


INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

December 05, 2024

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
FROM: JIMMY KIM, General Manager 
SUBJECT: VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications addressed to the Board have been received by the Board Office, and the action taken thereon is presented.

<u>From</u>		<u>Action Taken</u>
Griffith Park Pony Ride comments		Referred to General Manager
1) Jacob Wasserman comments regarding improvement of a street crossing (Council File Number 24-0000-S11)	#9771	Referred to General Manager
2) James Campeau comments regarding the Sunken City Project and BR 24-243	#9772	Referred to General Manager
3) Ron Bitzer comments regarding the Annual Park Fee Reports	#9773	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Rosa Cartagena, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 24-0000-S11

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Nov 19, 2024 at 7:47 AM

To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Fri, Nov 15, 2024 at 7:33 PM LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com> wrote:

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enable by the to Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or rResolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website.Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Councils rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at empowerla@lacity.org.

***** This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. *****

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: North Westwood

Name: Jacob Wasserman

Email:

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(12) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 11/06/2024

Type of NC Board Action: Neutral Position

Impact Information

Date: 11/16/2024

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Council File Number: 24-0000-S11

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The North Westwood Neighborhood Council requests the improvement of a critical street crossing in our boundaries to make it safer and ADA-accessible. Westwood Park is an important community gathering location with many amenities, including sports fields, tennis courts, a recreation center, a dog park, and a playground. Despite its importance, access to (and through) the park is limited due to poor pedestrian crossings. We request that curb ramps be added on both sides of the current crosswalk across Sepulveda Boulevard. This crosswalk connects the two halves of the park, the Westwood Recreation Complex and Bad News Bears Field, and also connects LADOT bus stops on either side. It otherwise has a number of positive features, including a full traffic light that quickly turns red to allow for on-demand pedestrian crossings, a marked crosswalk, and connections to off-street pedestrian and bicycle paths. But these features are inaccessible to many—disabled members of our community, people with strollers, bikers, and more—without curb cuts. Additionally, the lack of curb cuts at the crosswalk can dangerously force people who need them to use the LADWP facility driveway instead, which puts them in traffic and could obstruct that driveway as well. To achieve ADA compliance and better connect the parts of the park, please add curb cuts as soon as possible.

