



Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Jim Arndt, Public Works Director
Anna Luke, Public Works Management Analyst

DATE: August 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Transient Issues under the Sepulveda Bridge at Veteran's Parkway

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Option 1, which calls for the continued monitoring and reporting of transient activity.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

No additional fiscal implications are foreseen with the adoption of Option 1.

Option 2, the installation of sodium vapor lighting, will cost approximately \$24,000 (parts and labor). This project was not budgeted for FY2008-9009; however, if Council adopts the project it will be funded through the City Council Contingency Fund. The increased energy costs will be included in the Cities' Southern California Edison utility bill.

The bridge structure is the property of Cal Trans. If Cal Trans completes Option 3, the work would have no immediate fiscal implication to the City.

Option Number	Description of Work	Cost (Parts and Labor)
1	Continued monitoring and reporting of activity	No additional cost
2	Install sodium vapor lighting	\$24,000
3	Cement/slurry burrowed areas of bridge	Cal Trans Project

BACKGROUND:

Historically, the City of Manhattan Beach has had transients under the Sepulveda Bridge. However, due to the high level of maintenance on both public and private property, there are few opportunities for individuals to loiter or reside long-term. There are, though, sporadic occurrences when transients find isolated or hidden areas on the Veteran's Parkway, mainly underneath the bridge. Transients have "burrowed" the space where the bridge meets the top of the slope to create more "living" room. Tru Green Landcare, the City's landscape contractor, services Veteran's Parkway (a.k.a. Green Belt) for trash seven days per week. Both Tru Green and the Police

Department have reported minimal activity. The Police Department has logged two transient incidents for 2008. Typically, Tru Green employees will report transient activity to City staff. Staff will then notify the Police Department, who in turn ask the transients to gather their belongings and leave the premises. Staff and/or contractor employees then remove any debris left behind.

DISCUSSION:

To remedy the issues with sporadic transients, City staff proposes the following three options to help resolve the issue of transients loitering underneath the Sepulveda Bridge:

1. Continued monitoring and reporting of activity. The Police Department, Tru Green Landcare and City Staff will continue to monitor the nuisance area and police will take further action when transient activity is reported. Due to the low number of incidents at the bridge, monitoring may be the most cost-effective solution. Tru Green Landcare can provide inspection and monitoring when collecting trash and monitoring irrigation in this area of the Veteran's Parkway.
2. Install sodium vapor lighting. If Council identifies the transient activity is such to warrant lighting under the bridge, the cost to install the lighting is \$24,000.
3. Fill "burrowed areas." This will require a request for Cal Trans to fill areas that are burrowed with cementitious slurry, effectively eliminating future attempts at excavation. As previously mentioned, the bridge structure is the property of Cal Trans, and only they may provide maintenance. The City cannot predetermine Cal Trans' willingness or timing to complete the project.

CONCLUSION:

City Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Option 1, the continued monitoring and reporting of transients under the Sepulveda Bridge at Veteran's Parkway. Because of the limited number of transient incidences, it is suggested that the most cost-effective solution is appropriate for now. Staff will return to Council in six months to report any transient activity.