

APPROVED

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

MAY 03 2006

NO. 06-111


DATE May 3, 2006

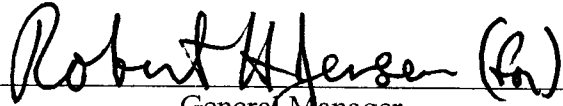
BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS


C.D. Various

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: BRUSH CLEARANCE – MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES

*J. Combs		J. Kolb	_____
H. Fujita	_____	F. Mok	_____
S. Huntley	_____	K. Regan	_____
B. Jensen	_____	M. Shull	_____


General Manager

Approved  _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, with the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Street Services for reimbursement of related materials, utilities, and personnel used for the abatement of brush, weed, and refuse on parcels requiring machine discing;
2. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed MOA to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form; and,
3. Authorize the General Manager to execute the MOA subsequent to City Attorney approval as to form.

SUMMARY:

The Department of Recreation and Parks has the responsibility for brush clearance for all Department properties where the threat of catastrophic property loss or physical injury due to brush or wildfires can occur at any time. The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Sec. 57.21.07 states that the Department has the responsibility to abate certain hazardous public nuisances that would include, but not be limited to, brush clearance, weed and/or refuse abatement, tree trimming or removal, within 200 feet of private residences and 10 feet from roadways. In order to comply with LAMC in a timely fashion, the Department recommended

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2 NO. 06-111

using the services of qualified brush clearance contractors, each of whom would execute a master agreement with the Department. This matter was considered at the Board meeting of April 5, 2006 (Report No. 06-86) and approved. An element of the overall program of brush clearance, however, is use of City forces to complete the portions of the work that can be cleared using machine discing.

Machine discing is a mechanized method to abate weeds used on accessible flat or sloping properties upon which a tractor and harrow disc can safely operate. This is the least expensive and most common method used, due to the rapidity in which the machines can cover large areas. The weeds are disced or plowed under, which results in a form of recycling and does not require the vegetation to be hauled to a land fill.

An agreement was reached with the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Street Services concerning the responsibility for brush clearance and landscape vegetation maintenance on Department owned property that requires machine discing. The attached MOA will provide that on those parcels requiring machine discing, the Lot Cleaning Division of the Bureau of Street Services will provide the abatement, with related materials, utilities, and personnel costs to be paid for and reimbursed by the Department.

Much of the terrain of the Department owned parcels that require weed abatement and brush clearance are steep and require the expertise and equipment of outside contractors who specialize in brush clearance. These remaining parcels will continue to be cleared by brush clearance contractors using the process previously approved by the Board.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Department anticipates the 2006-2007 budget will allocate \$1,012,000 for brush clearance in account 3040. That amount plus the current year balance will be sufficient to meet the Department's required clearance responsibilities for the 2006-2007 season. The amount paid to the Bureau of Street Services will be on a reimbursement of cost basis. At this time, the Department is in the process of updating and adding parcels which require only discing, therefore it is unknown how many parcels will be referred to Street Services.

Prepared by Debby Rolland, Superintendent, West Region.