

APPROVED

OCT 02 2019

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 19-196

DATE October 2, 2019

C.D. 1

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: RIO DE LOS ANGELES STATE PARK – FINAL CONSIDERATION OF FLAGPOLE AND PLAQUE INSTALLATION TO COMMEMORATE AMERICAN VETERANS; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISION OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 11(1) [ON PREMISE SIGNS] AND CLASS 11(6) [INSTALLATION OF MINOR STRUCTURES ACCESSORY TO INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15311 OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz	_____	S. Piña-Cortez	_____
H. Fujita	_____	<i>Pr</i> *C. Santo Domingo	<i>DP</i> _____
V. Israel	_____	N. Williams	_____



General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Grant final approval for the Rio de Los Angeles State Park - Flagpole And Plaque Installation (Project), as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to issue the appropriate Right of Entry (ROE) Permit for the installation of the Project;
3. Determine that the proposed the Project is exempt from the provision of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(1) [On Premise Signs] and Class 11(6) [Installation of Minor Structures Accessory to Institutional Facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines, and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption;
4. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing a Notice of Exemption (NOE); and,
5. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

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SUMMARY

Rio de Los Angeles State Park is a California State Park located at 1900 North San Fernando Road. RAP has entered into a ground lease (Lease) with the State of California (State) which grants RAP control over an approximately 20-acre parcel for 'local park purposes'. The Lease term is for twenty-five (25) years and may be extended for an additional twenty-five (25) years.

RAP has received a request from El Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Memorial Committee (Committee) to install a project consisting of three (3) flagpoles and a plaque within the portion of Rio de Los Angeles State Park that falls under RAP jurisdiction per the Lease. This Project has been envisioned as a way to honor all veterans and to serve as an educational tool for local schools. The Project includes the installation of military plaques for the five military service branches as well as the flags of the United States, the State of California, the City of Los Angeles, and POW. The flagpoles and plaque are designed to fit within an existing median adjacent to the parking lot so as not to impede or encroach on land used for recreational purposes. A letter of approval from the State for this project is attached as Exhibit A. Graphics showing the proposed location and design of the Project are attached as Exhibit B.

The Committee has been working since June, 2016 on this Project and has achieved the following:

- Formation of the El Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative as a 501(c)(3) organization for purposes including monument approval, installation, and maintenance;
- Acquired letters of support from the Offices of the Mayor, City Council District 1, County Supervisor, and Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council (Exhibit C);
- Submitted electrical plan for project lighting sufficient for RAP staff review in order to ensure that the flags are lighted at night;
- Received approval from the State for the installation of the Project, per conditions of the Lease; and,
- Received authorization letters from each of the five military service branches to use their respective emblems / service marks for the Project.

The Committee has held regular meetings regarding this Project since 2016 and has provided signatures of support from a number of community members.

This Project was presented to the RAP Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force on October 3, 2018 at which time it was recommended that the proposal be forwarded to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) for consideration. Subsequently, staff from Advance Planning and Forestry met onsite with representatives from the State and the applicants to finalize the installation location and details.

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The cost of the flagpole and plaque manufacture, installation, and maintenance will be borne by the Committee. The Committee has also committed to the maintenance of the installation and also signed the appropriate waiver which provides for its removal if not maintained to the satisfaction of RAP.

The Office of Council District 1 and the Mayor support this project at Rio de Los Angeles State Park.

Due to the collaborative nature of this Project, State approval of the Project, and the lack of maintenance costs to RAP, staff recommends approval of this Project and issuance of the appropriate ROE permit for its installation.

TREES AND SHADE

The Project will be situated in a location which will not impact existing trees.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of the installation of flag poles and a plaque in an existing public park. As such staff recommends that the Board determines that the proposed Project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant Article III, Section 1, Class 11(1) and Class 11(6) of City CEQA Guidelines, and Article 19, Section 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines. An NOE will be filed upon approval by the Board.

