

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

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 14, 2009

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 MASTER PLAN CHANGE TO INCLUDE AN ENHANCED RAPTOR HABITAT AREA

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

There is a need to approve a change in the Huntington Central Park (HCP) Master Plan to include the enhanced raptor habitat area. **Note: The habitat plan is not being considered as part of this review or action tonight.**

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to:

Approve the change in the Huntington Central Park Master Plan to include the five-acre enhanced raptor habitat area located to the north of the proposed senior center site.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve the change in the Huntington Central Park Master Plan to include a five-acre enhanced raptor habitat and direct staff on how to proceed. Note: This is a condition of the Senior Center Environmental Impact Report.

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 area is within the undeveloped portion of Central Park to the north of the proposed senior

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center site, and south of Shipley Nature Center (Attachment 1). The proposed site consists of dirt mounds and 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. This area is currently identified in the HCP Master Plan to include passive areas, picnic areas, tot lot, public restrooms and parking (Attachment 2 and 3). Because the enhanced raptor habitat will be a change in uses, staff is requesting Community Services Commission approval to change the HCP Master Plan.

Note: Approval for the final habitat plan including elements and monitoring program, falls under the authority of the planning department. The Community Services Commission is being requested to only approve the change in the HCP Master Plan so that the project may move forward.

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS: The city has advertised the public meeting to the community to seek input regarding the change in the HCP Master Plan to include a five-acre enhanced habitat area within the 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. **NOTE: ORIGINALLY THE ENHANCED RAPTOR HABITAT PLAN WAS GOING TO BE REVIEWED AS AN INFORMATION ITEM. THE PLAN HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, SO THIS PLAN WILL NOT BE PRESETED AT THIS MEETING.**

ATTACHMENT(S):

	1.	Location Map
	2.	Huntington Central Park Master Plan
	3.	Master Plan for the 14-Acre Area
	4.	Enhanced Raptor Habitat Area - Revised

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