

APPROVED

09-09-2016

BOARD OF RECREATION  
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 16-193

DATE September 09, 2016

C.D. 12

**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

SUBJECT: ORCUTT RANCH HORTICULTURAL CENTER AND COMMUNITY GARDEN – BLUE STAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE; EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA), PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VLL, SECTION 1, CLASS 11 (1) OF THE CITY CEQA GUIDELINES

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

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Manager

Approved ✓                      Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_                      Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Grant approval for the wording, placement, and installation of a plaque at Orcutt Ranch Horticultural Center and Community Garden, as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Find the project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article VLL, Section 1, Class 11 (1) of the City CEQA guidelines;
3. Direct Staff to file the Notice of Exemption (NOE) within five working days of approval;
4. Direct the Chief Financial Officer to authorize a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75 for filing the NOE; and
5. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to issue the appropriate Right of Entry Permit.

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### SUMMARY

Orcutt Ranch Horticultural Center and Community Garden is a 24.10 acre facility (Facility) located at 23600 West Roscoe Boulevard within the West Hills community. This facility consists of the historic Orcutt residence and surrounding grounds which include an orchard, gazebo, guest house and community garden plots. The Facility can be rented for special events such as weddings. This proposal from the West Valley Garden Club (WVGC) is for the installation of a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker plaque within the orchard portion of the property.

WVGC has a long association with Orcutt Ranch. The Garden Club, which has been holding regular monthly meetings at the Facility for over 49 years, currently volunteers to prune over 500 rose bushes annually, and also participates in annual Arbor Day celebrations. WVGC is a part of the National Garden Club and California Garden Clubs, Inc. The National Garden Club, California Garden Clubs, Inc. and WVGC promote gardening, floral design, civic beautification, and environmental responsibility.

WVGC is proposing to install a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker plaque on an existing boulder adjacent to a walking path through the orchard. The Blue Star Memorial Program is a national program which honors members, past, present, and future, of all branches of the United States Armed Services. This Program was adopted by the National Garden Club in 1945. Memorial Markers have been installed nationwide at locations such as National cemeteries, parks, veterans' facilities, and gardens. WVGC finds the gardens at Orcutt Ranch to be an appropriate location for the installation of a Memorial Marker as Mr. William Orcutt served in the National Guard from 1895 to 1897. He was a Reserved Engineer during World War I, and served on the local draft board from 1940 until his death in 1942.

Members of WVGC have worked with RAP staff to identify a location for plaque placement that will enhance the existing atmosphere of the Facility. The plaque would be installed on a boulder for a rustic appearance, placing the boulder near an existing bench that is adjacent to the walking path and is accessible pursuant to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The plaque is intended as a beautification project that will offer a memorial to members of the United States Armed Services. Additional project information including sample plaque text, map of the site, and proposed boulder are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

WVGC has presented this project proposal at its own public meetings and to the West Hills Neighborhood Council at a joint meeting of the Beautification Committee and the full Neighborhood Council on June 28, 2016. The Neighborhood Council expressed support for the project.

This project was presented to the Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force at their regularly scheduled meeting on July 13, 2016, at which time the Task Force recommended that the Project be forwarded to the full Board for review.

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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 VLL, 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.

Council District 12 and RAP staff support this project at Orcutt Ranch.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There should be minimal fiscal impact as the cost of plaque manufacture has been paid for by the WVGC which has also committed to plaque maintenance for a minimum of ten (10) years. Minor costs to RAP will be for the installation of the plaque by in-house construction forces.

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

### LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Exhibit A – Site Map, Proposed Boulder, and Sample Plaque Text



## The Blue Star Memorial Program

*Adopted in  
1945 by  
National  
Garden  
Clubs, Inc.*

*Honoring those  
who have  
served, those  
presently  
serving and  
those who will  
serve in the  
Armed Forces  
of the United  
States of  
America.*



