



4.3

NEIGHBORHOODS,
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

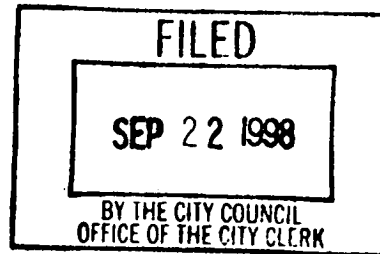
CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

2450 MEADOWVIEW ROAD
SACRAMENTO, CA 95832

AREA 2

916-433-4054
FAX: 433-4060

September 8, 1998



City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT REPORT ON PARK IRRIGATION ISSUES

LOCATION City-wide

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.

CONTACT PERSON

Victor L. Edmisten, Parks Manager, 264-5336

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF

September 22, 1998

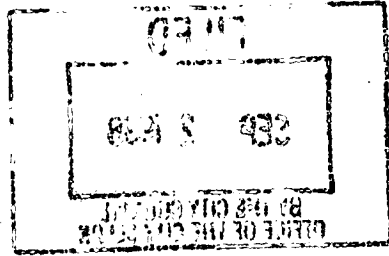
SUMMARY

This report provides information on the collaborative efforts of the Neighborhoods, Planning, and Development Services Department, the Utilities Department, and the Public Works Department to address and resolve problems with irrigation in City parks.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION None

BACKGROUND

The Park Services division of the Neighborhoods, Planning, and Development Services Department is responsible for the maintenance of over one thousand acres of developed parks and parkways and nearly another thousand acres of undeveloped park sites. This division is also responsible for the maintenance of almost thirty miles of bikeways. During the past ten years, the Park Services budget has been significantly reduced. During that same period, the number of parks and developed park acreage has significantly increased. The continued practice of increasing of Park Services' responsibilities while resources steadily decline has greatly impacted park operations. Irrigation is one of the areas that has been most greatly impacted.



There are 80± City parks equipped with water meters. Several of these parks are also equipped with back flow prevention devices and booster pumps. Over the years, there have been problems with irrigation systems in several parks which have caused damage to the turf. Some of these problems include repeated vandalism to the systems and damage caused by heavy equipment such as mowers. There are also concerns related to appropriate water pressure. Additionally, many of our parks are older and have irrigation systems that require upgrading and/or rehabilitation. The Utilities and Public Works Departments have worked with Park Services to address these problems.

Recently, staff from these three departments has been working to solve irrigation problems at Mama Marks Park. Initially, park staff replaced valves and sprinkler heads throughout the park. Unfortunately, this has not solved the problem. To prevent the loss of turf, park staff has been manually irrigating the park. As an interim measure, a booster pump, provided by the Utilities Department, will be installed in the park by the Public Works Department. Although this may solve the problem in this particular park, it has become evident that a more global approach is needed to correct irrigation concerns in parks City-wide.

In this regard, the Utilities, Public Works, and Neighborhoods, Planning and Development Services Departments will be working together to address irrigation problems in City parks. Staff from these departments has been meeting to develop a pilot project. One park equipped with water meters per City Council district will be selected for the pilot. The proposed parks are as follows:

Council District	Park	Acreage
1	Northgate	15.43
2	Johnston	24.81
3	Henschel	36.28
4	Southside	19.99
5	McClatchy	15.33
6	Lawrence	5.07
7	Valley Hi	16.39
8	Nielsen	8.21

The Utilities Department will provide an assessment of each of the identified parks. The assessment will include a statistical analysis of data on water usage in the park and an analysis of the impact of the back flow prevention devices. Parks staff will work closely with the Utilities Department staff during the assessment and provide critical information on park use and other issues that may impact water consumption. Based on this analysis, recommendations to improve irrigation and promote water conservation will be developed.

Upon completion of the assessment, park staff will work with the Utilities and Public Works Departments to follow through with the recommendations. This may include developing a training program for park staff on irrigation issues and developing a plan to retrofit the pilot parks' irrigation

systems. Additionally, this pilot may lead to a capital improvement program (CIP) project to upgrade park irrigation systems City-wide.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Neighborhoods, Planning, and Development Services Department receives a discount of 85% for its water services. One of the goals of the project will be to encourage water conservation and reduce the costs for water and related services.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

This report requests no actions that constitute a project as defined by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

This report is for information only.

MBE/WBE

None. No goods or services will be purchased as a consequence of this report.

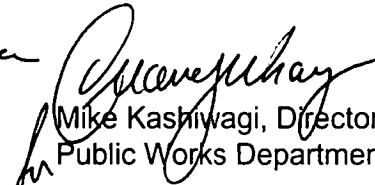
Respectfully submitted,



Gary L. Little, Area Director
Neighborhoods, Planning &
Development Services Department

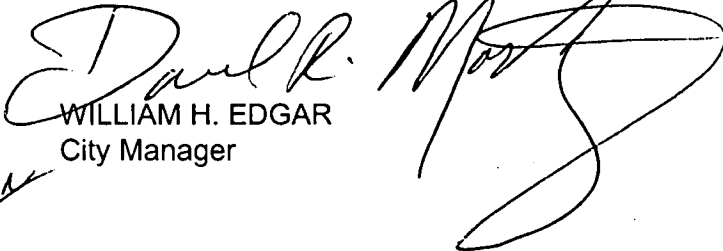


Jim Sequeira, Director
Utilities Department



Mike Kashiwagi, Director
Public Works Department

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:



WILLIAM H. EDGAR
City Manager