



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

DATE ISSUED: March 8, 2011

REPORT NO. 102

ATTENTION: Park and Recreation Board
Agenda of March 17, 2011

SUBJECT: Designation of Torrey Pines City Park as a Regional Park

SUMMARY

Issue – Should the Park and Recreation Board approve the recommendation to designate Torrey Pines City Park as a Regional Park?

Director’s Recommendation – Approve the recommendation to designate Torrey Pines City Park as a Regional Park.

Other Recommendations – Not Applicable

Fiscal Impact – Not Applicable

Water and Energy Conservation Status – Not applicable.

Environmental – This activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and is therefore not subject to CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2).

BACKGROUND

Torrey Pines City Park is an approximately 44 acre site located off of Torrey Pines Scenic Drive in the University Community Plan Area. The first Torrey Pines City Park reservation consisted of 369 acres of Pueblo lands dedicated for a public park in 1899. Noted Los Angeles landscape architect, Ralph D. Cornel, was commissioned by Miss Scripps in 1922 to generate a master plan for the Torrey Pines City Park, which at that time was approximately 1,400 acres. His emphasis was: design restraint, respect for the natural landscape and open spaces and great deference to the rare species, *Pinus Torreyana*. In 1936, the City of San Diego approved Ordinance #1060 dedicating additional land and naming said park ‘Torrey Pines City Park’. The park included the beach area, coastal bluffs, and parts of Torrey Pines Golf course. In 1937, the City of San Diego issued the first lease of the glider port to the Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California. In 1956, by a vote of the citizens of San Diego 59 acres of the park was transferred to the University of California. Additional land was conveyed to the State to become the Torrey Pines State Park.

A Park Master Plan was generated in 1981 for the remaining acreage of Torrey Pines City Park that included the Torrey Pines Glider port, this plan was never executed. In 1992 the Torrey Pines Glider port was designated a National Landmark by the National Soaring Museum and Soaring Society of America. Currently the park offers parking and trails to the beach, an area for regional hang gliders, full scale fixed wing gliders, radio-controlled model gliders, passive recreation with scenic views of the Pacific Ocean and native habitat.

DISCUSSION

The City's General Plan states that Regional Parks are intended to preserve and make available to all residents and visitors those areas of outstanding scenic, natural, or cultural interests. Examples of these parks are Balboa Park, Mission Bay Park, Mission Trails Regional Park and Presidio Park. Although Regional Parks are not developed to address the specific needs of any one community, portions of them can, and do, function to fulfill the local neighborhood and community parks needs. Torrey Pines City Park is important to the City of San Diego and the region for its history, unique recreational opportunities, and natural and cultural resources. The park has a unique history and part of it has been designated a historical site by the Federal Government. Hiking and beach access along with regional hang gliding, wind gliders and model gliders offer regional recreational opportunities. The park is one of the few places in the world where Torrey Pines grow naturally along with San Diego's rare coastal sage scrub that provides habitat for the federally endangered Coastal California Gnatcatcher and Peregrine Falcon. For these reasons the City Planning & Community Investment Department recommends that the Torrey Pines City Park be designated as a Regional Park. The Park and Recreation staff supports the designation as well as the Mayor appointed Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Board.

In addition, the designation of Torrey Pines City Park as a Regional Park, would allow the city to use Regional Park Improvement Funds to provide for sensitive development of recreational uses within this park and protection of the park from adjacent incompatible uses and encroachments.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the designation of Torrey Pines City Park as a Regional Park.
2. Do not approve the designation of Torrey Pines City Park as a Regional Park.

