

**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR ACTION**

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2008

SUBMITTED TO: COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

SUBMITTED BY: JIM B. ENGLE, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SERVICES

PREPARED BY: DAVID C. DOMINGUEZ, MANAGER, FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT & CONCESSIONS

SUBJECT: HUNTINGTON CENTRAL PARK ENHANCED RAPTOR HABITAT PLAN

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

There is a need to approve an enhanced raptor habitat plan as a condition of approval for the proposed senior center in Huntington Central Park.

FUNDING SOURCE:

Funding in the amount of \$250,000 for the project has been approved for Fiscal Year 2008/09 in account #20945101.69365.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to:

Recommend City Council approval of the five-acre enhanced raptor habitat plan in Huntington Central Park as presented.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve the five-acre enhanced raptor habitat plan in Huntington Central Park and direct staff on how to proceed.

ANALYSIS:

On February 4, 2008, the City Council approved the Environment Impact Report (EIR #07-002) for the proposed senior center in Huntington Central Park. As identified in the master EIR #99-1, the city is required to mitigate for any potential project impacts to raptor habitat, either through dedication, conservation or enhancement. Therefore, mitigation measure 4.3.2 has been included in the senior center project EIR to ensure compliance with the original Central Park EIR.

Mitigation 4.3.2 requires that any impact to foraging areas be mitigated on a 1:1 ratio. The proposed senior center will utilize five-acres of undeveloped park land; therefore, the proposed habitat area will consist of five-acres. The proposed location for the habitat

Deleted: G-1

area is within the undeveloped portion of Central Park to the north of the proposed senior center site, and south of Shipley Nature Center (Attachment 1). The proposed site consists of dirt mounds, weeds, and does not currently include any programmed use. The area is bounded by Goldenwest Street to the east, and developed portions of the park that include mature trees, turf, and asphalt pathways, to the north and west. Improvements will be limited to weed removal, native plant protection, additional planting of native plant species, and artificial perching sites and nesting boxes. The project will provide enhanced habitat not currently in this area.

PBS&J has prepared a preliminary plan and provided a scope of work to comply with the established protocol to create an enhanced raptor habitat (Attachment 2). Characteristics of a typical plan include: (1) plantings for native trees, shrubs, perennial flowers, and native grasses, (2) planting of native food source vegetation such as fruit/seed bearing shrubs, (3) planting density and irrigation requirements, (4) connections between the habitat area, the surrounding park, and other habitat areas, (5) artificial raptor enhancements such as, nest boxes and perching poles. Additionally, the monitoring of the improvements made will also be required per the established protocol. PBS&J will monitor the installation of the vegetation and other equipment going into the plan. Once established, PBS&J will also monitor the site two times per year, for five years, to complete the established protocol.

Once the plan has been approved, staff will move forward with the actual construction of the habitat.

MASTER PLAN/PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS: The city has advertised the public meeting to the community to seek input regarding the creation of a five-acre enhanced habitat area within Huntington Central Park within a 14-acre undeveloped area of the park, west of Goldenwest Street at Talbert Avenue adjacent to the proposed senior center. Property owners within 500 feet of the park received notification of the public input meeting in the mail and a notice was posted in the local newspaper. Anyone who has communicated to the city regarding the park area via email, letter, or at public comments of a commission or council meeting also received notification.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: The proposed project has been identified as a condition of approval through the environmental process for the Huntington Central Park senior center project.

ATTACHMENT(S):

	1.	Location Map
	2.	Enhanced Raptor Habitat Plan

RCA Author: David Dominguez

Deleted: G-1