

Monday, February 11, 2008

Council to hear update on demolition of runways

Also, mayor Beth Krom proposing an anti-lobbying ordinance.

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The City Council tonight, in addition to considering the creation of a [new management](#) position for the Great Park Corp., will hear an update on the runway demolition at the old air base, consider an anti-lobbying ballot measure and hear a report on solar panels.

The [runway demolition](#) update, according to Councilman Larry Agran, will be a review of the agreement between the Great Park Corp. and Lennar Corp. regarding the demolition of runways at the former [El Toro](#) Marine Corps base. The agreement requires Lennar, the developer of the private land on the base, to take the lead on demolition for the public park areas as well.

Following the demolition, the material will be ground up and used in streets, curbs and foundations for buildings.

Mayor Beth Krom is seeking a discussion of an [anti-lobbying ordinance](#) for the June 3 primary election ballot. The measure would prohibit council members from being lobbyists. If the council wants a ballot measure, the city attorney will create a draft, and the council will vote later on whether to send it to the voters.

The Irvine Ranch Water District will give a presentation on its installation of 700 solar panels at its headquarters on Sand Canyon Avenue in October. The panels are expected to last for 20 to 25 years with little maintenance cost.

The 700 panels provide about 20 percent of the energy needed for the building and cost \$1.4 million, but the IRWD will get a rebate from Edison of \$243,000. The IRWD estimates it will recoup its costs in 12 years.

An [agenda item](#) titled "Deputy Chief Executive Officer" caused two council members to [walk out](#) of a closed-door meeting of the Great Park board last week, and the same issue is coming before the City Council tonight.

Council members Steven Choi and Christina Shea left the closed session on Tuesday, contending the board shouldn't discuss behind closed doors a position that doesn't exist.

The council is being asked to create the Great Park Corp. position tonight. And, the park board plans to appoint someone to the new job on Thursday.

Councilman Larry Agran, chairman of the park board said the closed session was called to hear a report and recommendation from the committee screening candidates for the park's CEO job. The board did not discuss creating the deputy CEO position in the closed session, he said.

Park board members have someone in mind they want to hire Thursday, Agran added.

The deputy chief executive officer would be paid a salary and benefits amounting to about \$110,000, from the approximate date of hire through the end of the year, City Manager Sean Joyce said.

The new position, Agran said, grew out of the search for a CEO and that person's role. "We definitely need somebody at a high level who can assist with projects that are going forward," he said.

The candidate in line for the deputy CEO job was recruited through the CEO search, Agran said. Of the five finalists for CEO, "four indicated willingness or eagerness to work for the Great Park Corp. in some high position of authority," Agran said.

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