

# Agenda Report

**TO: CITY COUNCIL**

**DATE: January 14, 2008**

**FROM: CITY MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: COMMENT TO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER ON THE NOMINATION OF THE PASADENA ARROYO PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the transmittal of the report (Attachment F) from the Historic Preservation Commission to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in support of the nomination of the Pasadena Arroyo Parks and Recreation District to the National Register of Historic Places, with the following comments:

1. The table of resources of the registration form (Section 7, p. 24, Attachment B) shall make a distinction between the C.W. Koerner Course (Course #1) and Course #2 at Brookside Golf Club. Course #2 should be identified as a noncontributing feature because it postdates the period of significance (1909-1939).
2. The information in Attachment E, as well as other supplemental information provided by the Rose Bowl Operating Company about the history of changes to the golf courses should be incorporated into the description of the registration form (Section 7, pp. 6-8, Attachment B).

## **Recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission**

The Historic Preservation Commission reviewed a final draft of the National Register nomination for the Pasadena Arroyo Parks and Recreation District at its meeting on October 1, 2007 and recommended that the City Council forward a recommendation approving the nomination to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

## **Recreation and Parks Commission**

Staff presented the nomination to the Recreation and Parks Commission for review and comment. The Recreation and Parks Commission at its December 4, 2007 meeting supported the nomination.

## **Rose Bowl Operating Company**

Staff presented the nomination to the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC), for review and comment on December 18, 2007. The RBOC is sending a letter to the City Council that cites contemplated changes to the fairways and landscape features of the golf course and asks for assurances that these changes may proceed if the golf course is part of a historic designation for the Arroyo. Attachment D outlines the review process that would apply to potential changes if the district were to be listed in the National Register.

## **Background**

Pasadena Heritage has nominated the Arroyo Seco for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed historic district, referred to in the nomination as the Pasadena Arroyo Parks and Recreation District, is comprised of the City-owned land between Pasadena's southern border and the 210 Freeway. It includes the Rose Bowl Stadium—which is already in the Register as a National Historic Landmark—the Colorado Street Bridge, and the La Loma Bridge (each listed in the National Register), and the La Casita del Arroyo, and Lower Arroyo Seco, locally designated landmarks.

In accordance with the requirements of the National Park Service, the SHPO routinely notifies local officials and property owners about nominations to the National Register. The purpose of the notification is to allow time for public comment before the State Historical Resources Commission holds a public hearing on the nomination and the SHPO forwards a recommendation to the National Park Service. The State Historical Resources Commission is scheduled to review this nomination, and the Bungalow Heaven Historic District, in Pasadena on February 1, 2008.

The nominated district is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to local history in the area of Entertainment/Recreation. The period of significance for the proposed historic district is 1909-1939, which covers the initial construction of the contributing buildings, sites, and structures within the district. The period of significance excludes the flood control channel, sections of which were completed in 1947 and 1948, to avoid impacting efforts to naturalize the channel.

## **Effects of Listing in the National Register**

### **Benefits of listing in the National Register**

- Use of the State Historic Building Code, a more flexible alternative to the Uniform Building Code
- Advantageous position to compete for grant funds for renovation when available
- Consideration in the planning of federal undertakings or activities funded by the federal government
- An honor of recognition for architectural or historic worth, worthy of preservation

### **City review of new construction and alterations**

The City already requires design review for public projects, including those in the Arroyo Seco. If the Pasadena Arroyo Parks and Recreation District is listed by the Keeper of the Register, the Historic Preservation Commission and Design Commission will review new proposals for exterior alterations for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and the Illustrated Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings. At this time, these reviews are advisory to the City Council because the property is owned by the City.

Existing regulatory reviews over changes to the Rose Bowl stadium, the Colorado Street Bridge, La Loma Bridge, and La Casita Del Arroyo and their immediate surroundings, would be unchanged, because these structures already have a historic designation. The existing procedures to review exterior alterations (e.g., display boards, press box, Court of Champions, perimeter fencing, concession stands) would proceed as they have in the past.

Changes such as reconfigured roadways, expanded paving, new signage, and new lighting would go through design review (either at the staff level or by the Design Commission) as they have in the past.

### **No change in state or federal review**

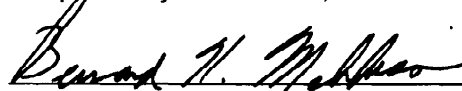
At the state and federal level, regulatory reviews of changes to properties in the National Register occur only when a project has state or federal funding or licensing. These reviews (reviews of federally funded or licensed projects are known as "Section 106") apply, however, to properties that are eligible for listing in the National Register (as is the current status of the Arroyo Seco) and to properties that are formally listed in the Register. Because the Arroyo Seco includes several resources already listed in the National Register and other sites that are eligible for listing, the state and federal reviews would proceed as they have in the past.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The listing of the Pasadena Arroyo Parks and Recreation District in the National Register has no fiscal impact to the City because the City already requires design review for major alterations and new construction in the Arroyo Seco. In some instances, there may be a lengthier review of major changes to contributing (i.e.,

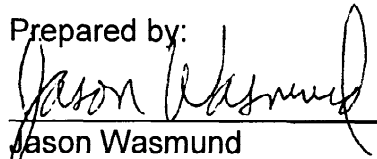
historic) features on a site listed in the National Register, and there may be some increased costs associated with the additional review. Properties with a historic designation may also be in an advantageous position to compete for rehabilitation and restoration grants from private, State, and federal sources.

Respectfully submitted,



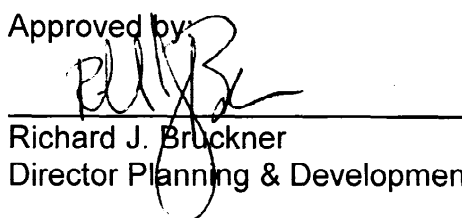
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#### ATTACHMENTS

- A: Map of Pasadena Arroyo Parks and Recreation District (from Registration Form)
- B: National Register Registration Form for Pasadena Arroyo Parks and Recreation District
- C: National Register of Historic Places Fact Sheet (from the National Park Service)
- D: Staff Response to RBOC
- E: History of Alterations to the C.W. Koiner Course (from RBOC)
- F: Review and Comment Report by Certified Local Government on an Application For Listing In the National Register of Historic Places