Respectfully submitted,

William Anderson, Director
City Planning & Community
Investment Department

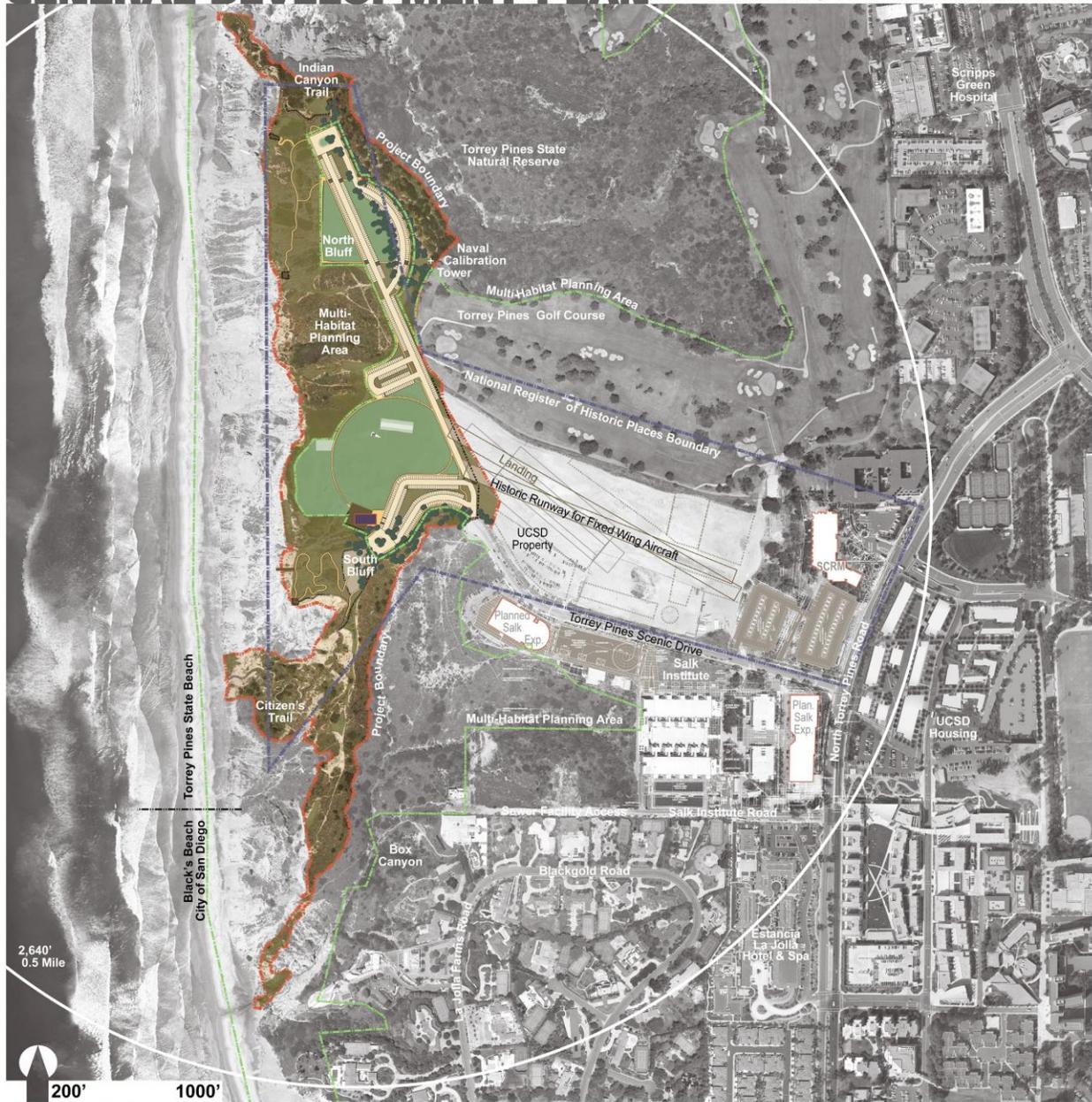
(WA/rs)

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Attachment: Torrey Pines City Park Draft General Development Plan

TORREY PINES CITY PARK GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

To protect this world renowned soaring site & the park's unique natural, historical, cultural & recreational resources.



HELIX Environmental
RBF Consulting
MJE Marketing Services, Inc.
Ninyo & Moore
Accessible San Diego
PCG Utility Consultants
Hunter Pacific Group
ASM Affiliates, Inc.
San Diego Natural History Museum, Paleontology
Vonn Marie May, Cultural Land Planning & Research



City of San Diego
Park Planning
Urban Form Division
City Planning & Community Investment