

Agenda Report

Date: November 24, 2008

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: TEN YEAR LEASE EXTENSION AGREEMENT WITH CALTRANS
FOR THE ARLINGTON GARDEN LOCATED AT 275 ARLINGTON
DRIVE

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to extend the lease agreement between the City of Pasadena and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the property located at 275 Arlington Drive (Arlington Garden) for an additional term of ten years at a cost of \$100 per year.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION:

The Recreation and Parks Commission voted unanimously to support the extension of the lease between the City of Pasadena and Caltrans at its November 18, 2008, meeting.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Pasadena entered into a lease agreement with Caltrans on December 15, 2003. The terms of that agreement provided for a five year lease with an annual payment of \$100.00 for the vacant property located on the northwest corner of Pasadena Avenue and Arlington Drive. The agreement called for the property to be developed as a drought-tolerant demonstration garden but did not allow the construction of any permanent structures on the site. The City of Pasadena is responsible for the care and maintenance of the property, as well as providing the appropriate insurance coverage.

A small dedicated group of community members worked with staff to design a plan for the property to be developed into a Mediterranean garden. The volunteers from the community raised funds and participate in the planning, planting and

maintenance of the property that is now known as Arlington Garden. Over the five years of the lease, the City Council through the Departments of Water and Power and Public Works have provided funding for the purchase of drought tolerant plants, the installation of a water service to help establish the plants and various improvements to the garden.

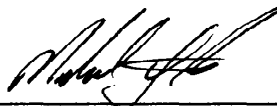
The garden has been planted with various native and drought tolerant trees and shrubs that have been developed into themed outdoor rooms which consist of a formal Mediterranean olive tree allee, a succulent desert garden, a wildflower meadow, an oak grove, a seasonal arroyo wash, a citrus grove and a vernal pool. The educational and sustainable components in the garden include: use of solar power to run irrigation and a water fountain, low flow and Netafim irrigation system. Improvements include solar-powered fountains, the use of recycled concrete to construct garden walls and steps, and the extensive use of mulch to mitigate weeds.

Caltrans has prepared an extension to the lease for the property at 275 Arlington Drive to the City of Pasadena for an extended term of ten years. The terms and conditions of the lease that include an annual rent payment of \$100.00 will continue with no other changes.

FISCAL IMPACT:


Sufficient funds have been budgeted and are available for the next payment of the lease, of \$100 a year, in the Parks and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Public Works' budget (account 765100). The Parks and Natural Resources Division, the Department of Water and Power, and the Arlington Garden community group will continue working together to develop future funding alternatives and volunteer collaborations for minimal impact to the City budget.

Respectfully submitted,



MICHAEL J. BECK, City Manager

PREPARED BY:



KATHLEEN WOODS, Administrator
Parks and Natural Resources

APPROVED BY:



MARTIN PASTUCHA, Director
Department of Public Works