

Council Meeting of
February 9, 2010

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Supplemental Material to Council Agenda Item 9B

Attached are additional materials received after the original item was prepared.

Respectfully submitted,



John Jones
Community Services Director

NOTED:



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachments: A) Correspondence from Ron Melin, dated February 5, 2010
B) Correspondence from Dale Lincoln dated February 5, 2010

Ron Melin

22013 Marjorie Ave.

Torrance

OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR & COUNCIL
2010 FEB -5 AM 10:39

I plan on speaking in favor of restoration at the Ocean Basin and opening it to passive recreation.

My Southwood neighborhood is deficient in parks. The nearest park to my house on Marjorie is eight-tenths of a mile away. The Next closest park is one and three-tenths of a mile away. The Ocean basin is four-tenths of a mile from my house. A short walk for most Southwood residents.

Many of the concerns of those living adjacent to the basin are unsubstantiated. Torrance Police statistics show no increase in crime in neighborhoods adjacent to parks when compared to other parts of the city. In Indiana, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Washington, and Nebraska the those living adjacent to abandoned rail lines converted to walking paths have seen no increase in crime but have seen an increase in property values.

Considering the passive nature of this type of recreation, noise will not be a problem at the Ocean basin. The basin will be open just during daylight hours.

In the wettest of years water retention lasts for just a couple of days. Water is quickly absorbed therefore a filtration system will not be needed.

The restoration and upkeep of the basin would give high school students the opportunity of completing community service hours a requirement for graduation. Restoration of the basin will be an excellent opportunity for scouts to complete Eagle Scout Projects.

As it stands now, the eleven acres that make up the Ocean basin is a valuable, unused, recreational resource in a neighborhood void of open space. If grant money is not forthcoming, at the very least the Ocean basin should be restored with native vegetation and open to the neighborhood on weekends.

OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR & COUNCIL

Dale Lincoln
20524 Wayne Ave.
Torrance, CA 90503
(310) 540-1718

2010 FEB -5 PM 3: 22

Mayor Frank Scotto
City Council
City of Torrance
3031 West Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

RE: OCEAN BASIN CONCEPT DESIGN AND GRANT

Honorable Mayor and Council:

I greatly appreciate and commend you for your efforts to create multiuse and enhanced value of our City's storm water basins. Council and city staff have had and will continue to develop many good ideas and plans.

In light of a number of current economic, financial and political issues, here is an idea for an alternative plan for the Ocean Basin. Rather than submitting a potentially contentious grant application for a costly project (requiring the expense and time of an EIR) we could down size and achieve many of the same goals with local funding at greatly reduced start up and on going costs.

Attached is a copy of my oral presentation to Council for February 9, 2010. Please read and consider it before the Council meeting.

Sincerely,



Dale Lincoln

Attachments

cc: Jones, Dettle

PLANNED ADDRESS TO COUNCIL February 9, 2010

Honorable Mayor and Council

I greatly appreciate council and staff's efforts to enhance the value and use of our storm water basins.

Regarding OCEAN Basin, Parks Commission voted 4 to 1 against the concept and there has been strong opposition from adjacent residents who say they have no interest in using the trail and have concerns about nuisance, security and the high cost (regardless of source of public funding).

I recognize Council might vote against this project. Please consider adopting an alternative, which will achieve valuable multiuse of the basin, with out possible negative impacts and do so at a small fraction of the cost.

It may be wise to cancel the grant application, eliminate the rubber trails, parking spaces, access road and infiltration system. Instead, budget for a little aesthetic re-contouring of the bottom and plant native trees and vegetation. This will provide habitat restoration and give a nicer view for surrounding homes. Also, build a small but attractive, lookout vista/rest stop, with a bench, at the existing gate off Merrill Street. Neighborhood walkers from the broader community will then also enjoy a lovely view of the basin and a nice rest stop.

Keep the site closed to daily public access but allow use by permission for educational, scientific or restoration purposes such as volunteers planting wildflowers or a supervised field trip by the science class from Jefferson School (a block and a half away).

Open the basin to the general unsupervised public only four days a year, the first weekends of April and May.

Startup and ongoing costs are minimal but the project will give benefit to both the broader Southwood and Torrance community as well as local neighbors.

This alternative can be implemented by a Council directive to staff. Please consider doing that, this evening.

Thank you.

