

**APPROVED**  
MAR 19 2008

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 08-78

DATE March 19, 2008

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH PARK - ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL FUND - ACCOUNT NUMBER 840M FOR DONATIONS TOWARD THE ACQUISITION OF CAHUENGA PEAK

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

*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board authorize the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to create a special account to manage donations in Fund 302, Department 89, Account 840M, for the specific purpose of purchasing the real estate adjacent to Griffith Park known as Cahuenga Peak.

SUMMARY:

Cahuenga Peak is the highest point in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. Cahuenga, or "place of the mountains" in the language of the Gabrieleno/Tongva Native American tribe, is the name of both the lowest elevation (Cahuenga Pass) and the highest point (Cahuenga Peak) in the Santa Monicas.

Cahuenga Peak is owned partly by the Forest Lawn Memorial Cemetery and by a private party who purchased five contiguous land parcels from the Howard Hughes Trust in 2004. Today, 138 acres of privately owned open space is being threatened as plans for residential development atop Cahuenga Peak may be in progress.

The City of Los Angeles is interested in acquiring and managing this land, and the Department of Recreation and Parks has been identified as the appropriate City department to act on behalf of the City in the acquisition process.

Cahuenga Peak's current appraised value is \$6-\$10 million. The City of Los Angeles has been working with the State of California and the Trust for Public Land to identify resources necessary to purchase the 138 acres of natural open space. The California Wildlife Management

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Board will be considering a \$1 million commitment, and to date, \$4.3 million have been committed from the following:

- Prop 40: \$1.67 million (Per Capita- \$837,200; Roberti-Z'Berg-Harris-\$840,107)
- MRCA: \$850,000
- Forest Lawn: \$500,000
- Prop K: \$755,000
- Quimby \$522,736

A crucial component of the Santa Monica Mountain range, Cahuenga Peak serves as a vital transit corridor for animals and native habitat essential to survival of wildlife. Dedication of the 138-acre property as public parkland will secure its future for public enjoyment, wildlife conservation, and protection from private development. With the City's budgetary challenges, the Department will continue to seek partnerships with government entities as well as private contributions to accomplish this goal.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Donations deposited into Fund 302, Department 89, Account 840M will assist in the purchase of this property. There will be no fiscal impact to the Department's General Fund.

Report prepared by Gregory Clark, Management Analyst II, Griffith Region.