

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL Date: March 2, 1998
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE AND CHANGING THE CLOSING HOURS FOR CERTAIN ARROYO SECO PARK AREAS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council direct the City Attorney's Office to draft amendments to Pasadena Municipal that will allow the Pasadena Police Department to enforce a "dawn" opening and "sunset closing time for Lower Arroyo Seco Park and Hahamongna Watershed Park, both natural park areas within the Arroyo Seco.

BACKGROUND:

Pasadena Municipal Code currently states -- No person shall do any of the acts hereinafter specified within the limits of any of the public parks of the city, the Civic Center, or the grounds of the branch libraries or other municipal buildings that constitute loitering or remaining in any public park at any time between 10 PM and 6 AM.

Various natural park areas, in the Arroyo, as shown on the attached map (e.g., parts of the Lower Arroyo Seco Park and Hahamongna Watershed Park), differ from the more centrally located parks by having:

- ❖ No lighting or minimal lighting
- ❖ No outside facilities suitable for use after dark
- ❖ No city staff on duty after dark (park crews generally leave work at or about 3:30 PM)
- ❖ Steep terrain that can become increasingly dangerous after dark
- ❖ Nocturnal animal life that often feed after dark
- ❖ Many isolated areas that could invite illegal acts such as the dumping of trash on City-owned property after dark.

During the November 4, 1997 regular meeting, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously passed a motion to endorse changes to the current park ordinance defining the opening and closing hours for the Lower Arroyo Seco Park and Hahamongna Watershed Park. This motion included recommendations that certain parks are to open at sunrise and close at sunset based upon the certain time of year. On December 11, 1997 the Hahamongna Advisory Committee, of the Recreation & Parks Commission, adopted the same motion and recommendation which will result in an earlier closing time during Pacific Standard Time (October through April) than during Daylight Savings Time (May through October). Proper notification will be prominetely posted and informational fliers circulated, in advance, in each park location prior to implementation.

This recommendation has received support from the Pasadena Police Department.

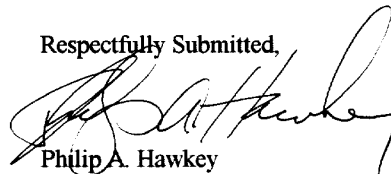
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The environmental Administrator has determined that the proposed ordinance amendment would be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under section 15061 (b) (3) also known as the "general rule" since the proposed ordinance amendment would have no potential for causing a significant adverse effect on the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

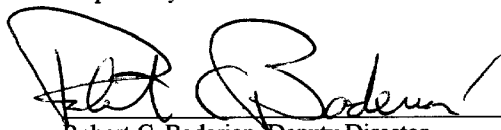
Inter-Con Securities, a private firm, currently contracts with the City to lock various park facilities. This action will add the locking of the two (2) Hahamongna Watershed Park gates to the existing Inter-Con Securities contract. Inter-Con will "lock" these two additional gates at no additional charge (Lower Arroyo Gate is currently locked at 10 PM). City staff will continue to "un-lock" each gate, at each park site, by 6 AM in the morning, as is the current procedure. There is no fiscal impact on the Public Works & Transportation/Parks and Natural Resources budget.

Respectfully Submitted,



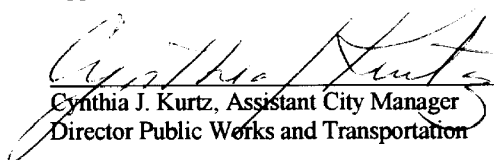
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City Manager

Prepared by:



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Concurrence:



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Police Department