

APPROVED

10-19-2016
BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 16-220

DATE October 19, 2016

C.D. Various

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: VARIOUS LOCATIONS – ARMENIAN GENOCIDE MEMORIAL PLAQUES;
EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
(CEQA), PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 11 (1) OF THE CITY
CEQA GUIDELINES (WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE PLACEMENT OF SIGNS
ON PARK PROPERTY AS ACCESSORY STRUCTURES TO RECREATIONAL
FACILITIES)

AP Diaz	_____	V. Israel	_____
* R. Barajas	<u>CSD</u>	K. Regan	_____
H. Fujita	_____	N. Williams	_____

Ramon Barajas for
General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Grant approval for the wording, placement, and installation of plaques at various locations, as described in the Summary of this Report, and,
2. Find the project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA guidelines (which provides for the placement of signs on park property as accessory structures to recreational facilities).

SUMMARY

On February 2, 2015, Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Council District 2, introduced a Council Motion that ‘the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) be instructed to acquire and plant one hundred (100) pomegranate trees in parks throughout the City, including at least one tree on the South Lawn of City Hall, and the remaining trees to be planted in each of the fifteen (15) Council Districts’ and ‘the Council instruct RAP to work with each Council District to coordinate the location of the trees in each District, to place a plaque or a sign at the location of the trees dedicating the tree to the victims of the Armenian Genocide, and to ensure the maintenance and survival of the trees.’ This Council Motion to commemorate the 100th- Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide was approved by the full City Council on March 4, 2015 [Council File (CF) No. 15-0227].

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On August 7, 2015, Councilmember Paul Krekorian introduced a subsequent Council Motion that One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) in the "Council Community Projects" line item in the General City Purposes Fund No. 100-56 be transferred/appropriated to the Recreation and Parks Fund No. 302-89, Account No. 89704H for the Armenian Genocide Memorial Trees project. This Motion was approved by the full City Council on September 8, 2015 (CF No. 15-0938).

RAP staff worked closely with staff at Council District 2, and the remaining Council Districts, to identify appropriate locations for the planting of the pomegranate groves and installation of the plaques per the Council Motion. Staff has completed the planting of the 100 trees as indicated by these Motions and now seeks to install the appropriate plaques to complete the project. There will be one (1) unique plaque for the City Hall planting and fifteen (15) additional plaques, one (1) for each of the Council Districts. Each Council District plaque will include as sponsors Councilmember Paul Krekorian as well as the councilmember of the district. Proposed/example text is as follows:

(City Hall Plaque)

Pomegranate (Punica granatum)

The City of Los Angeles Commemorates
the Armenian Genocide Centennial: 1915-2015

This tree was planted by Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilmember Paul Krekorian
on the occasion of the commemoration of the centennial.

April 24, 2015

(Council District Plaques, Council District One)

Pomegranate (Punica granatum)

The City of Los Angeles Commemorates
the Armenian Genocide Centennial: 1915-2015

Sponsored by City Councilmembers Paul Krekorian and Gilbert Cedillo

April 24, 2015

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The plaques are to be installed on either a small pedestal or on a concrete slab. Department staff has examined each grove to determine the most suitable installation method and location of the commemorative plaque in order to minimize visual impact and facilitate access and maintenance. The location of each grove by plaque installation method are listed below:

Concrete Slab Plaque Installation

CD	Location
3	Tarzana Park
7	Howard Finn Park
8	Saint Andrews Recreation Center
9	Green Meadows Recreation Center
12	Granada Hills Recreation Center
13	Las Palmas Senior Citizen Center
15	Harbor City Recreation Center

Pedestal Plaque Installation

CD	Location
1	Glassell Park Recreation Center
2	North Hollywood Park
4	Griffith Park and Roosevelt Golf Course
5	Cheviot Hills
6	Sun Valley Recreation Center
10	Jim Gilliam Recreation Center
11	Westchester Recreation Center
14	City Hall
14	Hazard Recreation Center

Additional project information including sample plaque text and project budget are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

This project was presented to the Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force at their regularly scheduled meeting on April 6, 2016 at which time it was requested that staff return with additional project information. This project was presented again to the Commission Task Force at their regularly scheduled meeting on August 10, 2016 at which time it was recommended that the project be forwarded to the full Board for review. Subsequent to presentation to the Task Force the proposed plaque text was modified slightly to include the name of the councilmember of the district.

