

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

APPROVED

NO. 13-014

DATE January 16, 2013

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BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

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SUBJECT: MACHADO LAKE – ECOSYSTEM REHABILITATION (W.O. #EW40022A)
PROJECT – FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

R. Adams _____
H. Fujita _____
V. Israel _____

K. Regan _____
*M. Shull MS
N. Williams _____

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Review and consider the Machado Lake – Ecosystem Rehabilitation (W.O. #EW40022A) Project Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and associated Technical Appendices, on file in the Board Office, concurring with its certification by the City Council on September 28, 2010, and finding that:
 - a. the FEIR is adequate for the Board’s project decision;
 - b. the FEIR was completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and
 - c. the FEIR reflects the Board’s independent judgment and analysis;
2. Concur with the CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations adopted by City Council on September 28, 2010, on file in the Board Office, and make an additional, finding that the alternatives to the proposed project were infeasible;
3. Concur with the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP), on file in the Board Office, that was adopted by City Council on September 28, 2010; and,
4. Approve the proposed project as described in the FEIR.

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SUMMARY:

In November 2004, the citizens of Los Angeles passed a \$500,000,000 Clean Water Bond Measure titled "Proposition O". The primary objective of all Proposition O funded projects is to protect public health by cleaning up pollution in the City's watercourses, beaches, and the ocean. The State of California has identified Machado Lake as an impaired water body with the following types of water quality issues: algae, ammonia, Chem A (refers to the sum of the chemicals aldrin, dieldrin, chlordane, endrin, heptachlor, heptachlor, epoxide, HCH (including lindane), endosulfan, and toxaphene), chlordane, DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichlorethane), dieldrin, eutrophic, odor, PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and trash. The broad goals of the proposed project are to improve the water quality conditions in the lake, comply with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's intent to restore the lake's existing and potential beneficial uses, help meet Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements passed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and other water quality targets, and implement multi-purpose solutions at the lake, consistent with the Proposition O objectives of water supply, water quality, flood protection, water conservation, and recreation. The project has the additional goal of meeting the requirements of available funding sources, including Proposition O, Proposition K and the California Coastal Conservancy, which are instrumental in bringing the project to fruition.

The project site is in the Wilmington and Harbor City communities of Los Angeles at 25820 Vermont Avenue. The lake is 45-acres in size and located within the 290-acre Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. It serves as a flood control retention basin for the storm drain system. The lake is comprised of upper and lower basins separated by an earthen dam. The upper basin is used for recreation, while the lower basin is a seasonal freshwater marsh. During major rain events, stormwater flows over the dam into the lower basin, through the Harbor Outfall in the southeastern corner of the park, and discharges into the West Channel of the Los Angeles Harbor.

The project scope consists of in-lake improvements such as dredging the lake bottom to remove sediments that have accumulated over several decades, and installing a cap over the lake bottom to prevent any potential contaminants from leaching into the water. Additional water quality improvements include installing oxygenation and phosphorous removal systems, and hydrodynamic separators at the stormwater inlets to the lake that will remove trash and particulates. The project will also provide many improvements to landscaping and wildlife habitat by the removal of invasive and non-native vegetation, restoring wetland and native vegetation and providing a new irrigation system, fencing and other park fixtures. Several site visits have been conducted with Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to determine the requirements for construction and needs of the community. At the request of RAP, areas of the park outside and away from active construction activities will remain open to the public and separated by construction fences. The construction contractor will be responsible for maintaining the areas within the construction fences and RAP will conduct normal maintenance activities outside the construction fences. Construction is expected to

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begin in Spring 2013 and be completed by Spring 2016.

For this project, the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering (BOE) was the CEQA Lead Agency for the preparation and processing of the FEIR. RAP is functioning as a Responsible Agency because it has jurisdiction over Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park and the lake. In accordance with Section 15096 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Responsible Agency must use the FEIR to reach a project decision, make its own CEQA findings, and, if necessary, adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations.

The Findings and the Statement of Overriding Considerations state that the project would have potentially significant environmental impacts related to air quality, biological resources, paleontological resources, archaeological resources, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, and transportation and traffic. Most of these impacts would occur during project construction. The FEIR and MMP identify feasible mitigation measures that would reduce impacts to a less than significant level in the areas of air quality (odors); biological resources; paleontological resources; archaeological resources; hazards and hazardous materials; and transportation and traffic. However, even with implementation of mitigation measures, impacts would remain significant and unavoidable related to air quality (temporary construction emissions and regional nitrogen oxide [NOx] emissions), and construction noise. As such, the project required that a Statement of Overriding Considerations be adopted by the City Council to approve this Project.

In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, the FEIR also analyzed three alternatives to the proposed project: the No project alternative and two technical design alternatives. These alternatives were determined to be infeasible because they did not meet the water quality objectives, or resulted in substantially more environmental impacts.

A Notice of Determination was filed with Los Angeles County Clerk following the certification of the FEIR on September 28, 2010. Based on the Board's concurrence with the certification of the FEIR and the associated CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations, no further CEQA documentation is required for project approval.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund. The proposed project has a budget of \$99,523,897 and funding is from the following sources:

- a. Proposition O General Obligation Bond Funding in the amount of \$98,566,900.
- b. Proposition K funding in the amount of \$660,000 for improvements at Machado Lake and Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park.

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- c. A grant from the California Coastal Conservancy in the amount of \$296,997 that has already been received.

As a separate funding matter, an allocation of Quimby funds in the amount of \$800,000 will be used solely to construct improvements at Camp Machado as part of this project.

This report was prepared by David Attaway, Environmental Supervisor, Department of Recreation and Parks, Julie Allen, Proposition O Project Manager, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works and reviewed by Michael A. Shull, Assistant General Manager, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch, Department of Recreation and Parks.