

RESOLUTION NO. RES-05-0042

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LONG BEACH MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS
REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC
IMPROVEMENTS WITH REDEVELOPMENT FUNDS

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Long Beach adopted and approved a certain Redevelopment Plan (the "Redevelopment Plan") for the North Long Beach Redevelopment Project (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the Project and the immediate neighborhood in which the Project is located, the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Long Beach, California (the "Agency"), has recognized the need for certain public improvements, which improvements will be located within the boundaries of the Project, and proposes to use redevelopment funds to finance the improvements; and

WHEREAS, Section 33445 of the California Community Redevelopment Law (Health and Safety Code Section 33000 et seq.) requires the Agency to make certain findings prior to the acquisition of land and construction of public improvements or facilities thereon; and

WHEREAS, Section 33678 of the Community Redevelopment Law provides that under certain conditions tax increment funds shall not be subject to the appropriations limitation of Article XIIB of the California Constitution;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as follows:

Section 1. The City Council determines that the construction of public improvements, more particularly described in Exhibit "A", are of benefit to the Project and the immediate neighborhood in which the Project is located. This finding is

1 supported by the following facts:

2 Past wetland loss along the Los Angeles River has been
3 staggering, with 51 miles encased in concrete for flood control and urban
4 development to the river edge. The DeForest /Market basin has been
5 identified as a potential site for wetland restoration in *Wetlands of the Los*
6 *Angeles River Watershed: Profiles and Restoration Opportunities*, a study
7 prepared by the State Coastal Conservancy in 2000. Recognizing that the
8 highly urbanized landscape prevents restoration or creation of wetlands to
9 the extent they once existed in the watershed, the State Coastal
10 Conservancy study concluded that providing a representation of the
11 historic distribution of wetlands resources and hydrologic conditions is
12 very valuable. The proposed project is a high priority project on the
13 Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project's Work Plan and would
14 create one mile of wetland and related habitat along the Los Angeles
15 River.

16 The DeForest /Market Street Basin is an existing detention basin
17 primarily used for flood control. The DeForest Nature Center is located at
18 the north end and consists of an extensive area of planted woodland and
19 a nature trail. Water enters the basin from local storm drains and is
20 pumped into the Los Angeles River by the Market Street Pump Plant.
21 Open and weedy cover with only a small amount of native vegetation
22 characterizes the central and southern reaches of the basin.

23 Open water, wetland, riparian, and scrub habitats are proposed
24 along the 300 foot wide corridor stretching from DeForest Park south to
25 Del Amo Boulevard along the eastern edge of the Los Angeles River.
26 Public facilities including trails, overlooks, gates, benches, and signage
27 would help meet the need for open space and encourage public access to
28 the coast. Residents from the neighborhoods and schools bordering the

1 basins would gain park space and educational opportunities once the
2 project is built. A bike path along the river levee will connect local
3 neighborhoods to the coast.

4 A feasibility study completed by the Los Angeles County
5 Department of Public Works concluded that the Spreading Grounds could
6 be modified to allow a continuous flow of water to create year-round
7 aquatic habitat for native wetland and riparian plant species, as well as a
8 possible method to treat water for reuse.

9 Complementary enhancement of existing trails and access points,
10 as well as construction of new public-use facilities to support recreational
11 activities such as bird watching, nature study, hiking, cycling, horseback
12 riding, and environmental education activities will also be included. The
13 neighborhoods surrounding the property are medium to high density
14 neighborhoods that are currently underserved in terms of open green
15 space, recreational opportunities and park space.

16 The proposed public improvements will create sustainable wildlife
17 habitat and provide opportunities for public use of the site for educational
18 purposes and passive recreational activities such as bird watching, hiking,
19 bicycling and horseback riding. The proposed public improvements will
20 also provide water quality benefits from wetland treatment of the runoff
21 from the surrounding area as well as provide enhanced groundwater
22 recharge.

23
24 Sec. 2. The City Council determines that no other reasonable
25 means of financing the above-described improvements are available to the community.
26 This finding is supported by the following facts:

27 Before the passage of Proposition 13, most of the City's general
28 operating and capital improvements were funded through property taxes.

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1 However, the initiative placed severe constraints on the City's ability to
2 use property tax revenues to offset increases in operating and capital
3 costs. It has also been difficult for the City, by itself, to provide sufficient
4 funds to support the construction of major public improvements. In fiscal
5 year 2005-2006, the limited resources of the City's General Fund are
6 committed to previously incurred obligations and planned projects.

7 Sec. 3. The City Council further determines that the payment of
8 funds for the construction of the public improvements will assist in the elimination of one
9 or more blighting conditions within the Project, and is consistent with the
10 implementation plan adopted pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 33490.

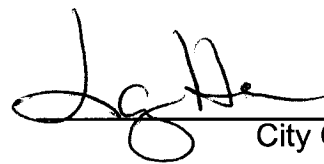
11 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its
12 adoption by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this
13 resolution.

14 I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City
15 Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of June 14, 2005 by
16 the following vote:

17 Ayes: Councilmembers: Lowenthal, Baker, Colonna,
18 O'Donnell, Kell, Richardson,
19 Reyes Uranga, Gabelich, Lerch.

20 _____
21 Noes: Councilmembers: None.

22 _____
23 Absent: Councilmembers: None.

24 _____
25 _____
26 
27 _____
28 City Clerk

27 HAM:fl
5/17/05; rev. 5/18/05
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EXHIBIT "A"

DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

DeForest/Market Street Basin Wetland Restoration

Open water, wetland, riparian and scrub habitats are proposed along the 300 foot wide corridor stretching from DeForest Park south to Del Amo Boulevard along the eastern edge of the Los Angeles River. Public facilities will include trails, overlooks, gates, benches, and signage. Complementary enhancement of existing trails and access points, as well as construction of new public-use facilities to support recreational activities such as bird watching, nature study, hiking, cycling, horseback riding, and environmental education activities will also be included.