



SUPPLEMENTAL

COUNCIL AGENDA: 08-09-05
ITEM: 5.3

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Katy Allen
Sara L. Hensley
Carl W. Mosher

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 08-08-05

Approved

Date

8/8/05

Council District: 3

SUBJECT: MASTER AGREEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR WATSON COMMUNITY PARK

REASON FOR SUPPLEMENTAL MEMO

To provide additional information regarding the Watson Community Park.

INFORMATION

Recently the community and media have had great interest in activities related to Watson Community Park. This supplemental memo is prepared to keep Council informed of information related to the history of the site, as well as ongoing and future work activities.

Records of the site indicate that an informal landfill and/or garbage burn dump operated at this location sometime between the early 1900s and the 1930s. From aerial photos we know that the site also included open space with small out-buildings, vacant space, and agricultural uses such as orchards and gardens from 1939 to 1950.

The recorded historical information of the site is not precise or conclusive. Numerous reports of record reference landfill and "construction debris type" dumping. However, none are exact in identifying the location or extent of material deposited at the site and none of the reports raised specific health risk concerns for park visitors:

A 1987 Cultural Resource Assessment of the Watson Park Levee prepared for the City by Basin Research Association, Inc. concluded the "undeveloped and of apparently marginal activity, the project area was used as a garbage disposal site during the first half of the 20th century... little is known about the establishment of the disposal site" (page 9).

And a May 2002 and July 2003, Archeological Evaluation Reports for Watson Dog Park and Watson Skate Park by Basin Research Associates was completed as a requirement

08-08-05

Subject: Master Agreement for Environmental Consultant Services for Watson Community Park

Page 2

for CEQA approval. These reports reference the dump and refuse disposal area and recommend that the "project can proceed as planned" under CEQA.

In the last 40 years, the site has operated as a park and recreational site where numerous activities and events have taken place. These amenities include soccer fields, play areas, community building, community gardens and a dog park. Throughout this time, there have been no known health issues related to the site or its use. The County Health Department has confirmed that in the Watson Park neighborhood in general, there have not been any clusters of unusual health issues..

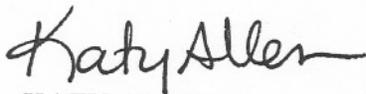
As a precautionary measure, the City closed portions of the park including a play area, one soccer field and the community garden—until further testing can be completed.

Consistent with State of California Environmental Protection Agency regulations,, the City has begun the implementation protocols for Burn Dump Site Investigation and Characterization as defined by the State of California Environmental Protection Agency as a result the historic use of the site and of soil contaminants identified through the recent soil testing.

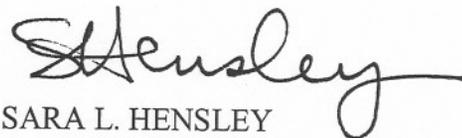
The attached work plan provides the framework for the City's effort to identify full site characterization. As we learn more about the site, this plan will be modified to reflect regulatory requirements as necessary.

Our primary goal is to ensure public health and safety and to provide timely information to the community.

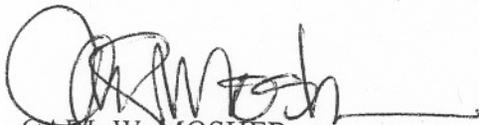
It is anticipated that the interest in the park site will continue throughout the site characterization effort and beyond. Information will be shared in public meetings and on the City's website under the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services page to keep the community and media informed as staff works through the regulatory process.



KATY ALLEN
Director, Public Works Department



SARA L. HENSLEY
Director, Parks, Recreation and
Neighborhood Services Department



CARL W. MOSHER
Director, Environmental Services
Department

Attachment

**DRAFT WORK PLAN
 PROTOCOL FOR BURN DUMP SITE INVESTIGATION AND CHARACTERIZATION
 WATSON COMMUNITY PARK**

<u>SITE CHARACTERIZATION</u>	<u>REMEDIATION PLAN</u>	<u>REMEDIATION</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Records Review, On-site Inspection and Site Evaluation • Work Plan Preparation, Sampling and Evaluation Protocol and Data Validation • Human Health Risk Screening Evaluation • Ecological screening Assessment • Preliminary Waste Characterization Study Report • Consultation Process for Selection of a Lead Regulatory Agency • Public Meetings • Pursue Grant Funding <p style="text-align: center;">\$300,000</p> <p>August 2005 – January 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory Agency Lead • Remediation Requirements • Timeframe • Budget/ Funding • Pursue Grant Funding <p style="text-align: center;">\$500,000</p> <p>Jan 2006 – June 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin Remediation • Pursue Grant Funding <p style="text-align: center;">\$ TBD</p> <p>July 2006 – August 2007</p>

5002
 RECEIVED