

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Budget determines park's progress for 2007-08

Great Park Board will review spending plan today

By SONYA SMITH
IRVINE WORLD NEWS

In 2004 the Great Park Corp. was created.

In 2005 the Great Park Board searched for a designer.

In 2006 Ken Smith's design team prepared the park's master plan.

And in 2007 designers, engineers and planners will prepare to build the Great Park.

Today the board will review the proposed 2007-08 budget. It includes building the park's main roads, utilities and sewers, demolishing parts of the former air base, operating the balloon and visitor's center, obtaining permits and choosing what gets built when.

Here are the highlights of the proposed budget. Each description includes the goals for that specific department during the 2007-08 fiscal year. The numbers given are budget expenditure totals. Each * notes that the figures are proposed and need City Council approval.

Park development

2005-07: Fund was recently created.

2007-08*: \$21,518,357

- Demolition of the majority of the base's buildings, concrete and other infrastructure.
- Mass grading of southern portion of the park.
- Preserving historical elements of the former air base.

Infrastructure

2005-07: Fund was recently created.

2007-08*: \$98,504,118

- Demolition of buildings, concrete and other infrastructure as needed for installing roads, utilities and sewers.
- Construction of wet and dry utilities.
- Construction of streets.
- Grade and drain the wildlife corridor.
- Grading and draining of the Agua Chinon stream.
- Mitigating 25 acres of wetlands.

Administration

2005-06: \$5,112,175

2006-07: \$5,504,608

2007-08*: \$5,266,012

- Find funding opportunities for the park.
- Develop fundraising program.
- Update business plan.
- Establish a Community Facilities District for roads, sewers and utilities.
- Monitor and maintain compliance with California Integrity Act.

Public relations

2005-06: \$708,175

2006-07: \$1,467,977

2007-08*: \$888,700

- Coordinate press interviews and briefings.
- Develop high-profile special events.
- Produce and distribute monthly newsletters and quarterly benchmark reports.
- Manage relationships with Great Park advisory groups.

- Manage the Great Park Web site – www.ocgp.org/.
- Develop procedures for the Great Park advisory groups.
- Continue coordinating the History Project and National Archives objectives.

Operations

2005-06: \$20,033

2006-07: \$700,000

2007-08*: \$2,481,595

- Manage the balloon attraction.
- Manage existing and future leases.
- Find new sources of temporary leases of park land.
- Analyze future operating costs for business planning and design planning.
- Assist with developing public-private partnerships.

Engineering

2005-06: \$2,676,724

2006-07: \$11,215,127

2007-08*: \$1,204,875

- Coordinate completion of phasing plan.
- Negotiate design contract.
- Complete first-phase demolition planning.
- Negotiate with the Lennar Corp. and pursue easements and rights-of-way for building common roads, sewers and utilities.
- Coordinate with the Lennar Corp. to obtain area-wide permits.
- Oversee implementation of the environmental goals.

- Complete schematic design for the park and begin construction documents for the first phase.

Planning and environmental

2005-06: \$399,195

2006-07: \$11,192,612

2007-08*: \$800,000

- Coordinate completion of park phasing plan.
- Complete schematic design for the park and begin construction documents for the first phase.
- Implement wetland mitigation program.
- Negotiate to create a water quality and pollutant trading program.
- Coordinate with Navy's environmental cleanup and FAA's restricted area.
- Monitor compliance with regulatory clearances.
- Coordinate with the city for oversight of park development.

MORE ONLINE: For more on the Great Park budget – including links to past stories and links to the proposed 2007-08 budget and more go to www.ocreger.com/greatpark .

Contact the writer: 949-553-2911 or sosmith@ocreger.com