THE FOLLOWING EXPANDS SOME OF THE POINTS MENTIONED ABOVE

- **Unlike some of our basins where engineered infiltration systems are very beneficial, there is less need at Ocean Basin because there is no out flow and accumulated water naturally infiltrates out in a relatively short time.**

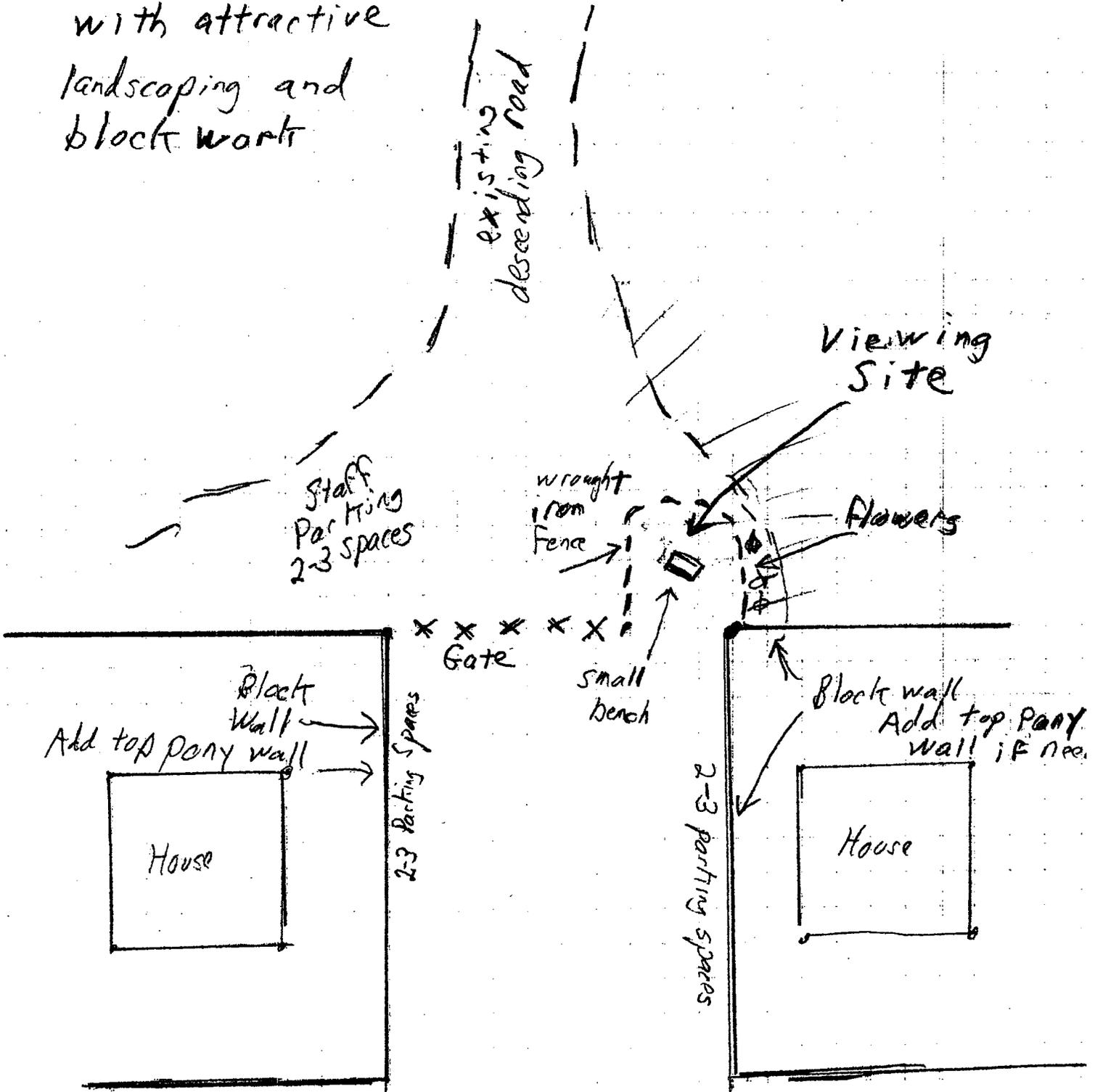
→ unless additional water is pumped in

- **Reduced public access would eliminate the need for rubberized walking trails and, as at Entradero Park, trails could be compacted dirt.**
- **Routine parking needs could be satisfied by making a couple spaces for staff on the existing flat, just inside the gate, and utilizing five or so spaces on the street just outside the gate. There should be no impact on the two adjacent homes behind the block walls but an acrylic, two or three foot pony wall could be installed on top of the existing block to mitigate any issue.**
- **The proposed view point/rest stop need only be about 10 x 12 feet. If made with some wrought iron fencing, decorative block and a little landscaping it could be constructed quite attractively for minimal cost. A rough visual plan is attached.**
- **By removing Ocean from the grant process it may improve chances of getting the other applications accepted. Of the relatively small total amount of Prop 84 funds for a state of 50 million people, it is unknown how much of that pot the grant review people would want to give to Torrance.**
- **With out day-to-day use of the site by the general public the cost of clean up, maintenance, gate opening, park patrols, etc. would be very minimal. However, the public still gets use of the site on the inside under a controlled program and on the outside by passively enjoying the view of a lovely area in a built out city.**

