

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 05-08

DATE January 5, 2005

C. D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY EXPENSE ACCOUNT 316 TO GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY EXPENSE ACCOUNT 602

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|-------------------|-----------------|
| J. Combs _____ | H. Fujita _____ |
| *G. Stigile _____ | K. Chan _____ |
| F. Mok _____ | J. Kolb _____ |


 General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve the transfer of funds within Department 88, Fund 302, Activity 7800, Griffith Observatory, for the purchase of parts and components for the repair and renovation of the Tesla Coil for the Observatory's Tesla Coil Exhibit.

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|-------|---|-----------|
| FROM: | Account 316 – Maintenance Material & Supplies | \$ 12,500 |
| TO: | Account 602 – Museum (Observatory) Supplies | \$ 12,500 |

SUMMARY:

Since it was donated to the Griffith Observatory in 1937, the Tesla Coil has been one of the Observatory's most popular exhibits. The Tesla Coil is a transformer that increases the typical household voltage from 120 to over a half-million volts. The coil's high frequency (35,000 cycles versus 60 for household current) allows the exhibit to send out lighting bolts to plates on the walls of the exhibit and create sounds like miniature thunder, without endangering the public or anyone who might be near the coil. Because of the Tesla Coil's longstanding popularity, its reinstallation has been planned as part of the major new exhibit program.

The Griffith Observatory Renovation and Expansion Project will soon reach the point where the Tesla Coil can be re-installed. First, the Tesla Coil needs major repair and renovation work, such as a new coil power package, a Faraday cage enclosure, a broadband field intensifier, and a salient-pole synchronous rotary spark gap. The best time for this work to be done is when the Tesla Coil is being re-installed. Observatory staff will be responsible for the repair and renovation work; however, we need to obtain specially made parts. The appropriate account for such a purchase is 602, Museum Supplies, not 316 Maintenance Supplies, hence the request to transfer funds to the correct appropriation account.

Report prepared by Linda Barth, Administrative Resources