



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

H-1

333 W. Ocean Boulevard Long Beach, California 90802 562-570-6194 FAX 562-570-6068

October 14, 2008

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive supporting documentation into the record, conclude the hearing, deny the appeal and uphold the Planning Commission decision to: 1) Certify Final Environmental Impact Report (No. 30-07); 2) Approve Site Plan Review; 3) Approve Local Coastal Development Permit, and likewise uphold the Planning Commission recommendation to approve an amendment to the General Plan and a Zoning Ordinance amendment at 5119 East Colorado Street for the purpose of constructing the Colorado Lagoon restoration project and Marina Vista Park improvements.
2. Adopt Resolution Re-Certifying Environmental Impact Report (EIR) No. 30-07.
3. Declare Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code definition of Passive Park, Section 21.15.2007, read the first time and laid over to the next regular meeting of the City Council for final reading.
4. Adopt Resolution amending the Local Coastal Plan of the General Plan to revise the text of the Plan as related to the Colorado Lagoon and authorize the Director of Development Services to submit all necessary supporting materials to the California Coastal Commission for its review and approval. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

The proposed project site comprises 48.61 acres and consists of Colorado Lagoon, Marina Vista Park and a small triangle-shaped area north of Marine Stadium (Exhibit A). The purpose of this project is to restore the site's ecosystem, provide an improved habitat area, provide enhanced recreation facilities, improve water and sediment quality by removing contaminated sediment, improve water circulation, and manage storm water and dry weather runoff.

The proposed project improvements would be implemented in two phases. Phase I – Lagoon: improvements include upgrades to the storm drains, dredging, cleaning of culverts, new landscaping and public recreational improvements.

Phase II - Marina Vista Park: improvements include construction of an open water channel between Colorado Lagoon and Marina Vista Park and two roadway bridges spanning the open channel at Colorado Street and Eliot Street, new restrooms and public recreational improvements (Exhibit B).

A General Plan Text Amendment is required to revise the information related to the Colorado Lagoon in the Resources Management Plan (RMP) of the Local Coastal Plan. The revision is consistent with the goals of the original RMP to improve water quality in the lagoon and preserve the habitat and wildlife. As Colorado Lagoon's water and sediment quality deteriorated over time and as more scientific studies document conditions and develop solutions, the actions to implement the goals are somewhat different. The proposed amendment retains the original goals and updates the actions necessary to achieve those goals.

The amendment to the Zoning Ordinance is to revise the definition of "Passive Park" in Section 21.15.2007. The existing definition is narrow in scope and does not include existing amenities in the lagoon such as restrooms and play equipment. The proposed change will allow play equipment, tables, fire pits, barbecues, public restrooms, landscaped and natural open spaces, habitat reserves, beaches, lakes, streams, lagoons, bays, and Marine Stadium as part of the "passive park" definition.

In summary, the proposed project will improve the water and sediment quality of the lagoon, which will enhance recreational opportunities and potentially lead to a more diverse plant and animal community.

On September 4, 2008, the Planning Commission approved requests for a Site Plan Review and Local Coastal Development Permit, certified Final Environmental Impact Report 30-07, and recommended that the City Council approve an amendment to the Local Coastal Plan of the General Plan and Zoning Code amendment to revise the definition of passive park to allow construction of the Colorado Lagoon and Marina Vista Park projects.

One appeal was filed on September 15, 2008. Issues raised in the appeal include the adequacy of the Environmental Impact Report regarding impacts from construction noise, traffic, truck trips, loss of parking, hazardous soil and air quality (Exhibit C).

This letter was reviewed by Assistant City Attorney Michael Mais on September 26, 2008 and Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on September 26, 2008.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

The Long Beach Municipal Code requires a hearing within 60 days following positive Planning Commission action.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine will finance the expansion of Colorado Lagoon and Marina Vista Park improvements with a Rivers & Mountains Conservancy Grant, State Water Resources Control Board - Clean Beaches Initiative Grant, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Habitat Restoration Grant, California Coastal Conservancy, Port of Long Beach, and Friends of Colorado Lagoon - Habitat Restoration. The project will be phased in relation to the funding on hand. The storm water quality improvements and part of the habitat restoration are currently fully funded with the money on hand to proceed with construction. No construction of additional elements of work will be commenced until full funding is obtained. There is no impact to the General Fund.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



CRAIG BECK
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

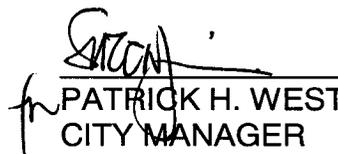
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P:\Planning\CDD (Zoning)City Council Reports\Council letter 080711.ccltr

