



Demolition of runways a month away

BY SONYA SMITH IRVINE WORLD NEWS

DEMOLITION PERMITS

ISSUED FOR RUNWAYS

The city has issued demolition permits for the runways, taxiways and aircraft parking aprons at the old El Toro base.

Chopping up the runways will be a symbolic end to the decade-long, \$100-million fight over the future of the base. Backers of a commercial airport eventually lost to proponents of the Great Park, the planned mix of wilderness areas, athletic fields, museums, farms, schools, shops and housing.

Demolition is expected to begin within 30 days. Recycled Materials Co. of Denver, Colo., will be breaking up and grinding the estimated 4 million tons of concrete. The company says it likely will take at least two years to pull up all the old concrete and four years to process and reuse it. Plans call for all the ground-up concrete to be reused at the Great Park for roadbeds, building pads, walkways, stream banks and other applications. Some of it also will be used as "coarse aggregate," the gravel that often is used in concrete to give it strength.

Under terms of the contract, neither the city nor the Great Park Corp. will pay for the recycling; Recycled Materials will earn its money from the sale of the ground-up concrete.

JEWEL EVENT A SUCCESS

The Great Park Conservancy raised about \$200,000 at its inaugural fund-raiser, the "Jewel of Orange County." About 800 attended the dinner, silent auction and presentation by Great Park designer Ken Smith; the event took place Friday in a tent erected on the runways at the old base.

The conservancy plans to use the funds it raised on education programs and for research on a botanical garden it would like to be part of the Great Park.

The conservancy serves as a support group for the park but may evolve as the manager and caretaker, which is the role of the Central Park Conservancy in New York City.

Meanwhile, the Great Park Conservancy hopes to morph the party and silent auction into an annual concert.

However, as next year's event evolves, it will be planned from a new location. The conservancy will be moving into an office building at what now is called Trabuco Village, a fenced, three-block section of the old base off Trabuco Road.

The building is undergoing renovation and should be ready for occupancy by June.

BOARD MEETS TODAY

Green-waste recycling

The board will consider whether to recommend to the City Council a contract with Tierra Verde Industries. The Irvine-based company recycles demolition and construction materials along with recyclable wastes from Irvine and other cities and organizations. The company sits on Irvine Co. land north of the old El Toro base, but needs to leave because the land is being developed into the Portola Springs village. The contract would be for three-four years for the company to relocate to the old base where it would continue business. The Great Park Corp. and

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Lennar Corp.'s Heritage Fields could negotiate to buy the mulch and compost produced by the company to use on base.

Ken Smith

Smith's Great Park Design Studio will report to the board about its task one findings. The first task involved making a "critical needs assessment" of the base – about things like soil conditions and the status of old buildings. The report will likely be available before the board meeting Tuesday night, according to Great Park CEO Wally Kreutzen.

Info: Call (949) 724-7404 or go to www.ocgp.org.

This column runs each week in the Irvine World News Thursday edition, updating readers on progress of the Great Park. Information is compiled by Great Park Corp. staff and Lennar's Heritage Fields staff. For more information on the Great Park, go to www.ocregister.com/greatpark.