Ref:MSG11439009



- REQUEST FOR ACTION-

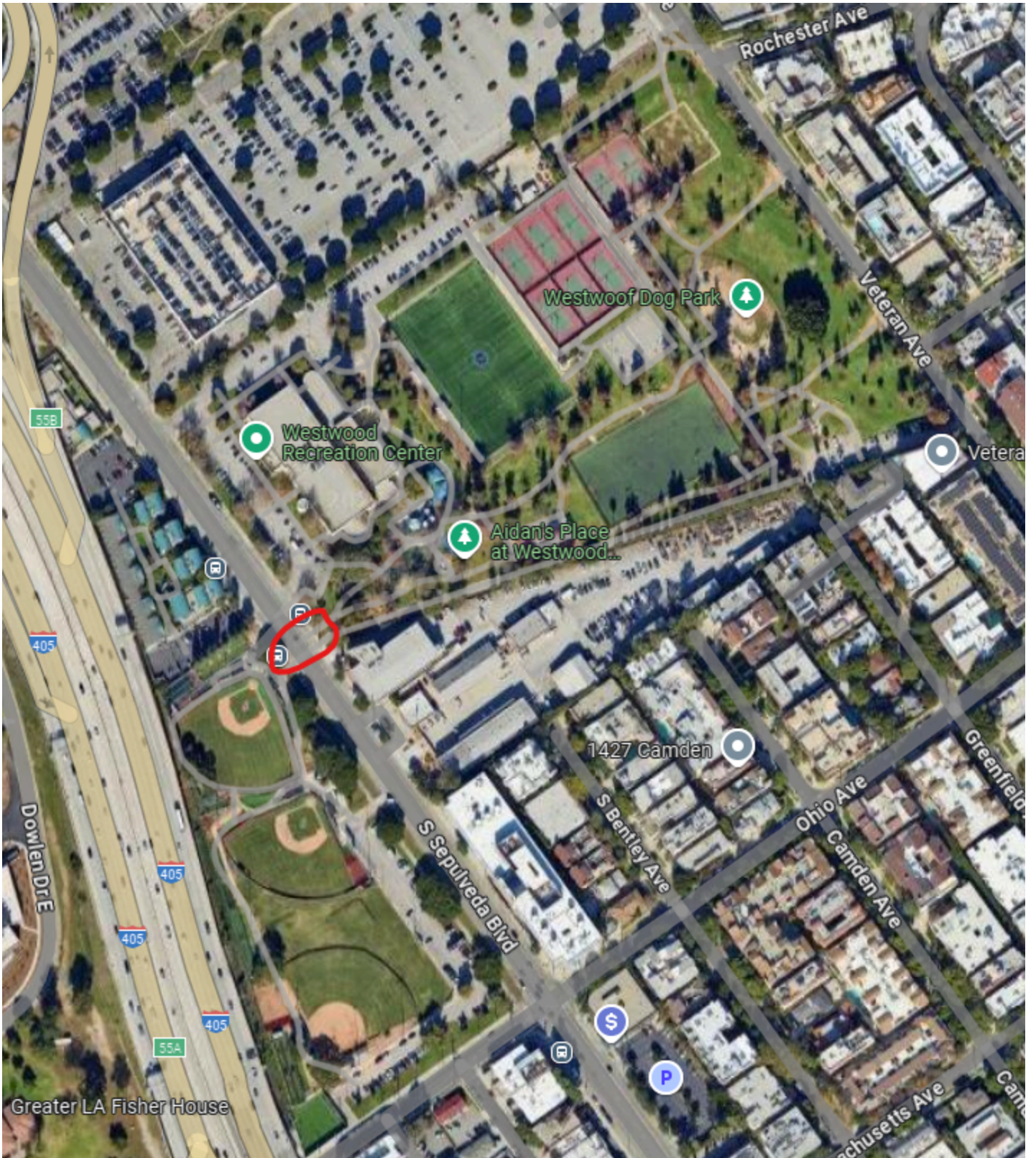
Title: Add Curb Ramps at Pedestrian Crossing of Sepulveda Boulevard at Westwood Park

The North Westwood Neighborhood Council requests the improvement of a critical street crossing in our boundaries to make it safer and ADA-accessible. Westwood Park is an important community gathering location with many amenities, including sports fields, tennis courts, a recreation center, a dog park, and a playground. Despite its importance, access to (and through) the park is limited due to poor pedestrian crossings.

We request that curb ramps be added on both sides of the current crosswalk across Sepulveda Boulevard. This crosswalk connects the two halves of the park, the Westwood Recreation Complex and Bad News Bears Field, and also connects LADOT bus stops on either side. It otherwise has a number of positive features, including a full traffic light that quickly turns red to allow for on-demand pedestrian crossings, a marked crosswalk, and connections to off-street pedestrian and bicycle paths. But these features are inaccessible to many—disabled members of our community, people with strollers, bikers, and more—without curb cuts. Additionally, the lack of curb cuts at the crosswalk can dangerously force people who need them to use the LADWP facility driveway instead, which puts them in traffic and could obstruct that driveway as well.

To achieve ADA compliance and better connect the parts of the park, please add curb cuts as soon as possible.







Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: comments

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Nov 22, 2024 at 12:31 PM

To:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Nov 22, 2024 at 12:14 PM

wrote:

Dear Board of RAP Commissioners,

Attached are the two separate comments that I spoke about yesterday at the November 21, 2024 meeting agenda. The first in General Public Comment, and the second in Board Report Public Comment with an attached agenda item number 24-243 for an example to speak.

