

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: October 27, 2014

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution authorizing waiving public parking fee at Wilacre Park, Studio City, contingent upon replacement funding agreement with County of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize waiving the three dollar public parking fee at Wilacre Park contingent upon execution of a replacement funding agreement with the County of Los Angeles.

Legislative Authority: Section 33211 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Conservancy has owned Wilacre Park in Studio City for thirty years. The park is operated and managed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) at no cost to the State of California. Wilacre is a very popular park for hikers and there is a high turnover of visitors. A parking fee was instituted a number of years ago to generate funds to increase the available onsite parking area and offset the increased operation and maintenance costs to manage the park. The parking lot is often full to capacity even with the \$3 parking fee.

The Conservancy has been requested by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, in response to City of Los Angeles neighbor concerns about park visitors parking on the street, to consider waiving the parking fee. The suggested alternative is that the County would pay for at least a portion of the upkeep costs, although the proposed amount is somewhat less than what the current parking fees generate. Staff recommends that the parking fee be waived for as long as the County provides the proposed replacement funding, with the understanding that this action does not represent a permanent promise for free parking, and would be in effect only so long as the County is able to provide a funding source.