



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604

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Public Hearing

March 21, 2006

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: Public Hearing: Boat Launching Fee at Miller Park and Garcia Bend Park

Location/Council District: Miller Park Launch Ramp (District 4)
Garcia Bend Launch Ramp (District 7)

Recommendation:

Conduct a public hearing and adopt a Resolution: 1) amending the Fees & Charges report to add a daily boat launching fee of \$8.00, a season pass fee of \$80.00 and a season pass fee of \$40.00 for low income seniors (over 65 and on Medi-Cal) and low income persons at Garcia Bend and Miller Park launch ramps; 2) authorizing the City Manager or his designee to annually increase the daily boat launching fee by the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (all urban consumers, San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose area (1982—1984=100)), rounding to the nearest dollar; 3) authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to State Department of Boating & Waterways Grant Contract No. 91-101-069 for the Miller Park Launch Ramp Improvements to allow charging an amount not to exceed \$13.00.

Contacts: Linda DeLong, Administrative Officer, Convention, Culture & Leisure Department; 808-7140; Bob Fleming, Parks Manager, Department of Parks and Recreation, 808-6301; Howard Chan, Parking Manager, Department of Transportation, 808-7488

Presenters: Barbara Bonebrake, Convention, Culture & Leisure Department Director, 808-8225

Departments: Convention, Culture and Leisure Department; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Transportation

Division: Administration (Convention, Culture & Leisure); Park Maintenance (Parks & Recreation); Parking Division (Transportation)

Organization No: 4310; 4728; 3461

Summary:

The proposed recommendation would initiate a fee for launching a boat at the City-owned Garcia Bend and Miller Park boat launching facilities. The fee would assist in cost recovery for the silt removal and other operational costs for the launch ramps. The recommendation to authorize the City Manager to execute the amendment with the State Department of Boating & Waterways would allow the City to charge the recommended amount at Miller Park ramp.

Committee/Commission Action:

The Parks and Recreation Commission supported the request for the institution of launch fees at Miller Park and Garcia Bend on February 2, 2006.

Background Information:

The City of Sacramento operates two boat launch ramps on the Sacramento River, one each at Miller Park and Garcia Bend. These launch ramps are the only two free ramps on the Sacramento County side of the river. Sacramento County charges \$8.00 for a vehicle and trailer at its eight launch ramps.

The cost of operating the City's boat launching facilities has been increasing in recent years. These costs include, but are not limited to, moving the docks in and out of the water, cleaning the ramps, removing silt both above and below the water line and hauling the silt off site. Also, there is a cost for installation, maintenance and removal of 5 MPH buoys each year.

Because these maintenance costs have increased dramatically, there is a need to recover some of the operational costs involved in keeping these ramps open. This report recommends charging a daily fee of \$8.00 for launching a boat at Garcia Bend and Miller Park. The same type of pay and display parking machines that are being utilized in the pilot project around Chavez Park would be utilized, and anyone that launches a boat with a trailer would need to purchase a ticket to be displayed in their window. City Parking Enforcement staff will then monitor the parking lots at the launch ramps. Citations would be issued under existing Sacramento City Code (§10.44.30).

An annual pass would be available for \$80.00 which is consistent with the County annual pass fees. An annual pass for low income senior citizens (over age 65 and on Medi-Cal) and low income persons (having an Electronic Benefits Transfer card issued by the County Department of Health and Human Services) would be \$40.00.

In order to charge for launching at Miller Park, an amendment to the grant contract with the State Department of Boating & Waterways must be executed as the original grant contract restricts charging the customer more than \$3.00 (with CPI increase provisions, however a charge had never been proposed prior to this current recommendation).

This amendment would allow the City to charge an amount not to exceed \$13.00 and also not to exceed recovering the costs of maintenance and operations or an amount reasonably anticipated to recover the actual costs of maintenance and operations, whichever is less.

