

City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: AUGUST 23, 2016**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON WATER PLAY FEATURES AT ANDULKA, ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, DOTY TRUST, FAIRMOUNT, ORANGE TERRACE AND SYCAMORE HIGHLAND PARKS

ISSUE:

Receive update on the water play features at six park locations for the 2016 summer season.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council receive an update on the water play features at six park locations for the 2016 summer season.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Community Services and Youth Committee met on June 20, 2016, with Chair Burnard, Vice Chair Perry and Member Soubirous present, to consider whether or not to keep the water play features at six parks turned off due to severe drought conditions. After discussion the Committee unanimously voted to turn on Doty Trust Park, Orange Terrace Community Park, and Downtown Main Street Mall water features only for Fiscal Year 2016/17 with the costs to be identified in the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department (PCRSD) Budget and recommend that the City Council receive the update on water play features at six park locations for the 2016 summer season and severe drought conditions.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

On March 22, 2016, the City Council adopted a resolution which extended stage three of Riverside's water conservation program to November 2016, in order to comply with the extension of the state water resources control board mandatory drought regulations.

On May 9, 2016, the Governor of California signed Executive Order B-37-16 making water conservation a California way of life.

On June 28, 2016, the City Council adopted a resolution to declare stage one of the water conservations program indicating normal water supply conditions for Riverside Public Utilities and adopted an urgency Ordinance, effective immediately, amending Riverside Municipal Code, Water Conservation, Chapter 14.22, to address the State Water Resources Control Board emergency drought regulations.

BACKGROUND:

California is in its sixth consecutive year of significant drought conditions despite recent El Niño winter precipitation, and state-wide conservation strategies as well as water-use efficiencies are encouraged.

The PRCSD, like many other General Fund supported departments, is facing fiscal challenges that require reduced spending measures to be implemented. Fortunately, the Department's water conservation and improved water efficiency measures have positioned the Department to achieve significantly reduced expenditures as it relates to water usage.

DISCUSSION:

The PRCSD originally recommended that the water play features at six park locations remain turned off during the 2016 summer season. Those locations are:

1. Andulka Park (5201 Chicago Avenue)
2. Arlington Heights Sports Park (9401 Cleveland Avenue)
3. Doty Trust Park (5410 Golden Avenue)
4. Fairmount Park (2601 Fairmount Blvd.)
5. Orange Terrace Community Park (20010 Orange Terrace Parkway)
6. Sycamore Highlands Park (5777 Fair Isle Drive)

The estimated annual cost savings by keeping these water features turned off was estimated at \$30,000. The estimated amount of water saved by keeping these water features turned off was 6,018,078 gallons per season.

After discussion at the Community Services and Youth Committee meeting and subsequent discussions during the Budget Adoption Hearings held in June, it was determined that the water play features at all six park locations should remain on during the 2016 summer season in light of the significant recreational value the amenities provide to the community. The revision to the City's Water Conservation ordinance exempted recreational "splash pads" as an unreasonable use of water.

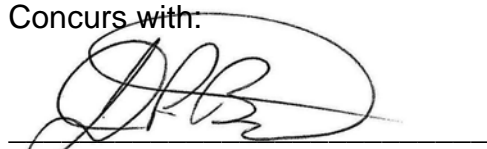
The summer season runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and the water play features are operable daily from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the season.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total fiscal impact of the action is estimated at \$30,000. During the FY 2016-2016 Budget process, the Department's reductions included over \$365,000 in water reduction measures. While the use of these water features will impede on the savings by \$30,000, staff with work with the Finance Department monitor savings targets and add additional savings measures, if necessary. The funds are available in the Parks Division, Water Utility account (5215000-422500).

Prepared by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director
Certified as to
availability of funds: Scott G. Miller, Interim Finance Director/Treasurer
Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Concurs with:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Burnard', is written over a horizontal line.

John Burnard, Chair
Community Services and Youth Committee