

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT COMPLETE

Public Hearings Set To Discuss Sports Park

By Kurt Helin Editor

What it will take to convert a former oil field into an adult sports park in Long Beach is the topic of an Environmental Impact Report now available for public review.

Several public hearings will be coming up on the issue, followed by votes by the Planning Commission and the City Council.

After a controversy in 1996 over plans to put the complex at El Dorado Park, the current recommended site, next to Signal Hill in central Long Beach, was chosen. The area is bordered by Spring Street on the north, the municipal cemetery on the south, Orange Avenue to the east and California Avenue to the west.

Since the turn of the century, the site has been used for oil drilling and dumping, and currently houses a gas processing plant among other things. What that means is that of the cost for the sports park, more than half - \$13.1 million - would go to clean up the soil. Actual construction of the sports park will cost about \$9.3 million.

Prepared by Environmental Science and Engineering

Company of Costa Mesa, the thick document discusses the project's potential impacts on water, ground and air quality.

The attempt to convert former oil land to a park has drawn the attention of the Environmental Protection Agency, which has supplied money for the project. City officials said the EPA wants to use this plan as a model for other cities.

The sports park will have six softball diamonds, four soccer fields, four sand volleyball courts plus a tented area that can house everything from basketball to roller hockey. All of these fields will be used for adult sports, freeing up neighborhood parks for youth sports and activities.

The entire environmental document is available for review at City Hall, 333 W. Ocean Blvd.; the Main Library, 101 Pacific Ave.; Mark Twain Library, 1325 Anaheim St.; and Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 2760 Studebaker Road in El Dorado Park. The document will be available for review until Feb. 18.

Two public hearings to discuss the EIR are scheduled for Feb. 2, the first from 2 to 3:30

p.m. and the second from 6 to 7 p.m. both at Veterans Park, 101 E. 28th St.

No vote will be taken at those meetings.

Hospital Event Fetes Women Authors

Local women writers will speak at "Celebrate the Authors" from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 10.

The event is a fundraiser for the Memorial Women's

Hospital League, which gives a book to each baby born at Memorial. The program, \$15, is at the Book Connection, 10932 Pine Ave., Los Alamitos. Call 431-9818.

Important Public Hearing Notice

Coastal Development Permit Application No.: 5-95-283-A1 (Beach Nourishment)

Applicant(s): City of Long Beach Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Marine

Project Description: Amend underlying permit to allow a one-time increase in the amount of beach sand (up to 120,000 cubic yards) to be moved for beach nourishment purposes prior to March 15, 2000.

Project Location: On the beach south of Ocean Boulevard (8th Place to 70th Place), City of Long Beach.

Public Hearing Date: To be determined, February 15-18, 2000, Item No Meeting begins at 9:00 a.m.

Hearing Location: Quality Resort - Mission Valley, 875 Hotel Circle South, San Diego, CA 92108 (619) 298-8282.

Hearing Procedures: This item has been scheduled for a public hearing and vote. People wishing to testify on this matter may appear at the hearing or may present their concerns by letter to the Commission on or before the hearing date. Copies of all correspondence will be provided to the Commission if received a minimum of three working days prior to the public hearing. Written comments may be of any length; oral testimony may be limited to 5 minutes or less for each speaker, depending on the number wishing to be heard.

The above item may be moved to the Consent Calendar for this area by the Executive Director when, prior to Commission consideration of the Consent Calendar, staff and the applicant are in agreement on the staff recommendation. If this item is moved to the Consent Calendar, the Commission will either approve it with the recommended conditions contained in the staff report or remove the item from the Consent Calendar by a vote of three or more Commissioners. If the item is removed, the public hearing described above will still be held at the point in the meeting originally indicated on the agenda.

No one can predict how quickly the Commission will complete agenda items or how many will be postponed to a later date. The Commission begins each session at the time listed and considers each item in order, except in extraordinary circumstances. Staff at the appropriate Commission office can give you more information prior to the hearing date. Questions regarding this item and requests for staff reports should be directed to Charles Posner, Coastal

SUNDAY BRUNCH/WHALE WATCH

Enjoy a gourmet brunch aboard the magnificent 130' Schooner American Pride. We depart from Rainbow Marina in Downtown Long Beach (next to the new Aquarium of the Pacific). Watch for migrating Gray Whales as the lovely Long Beach Skyline slips by...and don't forget your camera. Reservations a must! more information