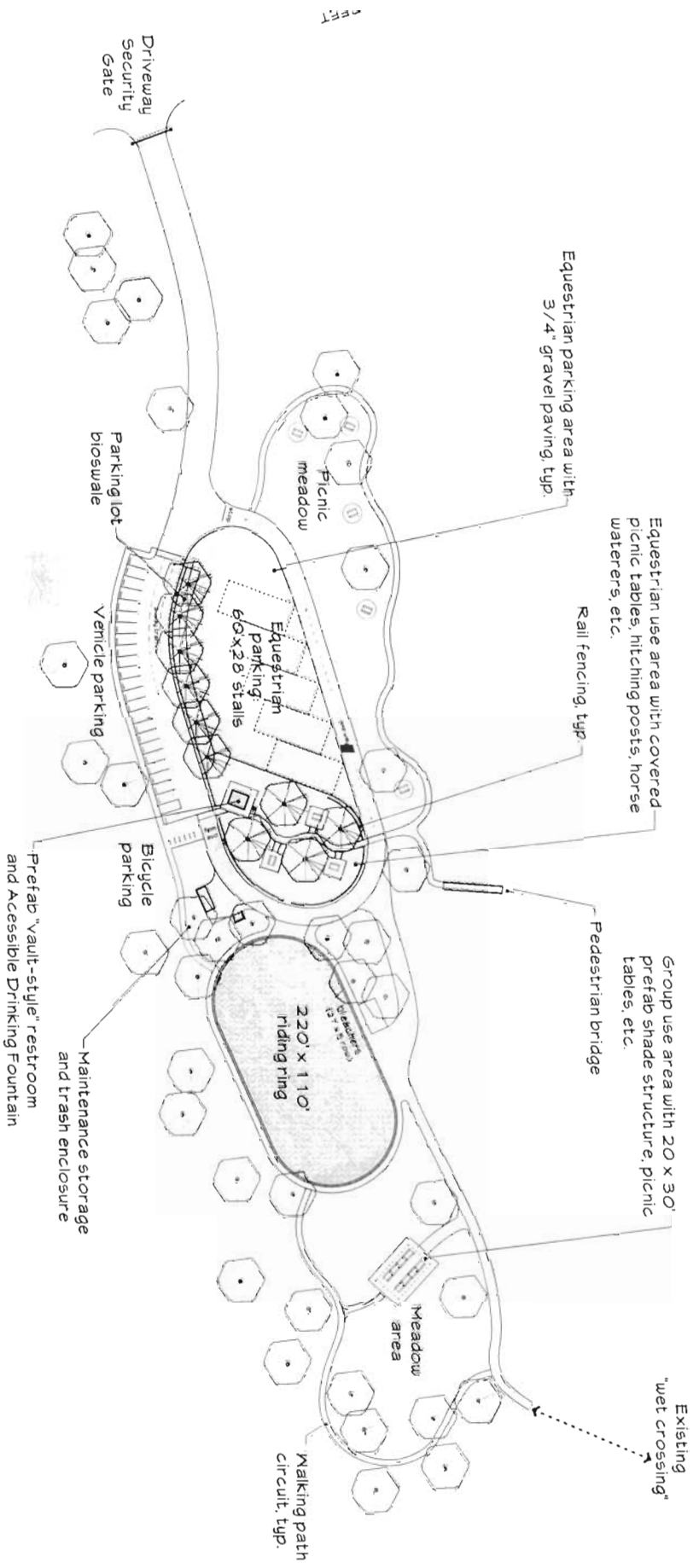


Figure 3