VIEWING SITE / REST STOP

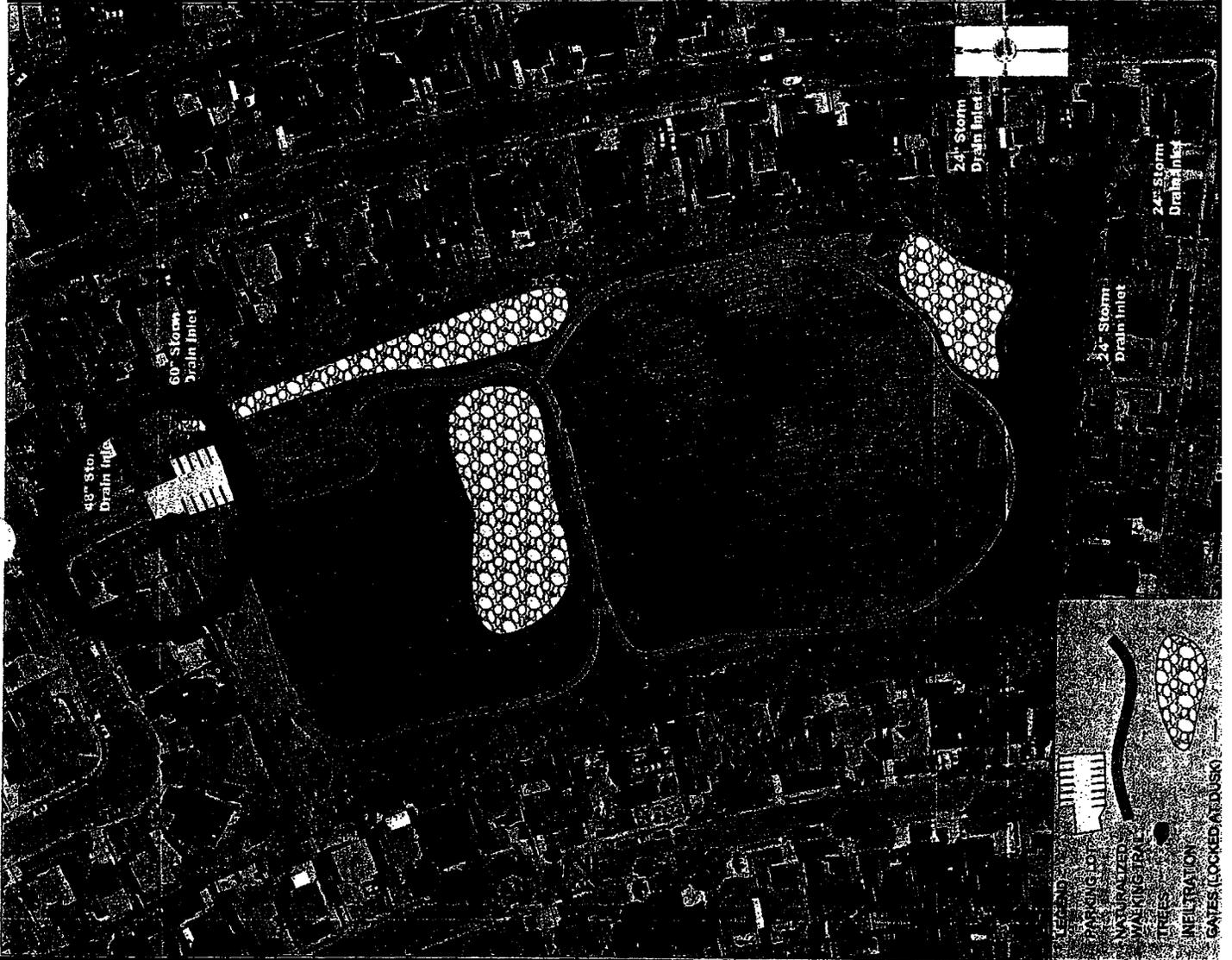
OCEAN BASIN North End Rough Concept Design

Small Bench in about 12'X12" spot,
with attractive
landscaping and
block work



Merrill Street

CONCEPTUAL PLAN



OCEAN BASIN