I would like to say, not allowing the general public to speak for at least three minutes is not fair or respectful. I'm not sure who sets the policy but I hope this can change. It is not realistic to think someone will drive 40- 50 miles to speak for 2 minutes on an agenda item, especially when no phone in comments were made available.

What you should know that when a meeting place is chosen for the Commissioners to attend, that park is made spotless by RAP, so that you don't see what really goes on in the parks otherwise, and because of some of the very reasons I speak to in my comments.

The meeting yesterday generally was cordial until I was cut off, because my comments were more than two minutes by perhaps just 10 seconds. This was after Item # 3 of the General Manager's Update. Some of the RAP managers took all the time in the world with this item #3 as the RAP staff attending were given plenty of Kudos and At-A Boy comments. They were all getting paid while they were sitting there. Meanwhile, in the parks I volunteer in everyday, that still have the problems, while some of those RAP staff people sitting in the audience are in charge.

After the brief public comment portions of the meeting, there seemed to be long pause as people were all chatting it up, going back to the food and beverage tables as the board seemed finished. I appreciated a Commissioner coming up to me as he was leaving and thanking me for my service as a volunteer. The Commissioner spoke to me and another person of how important it is for people to volunteer in the parks. I agreed with him, but I did say there are some RAP people that don't appreciate what I do and are very derisive.

So, I hope you read my comments and even reply. Many of us send correspondence, including the neighborhood council, to RAP general managers and superintendents, and we never get a reply.

Thank you,

James Campeau

11-21-2024 BOARD OF RAP COMMISSIONERS MEETING

I'm requesting 2 minutes general public comment and 2 minutes on agenda items comments.

Good morning commissioners. I'm James Campeau, longtime resident and community care person in San Pedro representing myself.

The Board of RAP Commissioners report # 22-087 dated April 21, 2022 APPROVED funds and work orders for a maximum of One million, Five Hundred Thousand dollars in Park fees for the Sunken City Project in San Pedro. 2 years, 7 months passed and RAP has NOT started any work to remove left over 100-year-old concrete slabs, walls and foundations. There is no need to build any NEW park like structures. The area only needs to be restored to a "Natural Condition", to enhance this most beautiful coastline as a NATURE PRESERVE. This is the true attraction and lure for the once Sunken City.

Currently, Sunken City is a long-time mecca for gangs, graffiti taggers, drug and alcohol abuse, homeless encampments and trash debris. Tourists from around the world visit this fenced in land, that keeps no one out. The long-time neglect has attracted continuous destruction, vandalism and deterioration of the coastal tide pools, with reported piles of submerged paint canisters from gang tagging and graffiti. Paint canisters are thrown into the tide pools in this very sensitive Pt. Fermin Marine Life Refuge area.

On a daily basis, I paint out gang messages and graffiti that spread into our adjoining coastal parks, because of the volume of bad actor's that come to the San Pedro coast area to wreak havoc in our once peaceful coastal community. RAP is unable to respond daily, lacking management and resources. We have no park rangers or security to enforce the law.

Many important events such as the recent International Peace Day with Jane Goodall are held in Pt. Fermin Park. If I didn't paint out the gang messages in the park's pergolas, walls, picnic tables, sidewalks, trees, and bathrooms, in the early Saturday morning of the day's event, the huge amount of general public attending would have seen how disgusting and neglected this historical park is, renowned for its 150-year-old lighthouse and coastal cliff views. And upslope is the Angels Gate Park with the Korean Bell which suffer the same problems. RAP staff have commented that these problems are nothing compared to in the inner-city parks.

There's no comparison! San Pedro Coastal premiere parks are precious landmarks for Los Angeles. Residents from all over Los Angeles and tourists from around the world come here, rather than visiting a small inner-city residential park. We need park rangers, and more RAP maintenance staff, NOW, to keep up with the daily gang war messaging, graffiti, and the volume of people visiting and attending events here. Thank you.

