

**Meeting Date:** 7/14/2015

**Report Type:** Consent

**Report ID:** 2015-00630

**Title:** Designating the Sand Cove Parking Area as a Municipal Parking Lot

**Location:** 2005 Garden Highway, District 4

**Recommendation:** Pass a Resolution 1) designating Sand Cove Park as a municipal parking lot under City Code Section 10.44.050; 2) authorizing the City Manager to impose parking fees at Sand Cove Park, and 3) establishing a new Capital Improvement Project (CIP) in the Parking Fund (Fund 6004), City Parks Parking Lot Improvement Project (V15551900).

**Contact:** Shannon Brown, Interim Operations Manager, (916) 808-4070, Jim Combs, Director, (916) 808-8526, Department of Parks and Recreation; Matt Eierman, Parking Manager, (916) 808-5849, Department of Public Works

**Presenter:** None

**Department:** Parks & Recreation Department / Public Works; Dept ID 15001511

**Division:** Park Operations

**Dept ID:** 19001311

**Attachments:**

1-Description/Analysis

2-Resolution

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**City Attorney Review**

Approved as to Form  
Sheryl Patterson  
7/7/2015 10:39:11 AM

**Approvals/Acknowledgements**

Department Director or Designee: Jim Combs - 7/6/2015 12:25:46 PM

## Description/Analysis

**Issue Detail:** Sand Cove Park is located along the Sacramento River, just off Garden Highway, east of Interstate 80. The park draws large crowds wishing to swim in the river and enjoy the sandy beach during summer weekends and holidays, and creates an overcrowded parking situation. Issues with overcrowding have intensified since May. Although alcohol is not permitted, it continues to be a problem along with noise and garbage which impacts the adjacent neighborhood.

The parking lot at Sand Cove Park has approximately 50 parking spaces. During peak times, the parking lot is too small to accommodate the number of visitors attempting to park there. As a result, many visitors park in unmarked areas including the edge of the levee on the Garden Highway and in adjacent residential neighborhoods. This, in turn, has created a safety issue with people crossing the busy highway and overcrowding the parking lot, making it difficult for emergency vehicles to enter the park. To alleviate these problems it is recommended that a pilot project allowing parking fees to be imposed at this park be established. The parking fees will be used to improve the parking lot with signage, lighting, landscaping, striping, etc.

Residents have requested parking restrictions be enacted in their neighborhood to deter visitors from parking outside of the designated parking lot. The highway curbs will be striped red to prevent parking along the levee and a residential parking program is being explored by residents. The parking restrictions will help reduce the number of people parking on the highway and walking across it to access the park. If parking fees are imposed there will be no financial advantage for using this park as opposed to nearby Sacramento County Discovery Park which already imposes parking fees and has significantly more capacity for parking, picnics and restrooms.

In order to charge for parking under the City Code, the parking lot must be designated a municipal parking lot, which will allow staff to install a payment machine, signage, and add the lot to its parking enforcement routes.

**Policy Considerations:** The recommended actions are to help mitigate health and safety issues at Sand Cove Park and the surrounding areas.

**Economic Impacts:** None

**Environmental Considerations:**

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):** The proposed action involves a fiscal activity that is exempt from environmental review under Section 15378(b)(4) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.

**Sustainability:** This action supports the City of Sacramento's sustainability goals to improve and optimize the transportation infrastructure. Reducing overcrowding at Sand Cove Park will help address excessive garbage and pollution issues.

**Commission/Committee Action:** None with this item.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** Designating the parking lot a municipal parking lot will allow staff to implement a pilot project and visitors will be required to pay to park at Sand Cove Park. Paid parking will: 1) encourage regular turnover of parking giving more visitors access to the park; 2) allow staff to enforce parking time limits which will eliminate vehicles parking in non-designated areas, and 3) help fund ongoing maintenance of parking lots in this and other City parks. Combined with new parking restrictions in the residential neighborhoods, actively managing parking at Sand Cove Park should reduce current safety related problems.

If successful, the pilot project may be expanded to other City-owned parks that face similar parking issues. Staff recommends the pilot project be in place for 12 to 15 months to fully evaluate its effect through all seasons. Staff will return to Council with an update on the pilot project early next fiscal year.

**Financial Considerations:** The proposed public parking fee at this park will not exceed \$10 for eight hours. The fee could potentially generate up to \$40,000 annually. Half of the revenues collected will be used for the daily operation and maintenance of the Sand Cove parking lot, and half would be used to help fund parking lot improvements at Sand Cove and other City parks. To account for the parking lot improvements a City Parks Parking Lot Improvement Project (V15551900) in the Parking Fund (Fund 6004), is recommended.

To launch the demonstration project a parking payment machine will be installed to facilitate the fare collection. There are sufficient funds in the Parking Services Division (Fund 6004) operating budget to cover the cost of the payment machine and installation, and to stripe the curb along the Garden Highway. Parking charges at this park are anticipated to be implemented immediately upon Council's approval.

**Local Business Enterprise (LBE):** Any goods or services will be purchased in accordance with established City policy.

## **RESOLUTION NO.**

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

### **DESIGNATING THE SAND COVE PARKING AREA AS A MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT**

#### **BACKGROUND**

- A. Sand Cove Park is located along the Sacramento River, just off Garden Highway, east of Interstate 80. The parking lot has approximately 50 spaces. The park draws large crowds during summer weekends and holidays that come to swim in the river and enjoy the sandy beach. During peak times the parking lot is too small to accommodate the number of visitors attempting to visit.
- B. Since May, issues related to overcrowding, alcohol consumption, excessive noise and garbage have intensified. Many visitors park in unmarked areas in the park making it difficult for emergency vehicles to enter the park. Visitors also park along Garden Highway and in adjacent residential neighborhoods creating a safety hazard when they cross this busy roadway.
- C. To help address these issues, the Garden Highway curbs will be striped red to prevent parking in the area and a residential parking program has been established.
- D. Imposing parking fees at the Sand Cove Park parking lot as a pilot project over the next 12 -15 months, with the ability to ticket offenders who park in unmarked areas, is recommended to help control overcrowding and related issues.

#### **BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1. Pursuant to City Code Section 10.44.050, the parking lot at Sand Cove Park is designated as a municipal parking lot.
- Section 2. The City Manager is authorized to impose parking fees at Sand Cove Park as a pilot project to determine if it deters overcrowding and helps alleviate current problems at this park.
- Section 3. The City Parks Parking Lot Improvement Project (V15551900) is established as a new Capital Improvement Program project in the Parking Fund (Fund 6004).

Section 4. Fees collected from the parking lot at Sand Cove Park will be deposited in the Parking Fund (6004) used as follows :

- 50% of the fees will be used for daily maintenance and operations; and
- 50% of the fees will be used to support an expenditure budget for improvements in the city parks parking lots (V15551900).