

APPROVED

MAY 02 2018

BOARD REPORT

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

NO. 18-079

DATE May 02, 2018

C.D. 6

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: SEPULVEDA BASIN RECREATION AREA - BULL CREEK CHANNEL ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (PRJ1209D) PROJECT – FINAL ACCEPTANCE

AP Diaz	_____	V. Israel	_____
<i>for</i> *R. Barajas	<u>ESP</u>	S. Piña-Cortez	_____
H. Fujita	_____	N. Williams	_____



 General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

Accept the work performed for the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area – Bull Creek Channel Ecosystem Restoration (PRJ1209D) Project, designed and constructed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), as outlined in the Summary of this Report;

SUMMARY

The Sepulveda Flood Control Basin (Sepulveda Basin), located in the San Fernando Valley is federally-owned property under the jurisdiction of the Corps. It encompasses 2,097 acres, of which 1,588.36 acres are leased to the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) for the development, operation and maintenance of public recreational lands and facilities. In addition to a variety of established recreational areas, the Sepulveda Basin contains wildlife areas and other natural resources, including Bull Creek Channel.

Bull Creek is a perennial stream that receives surface runoff and other water flows from an approximate 25 square miles drainage area. The length of the southern-most reach of Bull Creek that traverses the Sepulveda Basin is approximately 3,000 feet.

On May 16, 2007, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' (Board) approved the Bull Creek Channel Ecosystem Restoration (PRJ1209D) Project (Project), including the Joint Environmental Assessment/Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Project Cooperation Agreement with the Corps (Report No. 07-110).

The Project encompassed approximately twenty-eight (28) acres, and the Project area consisted of the Bull Creek stream bed and banks plus the degraded riparian and upland vegetative communities situated off both banks. It is bounded by Victory Boulevard on the north, Anthony C. Beilenson Park, and its 26-acre Lake Balboa on the east, the Los Angeles River on the south, and the Cherry Tree groves on the west. The main elements of the Project included:

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1. Recontouring the main stream channel to form a gentler meandering geometry and excavating an oxbow configuration (a C-shaped side channel) in the upper reach creating a one acre island;
2. Regrading the banks of the main channel to lessen the steep gradients;
3. Installing a sediment basin and trash removal structure at the north end;
4. Installing a pipeline to convey reclaimed water from Lake Balboa to the oxbow channel to supplement urban runoff during the dry season;
5. Creating a multipurpose trail system for pedestrians and service vehicles, with bridges for island access, safe stream crossings, and use as scenic overlooks;
6. Providing interpretive nodes with environmental and nature awareness opportunities; and,
7. Creating a more biologically diverse and aesthetically-pleasing ecosystem through the removal of invasive plant species and the establishment of five predominantly native vegetative communities that will provide a valuable wildlife habitat consisting of:
 - a. Aquatic/emergent wetland,
 - b. Riparian woodland,
 - c. Coast live oak California walnut woodland,
 - d. Grassland, and
 - e. Buffer habitat.

Per the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA), the Corps was responsible for the design and construction of the proposed project, as well as the environmental monitoring commitments. After acceptance of the project, the improvements are required to be maintained by the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) in accordance with its lease agreement with the Corps.

The Project was completed at a cost of approximately Six Million Seven Hundred Eighty Five Thousand, Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$6,785,750.00) and was funded by Proposition A and the Corps, Civil Works Program Funds. Per the PCA, the Corps provided 75% of the required funding to complete the project and RAP was obligated to provide 25% of the required funding.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

On May 16, 2007, the Board adopted a joint Environmental Assessment/Mitigated Negative Declaration and the associated Mitigation Monitoring Program for the proposed project. A Notice of Determination was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on May 18, 2007. The recommendations in the current Board action will not result in any additional environmental impacts, and therefore, is covered by the existing CEQA exemptions. No additional CEQA documentation required.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The final acceptance of the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area – Bull Creek Channel Ecosystem Restoration (PRJ1209D) Project will have a minor impact on the Department due to increased maintenance costs.

This Report was prepared by Meghan Luera, Management Analyst, Planning, Maintenance and Branch.