11-21-2024 RAP Board Report Public Comment (Agenda item: 24-243)

Before more NEW buildout contract awards, hire more RAP working field staff to properly maintain all the existing parks. Weekends and holidays should have additional RAP working maintenance staff in the parks.

All awards of NEW work contracts should automatically include proportionally hiring additional RAP maintenance staff for the increased work for the surrounding grounds and new structure maintenance with the priority of erasing all gang message-graffiti and trash. On-going maintenance of existing parks should be top priority before any NEW build-out contracts.

Hardscapes are billboards for gang taggers including structures, signs, posts, walls, picnic- benches tables, sidewalks. Rap should prioritize using soft scape alternatives as first choice whenever possible.

All bathrooms should be locked at night

Hire enough Parks Rangers and private security for day and night hours.

Perspective tenants bidding to attain lease agreements for RAP buildings should be able to hire inspectors. Existing tenants should also be able to do repairs to the structure as per building code requirements when leasing RAP facilities and surrounding grounds.

Reporting gang message & graffiti and maintenance is flawed. Most people don't report. 311 is flawed when it kicks a report over to RAP. It gets lost in the RAP system. RAP should not depend on the general public for reporting gang message graffiti. This should not be the reason for the work not getting done.

Rap field staff say they are not getting work orders. Rap work order system is antiquated when it doesn't allow a painter to do more than what is on the work order. RAP painters are sent out to paint as per service request and can't do something that is very close by to the location of the work order. Work orders should include checking the general area around the work order, allowing the staff painter to be able to look for more gang tag messages and graffiti in the park in general and do pick up work as it's always necessary. Saves time, money and is more efficient. The RAP painter can take pictures before and after, and get an approval with their RAP boss by phone or text.

Rap field staff are supposed to report gang message tagging but this seems not to be happening based on the RAP painters I have spoken with in the field, that say they are not getting the work orders. There should be a manager staff that daily checks Hot Spots to be painted over with the ability to paint the smaller areas themselves, and use graffiti remover as well while they are there. It is the only way to win the gang war and keep our parks safe and clean.

RAP should allow GAP and other independent contractors to daily paint out Hot Spots in the parks. It's a team effort.

RAP supervisors, superintendents and managers currently don't communicate well with general public requests + inquiries. We are mostly ignored. This must change!

RAP fields staff should be able to monitor, interact and advise the general public as to rules of the park. And the RAP staff should have available quick response from Park Rangers, private security, as well as LAPD for any problems.

Thank you.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Public Comment on Annual Park Fee Reports

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Nov 26, 2024 at 8:09 AM

To: Ron Bitzer

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Sat, Nov 23, 2024 at 11:58 AM Ron Bitzer
Please accept this message and attachment..

wrote:

November 23, 2024

Dear RAP Commissioners,

The annual **City Park Fee** update showing revenue of more than \$39 million and City Council recent approval of CD#10 motions both confirm independent findings of the following: no equity gains for park-poor neighborhoods after City-wide reform of Park Fees in 2016.

Forty-five percent of \$39,446,732 in FY 2024 Park Fee revenue accrued to the top three Council Districts. Half (or 7) Council Districts received just over 16% of these Fees.