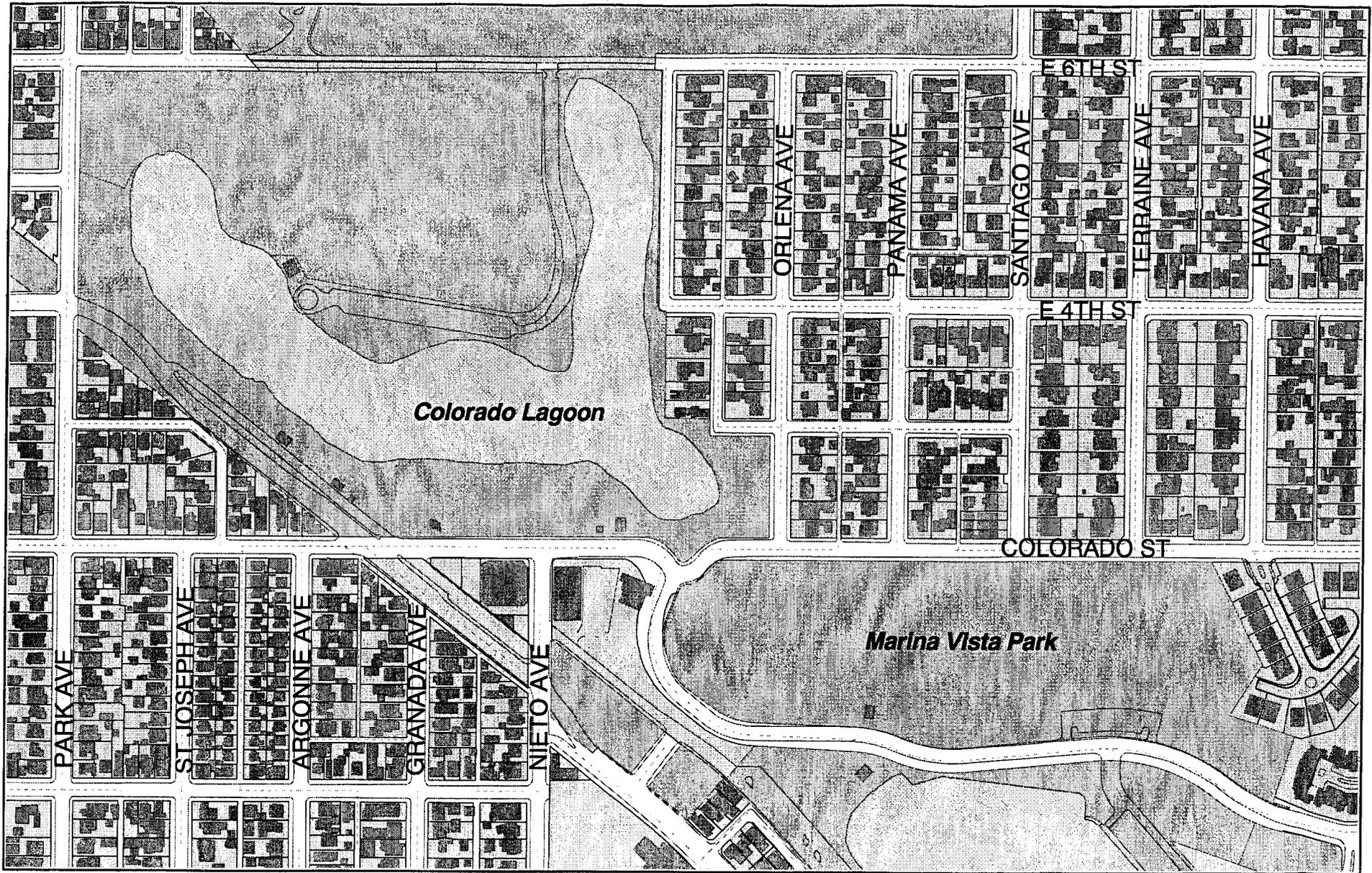
Attachments: Exhibit A - Location Map
Exhibit B - Plans and Photographs App. No. 0807-11
Exhibit C - Appeal Letter
Note - The Environmental Impact Report was provided in an earlier transmittal dated September 30, 2008

City Council Resolution Certifying the EIR
City Council Zoning Ordinance Amendment
City Council General Plan Resolution

APPROVED:

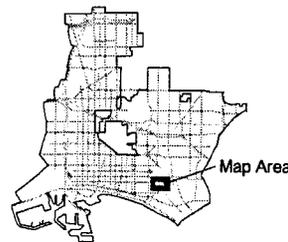


PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

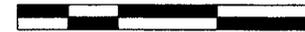


SUBJECT PROPERTY:

5119 E. Colorado St.
 Application No. 0807-11
 Council District 3
 Zone: P and PD-1



200 0 200 400 Feet



Scale = 1:4,500

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LONG BEACH AMENDING THE LONG BEACH
MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 21.15.2007
RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF PASSIVE PARK

The City Council of the City of Long Beach ordains as follows:

Section 1. Section 21.15.2007 of the Long Beach Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

“Passive Park” means a plot of land that is landscaped, maintained as open space, serves a neighborhood, and is used as an informal gathering place for relaxation and play. Passive Park includes, but is not limited to, parquets, urban oases, and small space sites. Permitted improvements and features include, but are not limited to, walking paths, sitting areas, play equipment, tables, fire pits, barbecues, public restrooms, landscaped and natural open spaces, habitat reserves, beaches, lakes, streams, lagoons, bays, and Marine Stadium.

Section 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance by the City Council and cause it to be posted in three conspicuous places in the City of Long Beach, and it shall take effect on the thirty-first day after it is approved by the Mayor.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of October 21, 2008, by the following vote:

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
ROBERT E. SHANNON, City Attorney
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802-4664

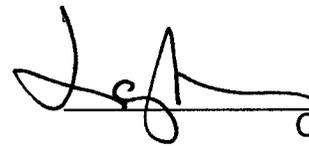
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Ayes: Councilmembers: S. Lowenthal, DeLong, O'Donnell,
Reyes Uranga, Gabelich, Lerch.

Noes: Councilmembers: None.

Absent: Councilmembers: B. Lowenthal, Schipske, Andrews.



City Clerk



Mayor

Approved: 10/22/08