Council District 2 and Department management and staff support this project.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

RAP staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA guidelines, which provides for the placement of signs on park property as accessory structures to recreational facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There should be minimal fiscal impact as the cost of plaque manufacture and installation has been paid by the City Council as indicated in CF No. 15-0938. Minor costs may be incurred by the Department for on-going maintenance of these plaques.

This Report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Branch.

LIST OF EXHIBITS

- 1) Exhibit A – Sample Plaque and Project Budget
- 2) Exhibit B – Council Motions

Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*)

**The City of Los Angeles Commemorates
the Armenian Genocide Centennial: 1915-2015**

**This tree was planted by Mayor Eric Garcetti and
Councilmember Paul Krekorian on the occasion of the
commemoration of the centennial.**

April 24, 2015

Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*)

**The City of Los Angeles Commemorates
the Armenian Genocide Centennial: 1915-2015**

Sponsored by City Councilmember Paul Krekorian

April 24, 2015

PLANTING OF ONE HUNDRED POMEGRANATE TREES

LINE ITEM	ITEM DESCRIPTION	COST
1	Tree Purchase (Pomegranate Trees)	\$ 6,900.00
2	Planting of Fifteen (15) Pomegranate Groves	\$ 15,628.20
3	Two Years Care/ Maintenance of Pomegranate Trees	\$ 48,079.60
4	Sixteen (16) 12"x12" Custom Bronze Plaques	\$ 8,000.00
5	Installation of Sixteen (16) Custom Bronze Plaques	\$ 21,392.20
	TOTAL	\$ 100,000.00

MOTION

The pomegranate is one of the most recognizable symbols in the Armenian culture. Celebrated for centuries in Armenian art, mythology, religious texts and literature, the pomegranate is a powerful symbol that represents abundance, prosperity, generosity and fertility. After the horrific events of the Armenian Genocide in 1915, many Armenian artists have used pomegranates as a theme in their art, lyrics, and poems to describe a wide range of emotions, from suffering to hope, rebirth and survival of a nation.

This year April 24 marks the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Preparations are underway throughout the world to commemorate the lives lost during the Genocide. The City of Los Angeles, home to the largest community of the Armenian Diaspora, has formally recognized the genocide and each year commemorates this tragedy with the Armenian-American community. In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the City of Los Angeles should reaffirm its support of the Armenian-American community's demand for justice, by commemorating this momentous occasion with a lasting, living and citywide expression of the City's respectful remembrance.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Recreation and Parks Department be instructed to acquire and plant 100 pomegranate trees in parks throughout the city, including at least one tree on the South Lawn of City Hall, and the remaining trees to be planted in each of the 15 council districts.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the Recreation and Parks Department to work with each Council office to coordinate the location of the trees in each district, to place a plaque or a sign at the location of the trees dedicating the tree to the victims of the Armenian Genocide, and to ensure the maintenance and survival of the trees.

Presented by: Paul Kulkorin
PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

Seconded by: Wendy Martinez
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

ORIGINAL

[Signature]

MOTION

The General City Purposes (GCP) portion of the 2015-2016 City Budget provides funds for completion of specific community projects in various Council districts, including the Armenian Genocide Memorial Trees project.

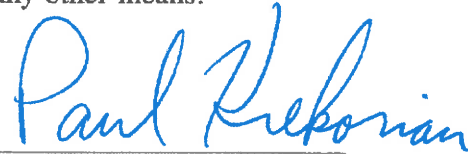
Action is needed to transfer the budgeted funding for this project to the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Sufficient funds are available in the Council Community Projects line item in the GCP portion of the 2015-2016 budget for this purpose.

I THEREFORE MOVE that \$100,000 in the "Council Community Projects" line item in the General City Purposes Fund No. 100-56 be transferred / appropriated to the Recreation and Parks Fund No. 302-89, Account No. 89704H for the Armenian Genocide Memorial Trees project.

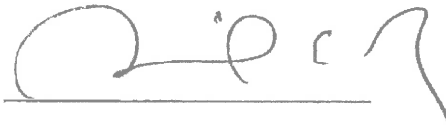
I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Recreation and Parks be authorized to make any corrections, clarifications or revisions to the above fund transfer instructions, including any new instructions, in order to effectuate the intent of this Motion, and including any corrections and changes to fund or account numbers; said corrections / clarifications / changes may be made orally, electronically or by any other means.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilman, 2nd District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

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AUG 7 2015