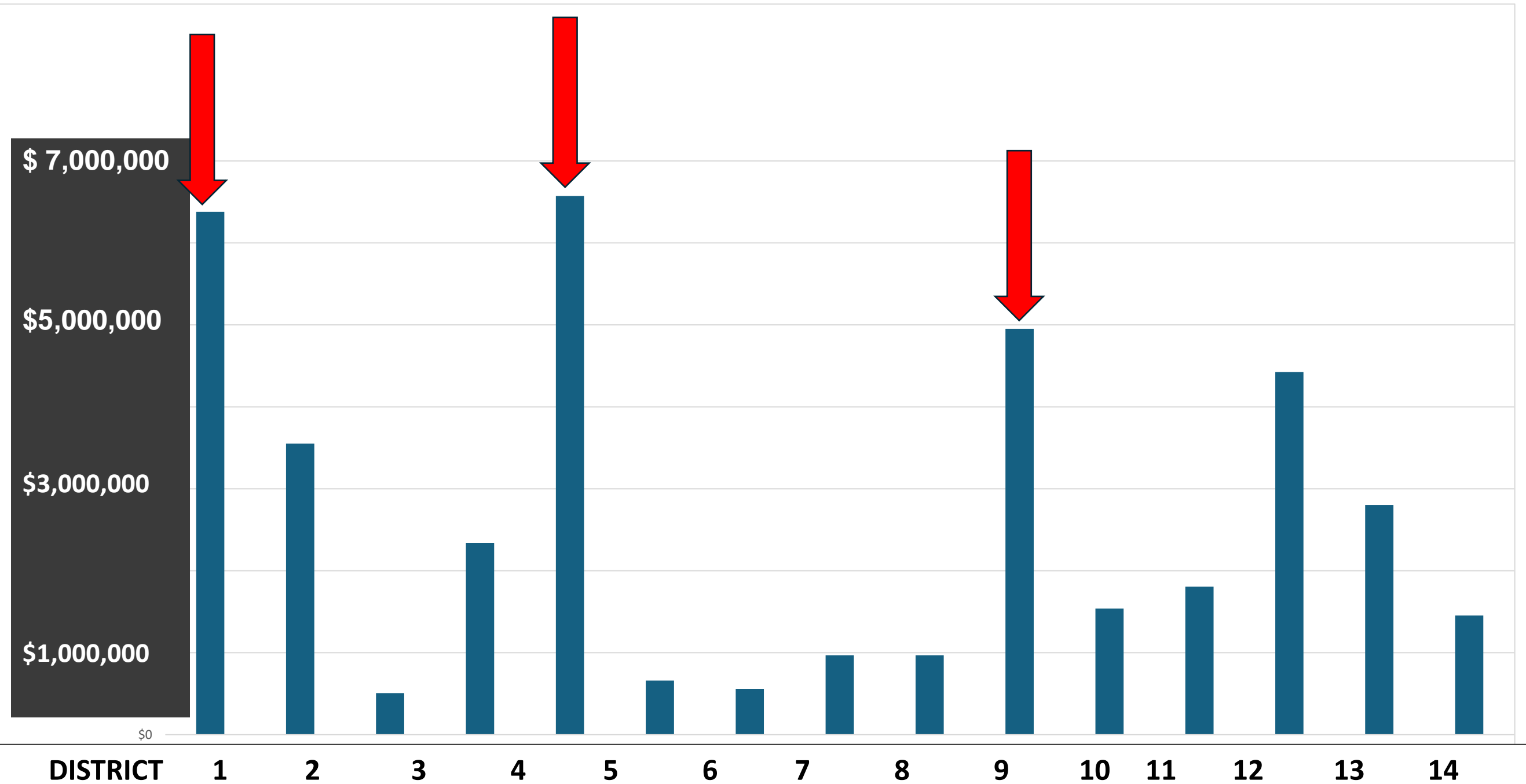
A “top three” beneficiary of Park Fees --- CD#10 --- has gained City Council approval to commit Park Fees for “acquisition and construction of park facilities” (CF 24-1174). That ten-year CD#10 project may be a “dramatic increase in size of Seoul International Park” approved on the same day as the CD#10 commitment of (top-tier) Park Fees (CF 24-1093) was approved.

Regardless of the above City Council precedents, Rec and Parks can still implement an equity framework in appropriately accessing \$140 million in uncommitted but restricted Park Fees for capital improvements in park-poor neighborhoods.

Ron Bitzer

Downtown, Hollywood & K-Town City Council Districts (1, 5 & 10) Captured 45% of FY 2024 Total Park Fees, City of Los Angeles

Source: Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles



Nine City Council Districts Collected in FY 2024 Less than The Average Total Park Fee Revenue Per District (\$2.6 Million)

Source: Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles

