



Agenda Item #: \_\_\_\_\_





# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Geoff Dolan, City Manager 

**FROM:** Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation   
Eve Kelso, Recreation Services Manager 

**DATE:** September 2, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of City Council Workplan Item to Install a Portable Walkway on the Beach from the Bike Path to the Shoreline

### RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss the workplan item to install a portable walkway on the beach from the bike path to the shoreline for seniors and those with physical challenges and provide direction.

### FISCAL IMPLICATION:

The portable walkway (Mobi-Mat) costs approximately \$3,800 per 50 feet plus \$825 for delivery. The County of Los Angeles will allow approximately 108 feet to be installed, depending on the location. Staff estimates the total cost for 108 feet to be \$9,033.

### BACKGROUND:

The 2008-09 City Council Workplan provides for a discussion and consideration of installing a portable walkway on the beach from the bike path to the shoreline for seniors and people who are physically challenged.

### DISCUSSION:

During the past several months, staff met with Los Angeles County officials (owners of the beach) and representatives from the makers of Mobi-Mat. Mobi-Mat is a very durable and portable nylon mat that is used on beaches for accessibility issues. It is used on the beaches of Iraq by our Defense Department to help in transporting equipment as well as the beaches of Florida for pedestrian access. The product is approximately four feet wide and available in various lengths.

In April, staff met with representatives of Mobi-Mat on the beach near 8<sup>th</sup> Street for a demonstration. Staff was impressed by the durability of the product and positive reaction from beachgoers in that area. It was easy to install and uninstall. The color of the mat was blue which staff thought stuck out too much and might cause concern from nearby neighbors. Since then, the Mobi-Mat representatives stated that the mat is now available in a beige/sand color.

Staff then contacted Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors to see if they were interested in the Mobi-Mat and whether they would approve the installation.

On July 17, staff met with Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors officials for a demonstration using County equipment on the Mobi-Mat. The County's largest trucks and tractors passed across the mat with only minor indentations left behind. The County had been concerned with how well the mat would hold up and also how the mat would impact maintenance operations.

Attached is an email from the Chief Deputy Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors stating that the County is not interested in installing the portable walkway but they are not against the City installing it as long as it only goes half way to the shoreline. This is so their maintenance vehicles can pass around the mat.

Staff is concerned that installing the mat half way to the shoreline does not accomplish the goal of allowing seniors and those physically challenged to reach the shoreline.

Location is another concern staff has. The resident who brought this to Council's attention recommends that the walkway be installed south of the Pier near 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Since there are no parking lots near 8<sup>th</sup> Street, staff and the County believe a more suitable location would be near the Pier or near the El Porto parking lots.

Because the County will not permit the walkway to extend to the shoreline, staff recommends not moving forward with the portable mat.

Attachment A: Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors Email

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**From:** Kerry Silverstrom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 26, 2008 1:26 PM  
**To:** 'gdolan@citymb.info'  
**Cc:** Santos Kreimann  
**Subject:** Mobi Mat

Geoff – You might recall a discussion we held about the mobi mat, during which it was suggested by the City that the mobi mat be considered at El Portal. We think that placing it at El Portal makes more sense than any other location at Manhattan Beach because of the accessible ramp, immediately adjacent accessible parking lot, beach location, etc. Nevertheless, we have concerns about the installation of the mat on the beach, including its upkeep and maintenance, damage that can be done to it, damage that can occur because of it, interference with our beach cleaning activities, and the like. Thus, the County is not interested in pursuing this matter.

However, we wanted to specifically point out to you that if the City wishes for the mat to be installed, the County is willing to allow the City to accomplish this pursuant to a right of entry permit with the County, pursuant to which the City would take all responsibility for upkeep, maintenance, repair, liability, and the like. We do need to point out, however, that we are not willing to allow installation of the mat all the way down to the waterline. Instead, we believe that halfway down the beach will allow us to move our equipment around it to clean the volleyball courts and beach further north.

Should the City be interested in pursuing installation of the mat, please just advise us of the individual we should work with on your City staff, and we'll start working on the permit immediately. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Kerry Silverstrom  
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