# ORCUTT RANCH HORTICULTURE CENTER

Roscoe Boulevard

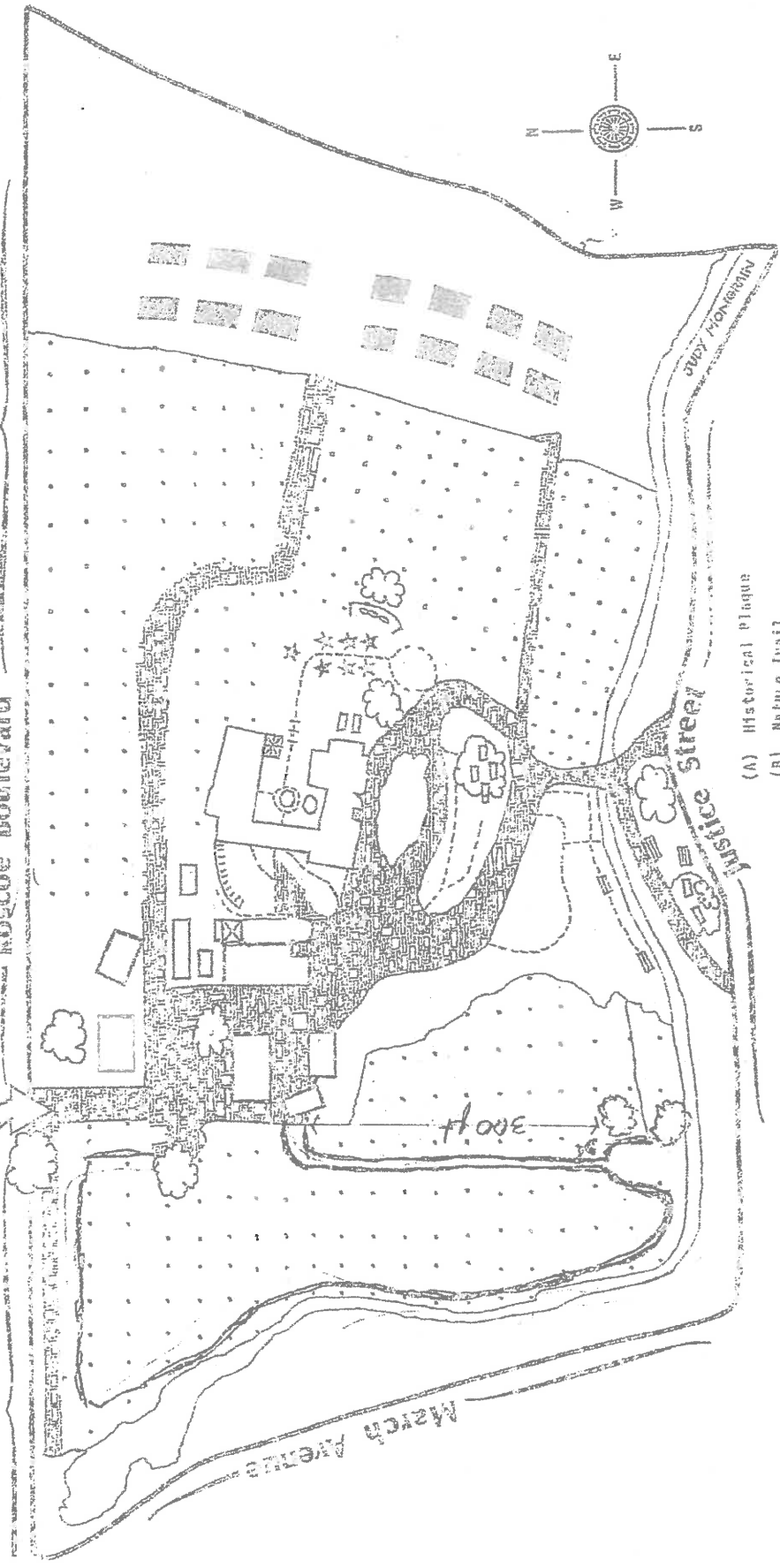
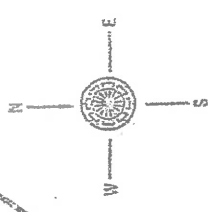
ENTRANCE

March Avenue

Flower

Justice Street

ADY MOUNTAIN



(A) Historical Plaque

(B) Native Plant

- Dayton Creek
- ▢ Orchard
- Picnic Area
- ▢ Road
- X Boulder
- Walkway
- ⊗ Men's Room
- ⊗ Ladies Room
- Mansion
- Rec. & Park Buildings
- ▢ Rose Garden
- ▢ Gardening Class Plots
- Oak Trees

Proposed site at  
the end of the path



30" H      82" circumference



BLUE STAR  
MEMORIAL BY-WAY

A tribute to the  
Armed Forces of America

West Valley Garden Club  
2016

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

2015