



CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER
DISTRICT ONE

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: June 1, 2009

TO: Honorable Mayor Jerry Sanders
Councilmember Tony Young, Chair, Budget & Finance Committee

FROM: Councilmember Sherri Lightner, District 1

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sherri S. Lightner".

SUBJECT: Implementing the Torrey Pines City Park General Development Plan

On Tuesday, June 2, 2009, the City Council will be asked to authorize a \$455,635 contract for consulting services to produce a General Development Plan (GDP) for Torrey Pines City Park in partial fulfillment of a 2007 lawsuit settlement agreement. The settlement does not require GDP implementation, nor is implementation included in the consultant's scope of services.

I recommend that the City connect the awarding of the consulting contract for the GDP with implementation of the GDP.

Background:

The first master plan for Torrey Pines City Park was developed and approved in 1981, at significant cost to taxpayers. That plan was shelved and never implemented due to a lack of identified funds.

The collapse of coastal bluffs at the park, noted in the 1981 plan, has continued for 28 years and has been accelerated in recent years by runoff from the bluff tops. In order to stem this erosion which continues to result in irreparable loss to the coastal bluffs, I am considering asking the City Council to approve the consulting contract, but to suspend release of any contract funds until City staff has developed a funding strategy to begin implementing the GDP immediately upon its approval.

Ensuring implementation at the outset will maximize the benefit of the nearly half a million dollars allocated to produce the GDP (unlike the 1981 plan which was never implemented). Such a strategy honors the time and energy that has been invested by community members over the

past 28 years and that will be invested during the next 18 months to produce the GDP. Providing a meaningful strategy for implementing the GDP from its inception will correct fiscally irresponsible practices of the past that enabled the City to fund studies that were never used, and will make sure that the park does not wait another 28 years or more to be protected and preserved.

Recommendations:

1. Develop a funding strategy for implementing the GDP before any GDP consultant contract funds are released.
2. I request City staff analyze the possibility of spending less than the \$455,635 allocated for the GDP consulting contract, perhaps by modernizing the 1981 Torrey Pines City Park Master Development Plan, and allocating the savings toward GDP implementation.
3. If full funding for plan implementation will not be available immediately, I request City staff develop a strategy to implement the GDP in prioritized stages, with the most crucial parts of the plan (such as shoring up the coastal bluffs) completed first.
4. Because implementation funding has not yet been identified (as staff's memo to me dated May 29, 2009 states), allocate funds in this budget year (see #2 above) and in the FY10 budget (possibly from the Mission Bay Fund) for short-term implementation steps such as stabilizing the coastal bluffs, and secure funding in future fiscal year budgets from sources such as the following for long-term implementation:
 - a. Require the gliderport lessee to contribute toward implementation. This requirement could be written into future lease agreements.
 - b. Set aside funds from the Mission Bay Fund.
 - c. Initiate a community fundraising campaign to seek private donations.

I welcome your additional ideas, suggestions, and comments.

SL/jm

cc: Honorable Members of the City Council
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Jay Goldstone, Office of the Mayor
Kevin Casey, Office of the Mayor
Lisa Gordon, Office of the Mayor
Phil Rath, Office of the Mayor
William Anderson, City Planning & Community Investment
Michelle Abella-Shon, City Planning & Community Investment
Shannon Thomas, Office of the City Attorney
Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Department

Downs Prior, Purchasing & Contracting Department
Deborah Sharpe, City Planning & Community Investment
Ginny Barnes, Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Board