

Parks and Waterfront Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR October 29, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Parks and Waterfront Commission

Submitted by: Jim McGrath, Chair, Parks and Waterfront Commission

Subject: Rebuilding Berkeley Tuolumne Camp

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

At a regular meeting of the Parks and Waterfront Commission on September 11, 2013, the Commission heard an update on the fire damage at Berkeley Tuolumne Camp from Parks Director Scott Ferris. Over sixty members of the public were in attendance, many from the Friends of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp, and thirteen spoke about the camp during the Public comment portion of the meeting. At the meeting, the Commission approved a resolution that supports the rebuilding of Camp Tuolumne and urges the City Council to pass a resolution stating its determination to rebuild Berkeley Tuolumne Camp (See attached resolution). (M/S/C: Mester/Catalfo): Aye's: Brower; Catalfo; Howard; McGrath; McKay; Mester; Veneziano; No's: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Boland; Brostrom.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Rebuilding the Camp has an as yet unknown cost. It is expected that some funds will be provided by insurance and some funds will be provided by Friends of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp.

BACKGROUND

On August 25, 2013, the Berkeley Tuolumne Camp, a residential family camp operated by the City of Berkeley since 1922, was destroyed by the California Rim Fire. The camp, located near Groveland, CA, in the Stanislaus National Forest, seven miles west of Yosemite National Park, spans an area of 19 square acres. Prior to the fire, the camp had approximately seventy small single-story wood-frame tent cabins, a main dining hall and recreational lodge, several staff buildings, a paved bridge and parking areas, a drinking water system with five large water tanks, an electrical system, and a leach-field sewage system, all of which were located uphill from the south fork of the Tuolumne River. Most of these structures were completely destroyed by the fire.

CONTACT PERSON

Roger Miller, Secretary, Parks and Waterfront Commission, 981-6704.

Attachments:

1: Resolution approved by the Parks and Waterfront Commission

RESOLUTION

(approved by the Parks and Waterfront Commission on September 11, 2013)

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has operated Tuolumne Camp since 1922 under a permit from the United States Forest Service, and

WHEREAS, the Camp has provided outdoor recreational opportunities for generations of Berkeley families and other campers in the thousands, including swimming, fishing, hiking, archery, and communal dining, singing, and celebrations; and

WHEREAS, these healthy activities have provided the citizens of Berkeley and other campers with clean air, rest, exercise, joy, and other benefits; and

WHEREAS, Tuolumne Camp was mostly destroyed by fire on August 25, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley community has been grieving for the loss of our beloved camp; and

WHEREAS, responding to the needs and expressed desire of the community to move forwards rebuilding the camp.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks and Waterfront Commission supports the rebuilding of Camp Tuolumne and urges the City Council to pass a resolution stating its determination to rebuild Berkeley Tuolumne Camp, and that the City of Berkeley negotiate with the U.S. Forest Service, contractors, and other interested parties to advance the rebuilding as soon as feasible, and to the extent feasible to include volunteers in the effort.