



# REPORT

## THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

---

DATE ISSUED: September 1, 2011

REPORT NO: 103

ATTENTION: Park and Recreation Board  
Agenda of September 15, 2011

SUBJECT: Installation of a Veterans Memorial Monument at Chicano Park to Honor all Veterans from the Logan Heights Community

### SUMMARY

Issue - Should the Park and Recreation Board approve the recommendation to install a veterans memorial monument at Chicano Park to honor all military veterans from the Logan Heights community?

Director's Recommendation - The Park and Recreation Department does not take a position on this issue.

Other Recommendations – On August 29, 2011, Susan A. Davis, Congresswoman in the House of Representatives and the Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, sent a letter of support to establish a veterans memorial at Chicano Park.

On August 22, 2011, Councilmember Todd Gloria, City of San Diego Third District, sent a letter of support to establish a veterans memorial in Chicano Park.

On August 5, 2011, Greg Cox, First District Supervisor for the San Diego County Board of Supervisors sent a letter of support to establish a veterans memorial in Chicano Park.

On July 21, 2011, Councilmember David Alvarez, City of San Diego Eighth District, sent a letter of support to establish a veterans memorial in Chicano Park.

On July 13, 2011, the Community Parks II Area Committee voted (7-0-0) recommending approval to place a veterans memorial at Chicano Park.

On June 14, 2011, the Dolores Magdaleno Memorial Recreation Council voted (6-0-0) recommending approval to place a veterans memorial at Chicano Park.

On June 9, 2011, Chris Schmidt, Senior Transportation Planner from Caltrans District 11, sent approval on behalf of the State of California, for the veterans memorial plan to place a monument at Chicano Park.

On January 14, 2008, Bob Filner, Congressman in the House of Representatives and Chairperson of the Veterans Affairs Committee sent a letter of support to establish a veterans memorial in Chicano Park.

Fiscal Impact – There will be no impact to the Park and Recreation Department operating budget. Funds for design, construction and long term maintenance will be the responsibility of the applicant. These conditions will be incorporated into the Right-of-Entry (ROE) Permit issued to the organization for installation and maintenance.

## BACKGROUND

The Logan Heights Veterans Memorial Committee is primarily comprised of members from the Don Diego Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #7420. The committee is supported by over 555 active members of the Don Diego VFW. Committee members are diverse in their ethnic backgrounds, occupations, branches of service and many have had other family members in the Armed Forces.

The committee was created to build a memorial to honor the service men and women of the Logan Heights community who have honorably served their country in peace and war time. Since 2008 members have conducted fund raisers and accepted contributions to construct and maintain the monument at no cost to the City. On Veterans Day, November 11, 2008, a ceremony was held at Chicano Park to enhance awareness for the project. Dignitaries, government officials and military personnel were in attendance along with over 300 supporters.

## DISCUSSION

Promoting patriotism without glorifying war is an underlying theme of the project. The vision is to salute the men and women from Logan Heights who have served in the United States military.

The monument will be constructed out of solid granite and will display the emblems of the various branches of military service and will include a nonpolitical statement. The top of the monument is 48 inches wide, 28 inches tall and 8 inches thick. The base is 62 inches long, 8 inches thick and 14 inches from front to back. A flag pole was included in the original design but pending clarification with Caltrans, citing right of way restrictions, it may have to be eliminated from the design. The monument will be placed on the southeast side of the property adjacent to the entrance to the I-5 southbound freeway entrance.

The veterans committee is funding this project through private donations and is recognized as a 501 C (3) non-profit organization. The installation and upkeep of the monument will be the responsibility of Don Diego VFW Post #7420. The accessible walkway to the monument will also be included in the project scope.

The location known as Chicano Park is the property of the State of California and leased to the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department. It is not dedicated park land.

Page 3  
Veterans Memorial at Chicano Park  
September 1, 2011

On July 31, 2011, Tommie Camarillo, Chairperson of the Chicano Park Steering Committee (CPSC), sent a letter of opposition to Park and Recreation Department Director Stacey LoMedico, regarding the design of the monument. Ms. LoMedico's August 24, 2011, response is attached to this document.

### ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not approve the installation of a veteran's memorial at Chicano Park.
2. Recommend approval of the proposed veteran's memorial with conditions.

