



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: MAY 17, 2016

ITEM NUMBER: NB-1

SUBJECT: PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REVIEW OF TALBERT PARK RESTORATION PLAN

DATE: MAY 11, 2016

FROM: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

PRESENTATION BY: RICHARD L. FRANCIS, ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: RICHARD L. FRANCIS, (714) 754-5688
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RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the City Council provide direction on assigning the Parks and Recreation Commission to review the Talbert Regional Park Final Habitat Restoration Plan and make recommendations to the City Council for potential joint restoration projects between the City and the County of Orange.

BACKGROUND:

Councilmember Gary Monahan has requested that the Parks and Recreation Commission review the Talbert Regional Park Final Habitat and Restoration Plan (Plan) that was prepared by County consultants Moffat & Nichol in 2014 and 2015. The final report was released in December 2015. Essentially, the report offers four options for projects ranging from no restoration projects to three alternative plans with a graduating list of amenities, impacts, and costs. Moffat & Nichol conducted extensive site visits, and compiled hydrological and water quality tests, as well as biological and habitat reports. The report also addresses public access, construction, and maintenance considerations. Moffat & Nichol, in conjunction with the County, also facilitated community stakeholder meetings in September 2014 and June 2015. Stakeholders were given an opportunity to participate in discussions about the alternative projects and they provided feedback on their desires and concerns.

The County previously indicated that the Plan would be submitted to the Orange County Parks Commission for a similar review, but as of yet, that has not occurred. With the City taking a proactive approach to recommending aspects of the Plan being carried forward, the County may be enticed to do the same.

ANALYSIS:

Since Talbert Regional Park is within City of Costa Mesa boundaries, the City has an inherent interest in how the park is restored, if at all. It appears that some moderate restoration efforts would enhance public access to the park and return portions of the habitat to their natural state. The City could seek grant funding, in conjunction with the County, to offset project costs, once projects are identified.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The City Council can take no action and await direction from the County.

LEGAL REVIEW:

No legal review is required.

CONCLUSION:

The City has a vested interest in the restoration of Talbert Park. A review of the Plan by the Parks and Recreation Commission could lend valuable input and insight into the various restoration schemes considered by the County's consultant. Staff recommends moving forward with the recommended action as a method to spur interest within the City and County to enact some restoration projects.

RICHARD L. FRANCIS
Assistant Chief Executive Officer

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ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Talbert Regional Park Final Habitat Restoration Plan](#)