



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 21, 2006

ITEM NUMBER: VI-5

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR ORANGE COAST RIVER PARK

DATE: NOVEMBER 2, 2006

FROM: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

PRESENTATION BY: CAROL C. PROCTOR, MANAGEMENT ANALYST

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: CAROL C. PROCTOR at (714) 754-5688

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council determine whether to adopt the Memorandum of Agreement for the Orange Coast River Park, identified as Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1997, the Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks (Friends), a California non-profit organization, has shepherded a major project aimed at maintaining open space and natural habitat—the 1,000-acre Orange Coast River Park (OCRP). This proposed passive park and nature preserve stretches across portions of Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, and land under the jurisdiction of the County, State and Federal governments, as well as privately-owned property. The tri-city project includes Fairview and Talbert Parks, both of which are located in Costa Mesa. The OCRP Steering Committee is facilitating the efforts to bring the park to fruition.

ANALYSIS:

At this time, the Friends are looking to move forward with grant applications and private donations to implement the Master Development Plan for the OCRP. In order to do so more effectively, Friends President, Jean Watt, has requested that all involved agencies, including Costa Mesa, formally adopt a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Her letter is included in this report as Attachment 2.

The MOA will ensure that all participating agencies and groups will keep the OCRP Steering Committee apprised of any revisions or updates to respective parks/park master plans within the OCRP. It would also provide the OCRP Steering Committee the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed modifications prior to approval. The Steering Committee has advised staff representatives from Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Huntington Beach, and the County of Orange that they anticipate a one to two week review and comment period. As part of the MOA, all agencies are to promote the Orange Coast River Park and the associated logo whenever and wherever appropriate and practical. The City of Costa Mesa's Parks and Recreation Commission adopted the

Orange Coast River Park sign design in March of this year (Attachment 3), which will be placed in several strategic entry locations at Fairview Park. Finally, and most importantly, all agencies will be given equal opportunity by OCRP to participate in the application process of park improvements for any part of the OCRP. This gives strength to securing very competitive grant funds for improvements and restoration to the entire OCRP. For Costa Mesa, this will include improvements at Fairview Park, per its adopted Master Plan.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Do not adopt the Memorandum of Agreement.

FISCAL REVIEW:

No fiscal review is required for this item.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The attached Memorandum of Agreement has been approved as to form by the City Attorney's Office.

CONCLUSION:

City Council needs to determine whether to adopt the Memorandum of Agreement and support the future Orange Coast River Park, part of which is Fairview Park.

CAROL C. PROCTOR
Management Analyst

THOMAS R. HATCH
Assistant City Manager

KIMBERLY HALL BARLOW
City Attorney (legal review only)

DISTRIBUTION: Public Services Director
Fairview Park Plan Administrator
Parks & Recreation Commission

ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Memorandum of Agreement](#)
2 [Letter from Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks](#)
3 [Orange Coast River Park Approved Entry Signage](#)