

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

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 13, 2016

SUBMITTED TO: COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

SUBMITTED BY: JANEEN LAUDENBACK, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SERVICES

PREPARED BY: DAVID DOMINGUEZ, FACILITIES, DEVELOPMENT & CONCESSIONS MANAGER, COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: **CENTRAL PARK - RAPTOR FORAGING HABITAT MITIGATION AND MONITORING PLAN**

Statement of Issue: There is a need to address Measure Biological Resources #4 of the Master Plan of Recreational Uses for Central Park (EIR #99-1) and Mitigation Measure (MM) 4.3-2 of the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR #07-002) due to the construction of the Senior Center in Huntington Central Park and the potential conversion of the temporary parking lot adjacent to the Shipley Nature Center to a permanent lot. The Community Services Commission is being asked to review and approve the raptor foraging habitat mitigation plan and an update to the Master Plan of Recreational Uses for Central Park.

Funding Source: HUD EDI Grant Number 09-SP-CA-0130 budgeted in account 99445102.69365.

Recommended Action:

1. Recommend to City Council approval of the Raptor Foraging Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan as presented and;
2. Recommend to City Council approval of updating the Master Plan of Recreational Uses for Central Park to identify 7.5 acres, south of the Dog Park and west of the Equestrian Center, as a raptor foraging habitat mitigation site.

Alternative Action(s): Do not recommend approval of the use of 7.5 acres that is south of the Dog Park and west of the Equestrian Center for a raptor foraging habitat mitigation site and direct staff on how to proceed.

Analysis: The 14-acre undeveloped portion of Central Park to the west of Goldenwest Street and Talbert Avenue is subject to mitigation measures for any significant development. The temporary parking lot in Central Park adjacent to Shipley Nature Center and the new Senior Center are located within the 14-acre area. The Environmental Impact Report for the Master Plan of Recreational Uses for Central Park (EIR #99-1) and Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the new Senior Center (SEIR #07-002) include a mitigation measure to address the potential loss of raptor foraging habitat area.

On April 16, 2012, the City Council approved the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the Senior Center in Central Park. (SEIR #07-002). As identified in EIR #99-1, the City is required to mitigate for any potential project impacts to raptor habitat, either through dedication, conservation, or enhancement. In the past, Commission has reviewed potential options to make the temporary parking lot permanent. Doing so would trigger Measure Biological Resources #4 (MBR #4). MBR #4 requires that any impact to foraging habitat areas be mitigated on a 1:1 ratio. The existing temporary parking lot encompasses approximately 0.5 acres. In order to address the potential use of more acreage to provide a connection to the driveway access off of Goldenwest and Talbert, and a drop-off area near the entrance of Shipley, staff is recommending that 1.0 acres of habitat area be conserved.

For the Senior Center project, the language in MBR #4 was incorporated in SEIR #07-002 as MM 4.3-2. The impacts of construction and operation will result in the loss of 6.5 acres of raptor foraging habitat; 5.0 acres for the Senior Center building and Senior Center parking lot, 1.5 acres for the driveway. Therefore, the proposed habitat area, including the permanent parking lot should that project move forward, will consist of 7.5 acres.

The proposed location for the habitat area is within the open space portion of Central Park, south of the Dog Park and west of the Equestrian Center that is adjacent to the Senior Center (Attachments 1 and 2). This area is designated as low-intensity and identified for conservation enhancement per the Master Plan of Recreational Uses for Central Park. Bordering the site to the north, west and east are open areas that are used for passive recreational uses (i.e., Central Park Dog Park, Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center). To the northeast of the site is the Senior Center, and to the south is Ellis Avenue (Attachment 3).

After site visits and surveying by qualified biologists, the proposed mitigation site is recommended as the most ideal location for providing an enhanced foraging and perching location for raptors because of its designation of low-intensity by the Master Plan of Recreational Uses for Central Park and that the site is currently vacant, gently sloped and comprised of ruderal habitat and areas that completely lack vegetation. The proposed mitigation site and the open space areas that are adjacent to the proposed site will not have any impacts to other HCP uses, including established trails, and already provide low-lying vegetation, perching opportunities and mature trees, all of which are typical of raptor foraging habitats. To enhance perching and nesting opportunities for raptors, plans of installing nest boxes and perch poles in the proposed area will be implemented. Improvements to the foraging area will be minimal, requiring basic construction and at minimal cost. Staff has met with volunteer groups that are preparing to make the improvements as part of the annual Day of Service under the supervision of staff. The Day of Service is coordinated by the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council and Compassionate HB and consists of volunteers coming together to work on various service projects for the community. This year's event is scheduled for April 23.

Because the proposed raptor foraging habitat will be a change in use, staff is also requesting Community Services Commission approval to update the Master Plan of Recreational Uses for Central Park.

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 and the Master Plan of Recreational Uses for Central Park.

Attachment(s):

	1.	Location Map
	2.	Raptor Foraging Habitat Area
	3.	Huntington Central Park Master Plan Aerial View
	4.	Raptor Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan

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