Respectfully submitted,

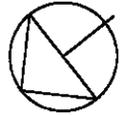
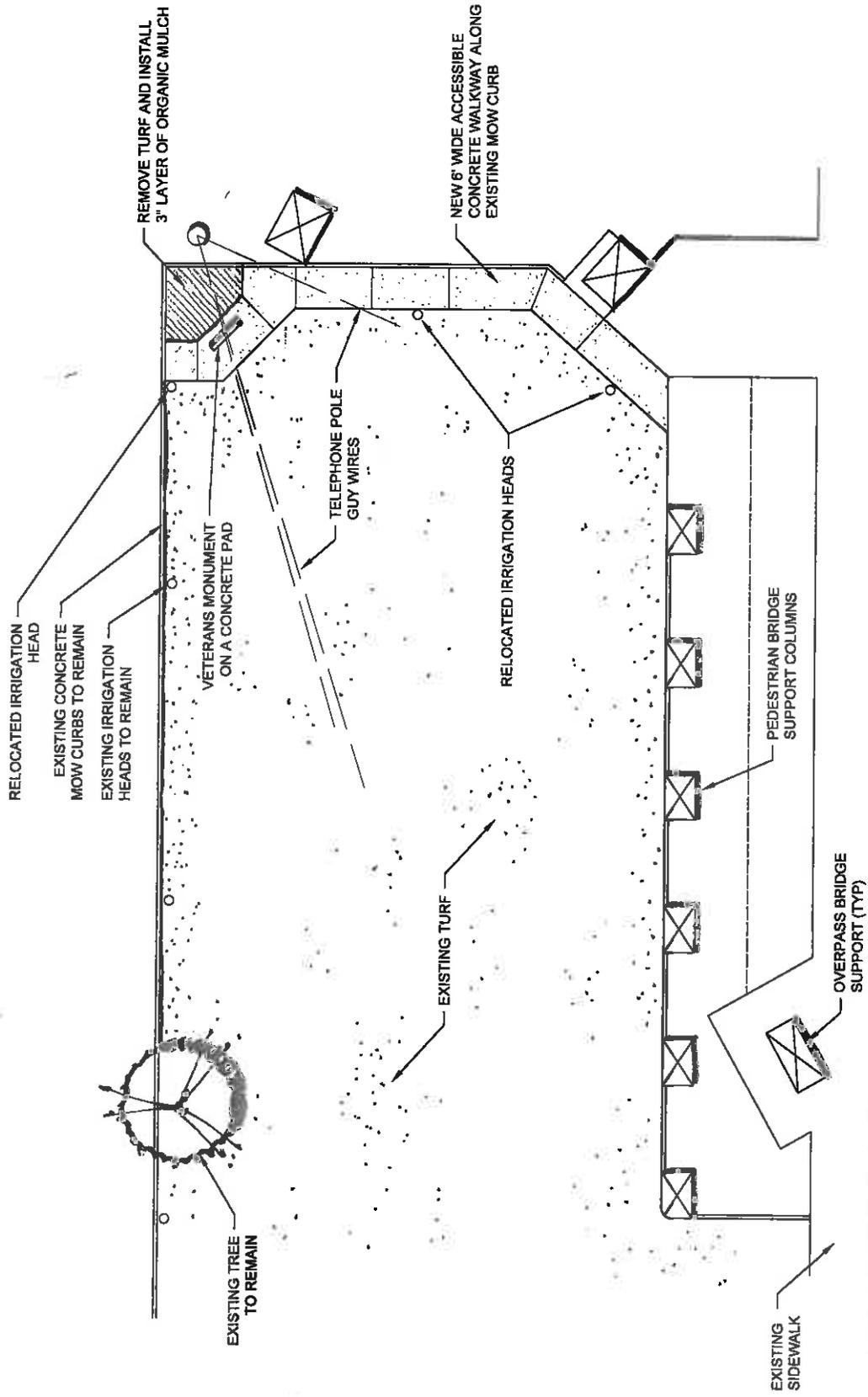
---

Christy Haupt, District Manager

Attachments: 1. Location Maps  
2. Photograph of proposed monument  
3. Letter dated July 31, 2011 from the Chicano Park Steering Committee (CPSC)  
4. Directors response to CPSC dated August 24, 2011

cc: Council District 8





LOGAN AVE

CHICANO PARK VETERANS MEMORIAL



Logan Avenue Exit Photo



Approx. monument location

Google

Eye all 6911



**LOGAN HEIGHTS  
VETERANS MEMORIAL**



**Honor Them by Remembering Them**

This Design is Copyright © 2009 - Seaman-Poe Monument Co. and may not be used or copied without Permission

CHICANO PARK STEERING COMMITTEE  
P.O. BOX 12524  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92112  
(619)563-4661  
EMAIL: [cpscchicanopark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cpscchicanopark@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.chicano-park.com](http://www.chicano-park.com)



July 31, 2011

Stacey LoMedico  
Director Parks & Recreation  
202 C Street, MS 37C  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Stacey:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Chicano Park Steering Committee regarding a Veterans Memorial proposed for Chicano Park.

Today I was informed that members of the Don Diego VFW are going before the Parks & Rec Board to seek approval for the Veterans Memorial to be located at the cactus garden in Chicano Park.

Since January of 2008 we had been meeting with members of the Don Diego VFW to discuss the possibility of a memorial in Chicano Park to honor the Chicano veterans who have served, but felt they had been forgotten and overlooked by the United States. During the course of more than two years, the Chicano Park Steering Committee met many times with the veterans and at least one of the Chicano Park artists submitted three different design proposals to them that would complement artwork and spirit of Chicano Park.

