

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** MAY 19, 2003

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** AMENDMENT OF THE MASTER PLANS FOR CENTRAL AND MEMORIAL PARKS AND APPROVAL OF THE DEDICATION OF A GRANT OF EASEMENT TO THE LOS ANGELES TO PASADENA METRO BLUE LINE CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY FOR SUBSURFACE PERMANENT SOIL NAILS IN MEMORIAL PARK

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Amend the Central and Memorial Park Master Plans to allow the use of tinted concrete in lieu of decomposed granite for new and replacement walkways.
2. Adopt the attached resolution approving the dedication of a Grant of Easement to the Los Angeles to Pasadena Metro Blue Line Construction Authority (Construction Authority) for subsurface permanent soil nails at Memorial Park.
3. Accept improvements to Memorial Park (valued at \$134,000), as shown on the attached exhibits, in lieu of compensation for granting the easement.

## **RECOMMENDATION OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION:**

On January 7, 2003, the Recreation and Parks Commission voted unanimously to recommend that Central and Memorial Park Master Plans allow the use of tinted concrete in lieu of decomposed granite for new and replacement walkways.

## **RECOMMENDATION OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION:**

On January 13, 2003, the Design Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the Central and Memorial Park Master Plans allow the use of tinted concrete in lieu of decomposed granite for new and replacement walkways, with the condition that tinted concrete be used on primary walkways and decomposed granite on secondary walkways.

**BACKGROUND:**

The adopted Master Plans for Memorial and Central Parks specify that all new and replacement walkways in the parks shall be constructed with decomposed granite as a surfacing material. Decomposed granite was specified because it is more natural looking than asphalt or concrete.

Memorial and Central Parks will experience high volumes of pedestrian traffic as a result of the new Gold Line light rail stations adjacent to each park. Staff has found that decomposed granite is not an acceptable material for walkways in high traffic areas. It is prone to erosion and becomes mushy and unstable in rainy or wet conditions. Existing installations of decomposed granite at the Norton Simon Museum and City Hall have demonstrated these problems. Decomposed granite walks at the Holly Street Apartments adjacent to Memorial Park were removed after numerous complaints by residents.

Staff proposes that the plans be amended to allow the use of tan tinted concrete with a sandblasted or etched finish for the primary walkways in each park. This type of finish will provide a more natural appearance than standard concrete. Decomposed granite could be used on some secondary paths where drainage is not an issue. The cost of concrete paths will be higher than if decomposed granite is used, but maintenance costs will be zero and the lifespan of the walkways will be greatly increased.

The Metro Blue Line Construction Authority requested that an easement be granted to allow placement of subsurface permanent soil nails under Memorial Park. These devices are necessary to allow construction of the Gold Line Station adjacent to the Park. The use of soil nails will reduce the effects of vibration and ground-borne noise on the Holly Street Apartments. The structures are located entirely underground and will have no material effect on the plant material, structures and other facilities in the park. An easement is proposed along the east edge of the park to accommodate the installation and maintenance of the permanent soil nails.

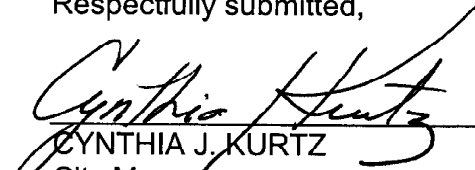
Staff, Metro Blue Line Construction Authority and Kiewit/Washington (the contractor responsible for the construction of the Gold Line improvements) have agreed that the amount of compensation to be provided to the City in return for the easement is \$134,000. Furthermore, staff, Metro Blue Line Construction Authority and Kiewit/Washington have agreed that Kiewit/Washington will construct improvements consisting of colored concrete walkways and a permanent fence around the Library Memorial in lieu of cash payment.

---

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

In lieu of payment, the approval of the easement dedication will provide the City with park improvements valued at \$134,000. Metro Blue Line Construction Authority and Kiewit/Washington have paid all costs for preparing and processing the easement. The amendment of the master plans will have no direct fiscal impact, but the cost of the concrete walks will be greater than the cost of the decomposed granite material. This cost is offset by greatly reduced maintenance costs over time.

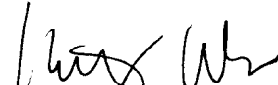
Respectfully submitted,


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
City Manager

Prepared by:

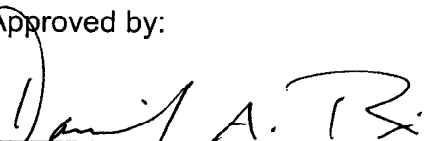
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TODD HOLMES  
Landscape Architect

Reviewed By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KATHLEEN WOODS  
Administrator, Parks and Natural Resources

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DANIEL A. RIX  
City Engineer

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KERRY MORFORD  
Interim Director, Department of Public Works