FISCAL IMPACT

There will be minimal fiscal impact as the cost of manufacture, installation, and maintenance of the Project shall be borne by the El Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Memorial Committee.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

Goal No. 2: Offer Affordable and Equitable Recreational Programming
Outcome No. 4: Connect more Angelinos to the diverse cultural programs in the park system.
Result: An installation which honors the military service of all veterans, and provides an educational tool for local schools, supports the goal of providing access to diverse and equitable programs.

This Report was prepared by Darryl Ford, Sr, Management Analyst, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS

Exhibit A – Approval letter from the State
Exhibit B – Monument location and design
Exhibit C – Letters of support



Melinda M. Gejer
City Planning Associate
Department of Recreation and Parks
Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch

March 13, 2019

Ms. Gejer,

This is to inform you that California State Parks has approved the El Rio Veteran's Collaborative's revised project which includes three (3) flagpoles and lighting. The center flagpole would fly the United States of America flag. The other two flagpoles would fly flags of the State of California flag and the City of Los Angeles. The site would include a stone with a plaque that reads "El Rio Veterans – In Honor of Those Who Serve" and has the five military insignias. A layer of decomposed granite would be placed at the site. The plaque dimensions would be approximately 11" X 17". Conceptual renderings are attached. If you have any further questions, please contact me at 323-441-9108.

Sincerely,

Sean Woods
Superintendent-Los Angeles Sector



IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVE





ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

February 7, 2017

Art Camarillo, Chair
Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Memorial Committee
3927 Sunbeam Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Dear Mr. Camarillo:

I write in support of the Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Memorial project. As a United States Navy veteran, I am familiar with the sacrifices our men and women in uniform have made in order to keep our country safe.

This memorial will help educate the public and honor our veterans, active duty service members, and the families who have sacrificed so much while their loved ones kept us safe.

It is my pleasure to provide my full support for this project, and I am confident the Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Memorial will make our community proud.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Garcetti".

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor





GILBERT A. CEDILLO
COUNCILMEMBER
FIRST DISTRICT

January 26, 2017

Art Camarillo, Chair
Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Memorial Committee
3927 Sunbeam Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90065

RE: Letter of Support for Memorial

Dear Mr. Camarillo,

As the son of a Veteran, I know the sacrifice made by the brave men and women in our armed forces. The Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Memorial would educate the public and be a tribute to Veterans and their families.

This will not be a simple and quick process as this project will involve community input, financing project, and City and State requirements regarding design and construction.

Together with your commitment from private donors to finance project, I am confident we can have a memorial that makes us all proud.

Know you can count on my support and guidance working with City departments to help during the process to obtain permits for the design, construction, and installation of a memorial at Rio de Los Angeles Park.

If you have any questions, please contact my staff, Jose Rodriguez (323) 550-1538 or jose.a.rodriguez@lacity.org

Sincerely,

Gilbert A. Cedillo
Councilmember, First District



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

856 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
Telephone (213) 974-4111 / FAX (213) 613-1739

HILDA L. SOLIS
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

Art Camarillo, Chair
Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Memorial Committee
3927 Sunbeam Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Dear Mr. Camarillo:

I am writing to express my support for the Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Memorial project.

I strongly believe in honoring our veterans and never forgetting the commitment and dedication that so many gave for our country, often with much sacrifice. I also applaud the efforts of grassroots groups and local veterans coming together to undertake such a project as an example of what community mobilization can accomplish.

My office is supportive of this project and I am glad to assist in helping to honor a community of veterans in the First District and the County of Los Angeles.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hilda L. Solis".

Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
First District, County of Los Angeles

Great Cypress Park Neighborhood Council
1150 Cypress Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90065
www.cypressparknc.com

January 6, 2019

To whom it may concern,

The Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council supports the efforts of El Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative to create the Rio de Los Angeles Park Veterans Memorial.

We believe such a monument will benefit our community and serve as a gathering place for future events. We deeply appreciate the work of the collaborative.

Thank you,

Ash Kramer
On behalf of the Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council