Unfortunately, the last time the veterans attended a Chicano Park Steering Committee meeting was on Sunday, September 26, 2010 and they have not been in contact with the committee since that time. At that meeting, after almost three years of discussion, the veterans finally presented an image of the memorial that they had chosen. There was discussion and critique of the design by those present at the meeting. The majority of people present did not favor the design and felt that it looked more like a tombstone -- something that should be in a cemetery, not in Chicano Park. Numerous suggestions were offered as to possible changes and compromises for the design. The veterans were asked to send an electronic file of the image so that I could share it with others, especially committee members that were absent that day. It was decided that the CPSC members would give more input and propose revisions at the next CPSC monthly meeting. Some of the veterans left in a huff and somewhat angry, stating that the proposal would

probably end here. The CPSC never received any further design revisions or communication from the veterans and they have not attended a meeting since last fall; hence the Chicano Park Steering Committee has never voted on a proposal for a Chicano Veterans Memorial in Chicano Park.

As for the location in the cactus garden--on November 11, 2010, at 10:00 am, the veterans held a ground-breaking ceremony on the site previously discussed with the CPSC, which is on the grass area to the side of the basketball courts near the fence. Media and even city officials attended the ground-breaking ceremony. Changing the location of the memorial has never been discussed with the committee.

We do not support, but strongly oppose the Parks & Rec. voting on this issue that has not even been resolved with the Chicano Park Steering Committee.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you,

Tommie Camarillo  
Chairperson  
Chicano Park Steering Committee

Cc: Francisco Castruita, Memorial Rec. Council  
Christy Haupt, Parks & Rec  
Lisa Maytorena Schmidt, Councilman David Alvarez office  
Rosa Olga Navarro, Paradise Senior Center  
Howard Hollman  
Annie Ross  
Rigoberto Reyes, Amigos Car Club  
David Rico, Brown Berets de Aztlan  
Jesse Constancio  
Carlos C deBaca  
Chunky Sanchez



## THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

August 24, 2011

Ms. Tommie Camarillo, Chairperson  
Chicano Park Steering Committee  
P.O. Box 12524  
San Diego, CA 92112

Dear Tommie,

This is in response to your July 31, 2011 correspondence, as attached.

As you stated in your correspondence, the Don Diego Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) representatives met with the Chicano Park Steering Committee (CPSC) numerous times since 2008 regarding the placement and design of a veteran's memorial to recognize and honor service personnel from the community of Logan Heights who served their Country.

When VFW officers approached Park and Recreation Department staff about placing such a memorial they indicated the CPSC supported their proposal in theory, but not the actual structure, which is reflected in the January 27, 2008, February 24, 2008, August 31, 2008, and October 26, 2008 CPSC minutes. The organization was forthright reporting the CPSC never formally voted on project.

The CPSC was represented and participated at the veteran's groundbreaking ceremony on November 11, 2008 and as such the location was clear it was the grass area adjacent to the Interstate 5 Freeway entrance. At or after that groundbreaking ceremony no member of the CPSC contacted staff to indicate the location was an issue.

As guardians of Chicano Park, the CPSC and members are valued partners with the Department in ensuring we are good stewards of this public park. However, as you and I have discussed previously and presented to the CPSC in a meeting unless the organization is recognized via the process as an official park advisory committee, the overall park advisory role is with the Dolores Magdeleno Memorial Recreation Council. As the formal group for the park, the proposed memorial was brought forward to the

### **Administrative Services Division • Park and Recreation**

202 C Street, MS 37C • San Diego, CA 92101

Tel (619) 525-8213 Fax (619) 525-8220

[www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov)

*"We enrich lives through quality parks and programs"*



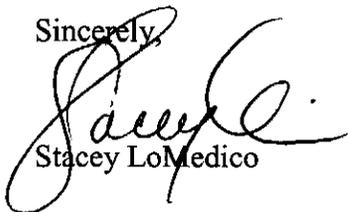
Page 2  
Ms. Tommie Camarillo, Chairperson  
August 24, 2011

recreation council on June 14, 2011. The Dolores Magdaleno Memorial Recreation Council voted unanimous approval and the proposal was forwarded to the Community Parks II Area Committee on July 13, 2011 where it also received unanimous approval. I should note that at each meeting, staff made it clear to the formal advisory committees that the CPSC did not formally vote for the proposal and were in opposition to the design.

At this time the project is scheduled for a presentation and vote at the September 15, 2011 Park and Recreation Board meeting. I will ensure you receive a copy of the report that will be issued to the Board prior to the meeting. The Department will support the final decision of the Park and Recreation Board.

In closing, I want to thank you for your tireless efforts you provide to the betterment of Chicano Park.

Please call me at 619-236-6643 if you would like to discuss.

Sincerely,  
  
Stacey LoMedico

Attachment: Chicano Park Steering Committee, dated July 21, 2011

cc: Scott Reese, Assistant Park and Recreation Director  
David Monroe, Park and Recreation CPII Division Deputy Director  
Christy Haupt, Park and Recreation CPII Division District Manager  
Francisco Castruita, Park and Recreation CPII Division Area Manager