The anticipated cost for removing silt from both launch ramps one time per year is approximately \$110,000. No annual counts of boat launchings at the City's facilities are available, so it is difficult to anticipate annual revenue that will be generated from the daily fees and annual passes; however, based on very preliminary counts during fishing season, staff anticipates generating approximately \$50,000 per year. In order to cover this gap between revenues and expenditures there will be a need to consider adjusting operating budgets as part of the FY2006/07 Budget process. The total cost of purchasing and installing the pay and display equipment will be approximately \$24,000. This cost will be split between the Old Sacramento Management Division of the Convention, Culture and Leisure Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation. The Parking Division of the Department of Transportation will monitor the equipment, collect money from the machines, and provide enforcement for the first year of operation from their existing operating budgets.

A public meeting was held on November 28, 2005 to discuss the proposed fees and to get input from the public. Meeting notices were mailed to all boat and bait shops in the Sacramento area, and notices were posted at both launch ramps. Approximately 11 boaters attended the meeting. At the time of the meeting, the season pass proposed was \$100 and because of comments received, staff is proposing the fees to be consistent with the County of Sacramento at \$80 with a discounted rate of \$40 for low income seniors (over 65 and on Medi-Cal) and low income persons (having an Electronic Benefits Transfer card issued by the County Department of Health and Human Services). Also, at the request of the constituents, staff will remove the silt at Garcia Bend that is currently blocking one of the lanes. Other comments received at the meeting were requests for re-engineering of the ramps, additional parking for vehicles with trailers, and monitors for coordinating launchings during the busy seasons.

Financial Considerations:

The City Manager or his designee would be authorized to annually increase the fee by the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (all urban consumers, San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose area (1982—1984=100)).

Anticipated revenues from the boat launching fees will be approximately \$50,000 and anticipated expenditures will be approximately \$110,000. Adjustments to operating and revenue budgets to cover the cost of launch ramp maintenance will be considered as part of the FY2006/07 Budget process.

All parking citation funds will show as Parking Division Revenue to off-set the cost of providing parking enforcement and parking meter collections and maintenance.

Environmental Considerations:

This report concerns administrative activities that will not have any significant effect on the environment and that do not constitute a "project" as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3), 1378(b)(2) (continuing administrative or maintenance activities), 15378(b)(4)(creation of government funding mechanism).

Policy Considerations:

The action requested herein is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan goals to achieve sustainability and livability.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): None.

Respectfully Submitted By: Barbara E Bonebrake
Barbara E. Bonebrake
Director, Convention, Culture and Leisure Department

Approved By: Robert G. Overstreet II
Robert G. Overstreet II
Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

Approved By: Fran Halbakken
Fran Halbakken
Interim Director, Department of Transportation

Recommendation Approved:

Ray Kerridge
RAY KERRIDGE
City Manager

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RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

March 21, 2006

BOAT LAUNCH FEES AT MILLER PARK AND GARCIA BEND PARK

BACKGROUND

- A. The costs of maintaining the City of Sacramento's boat launching ramps at Garcia Bend and Miller Park have increased and a funding mechanism is necessary to generate partial funding to keep the ramps open for use by the public.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. The City of Sacramento Fee and Charge Report is amended to include fees in the following amounts for the Garcia Bend and Miller Park boat launch ramps: \$8.00 for daily boat launching; \$80.00 for a season pass; and, \$40.00 for a season pass for low income seniors (over 65 and on Medi-Cal) and low income persons (having an Electronic Benefits Transfer card issued by the County Department of Health and Human Services).
- Section 2. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to annually increase the daily boat launching fee by the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (all urban consumers, San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose area (1982—1984=100)), rounding to the nearest dollar.
- Section 3. Authorize the City Manager to execute an amendment to State Department of Boating & Waterways Grant Contract No. 91-101-069 for the Miller Park Launch Ramp Improvements to allow charging a fee not to exceed \$13 or an amount reasonably anticipated to recover the actual costs of maintenance and operations, whichever is less.
- Section 4. Based on the information presented to it and upon information in the public record, and in compliance with the Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8), the City Council finds:
- a) The fees are for the purpose of meeting operating expenses including employee wage rates and fringe benefits.

Section 5. Authorize the City Manager to adjust department operating and revenue budgets to reflect the recommended actions.

