

Stacey L.

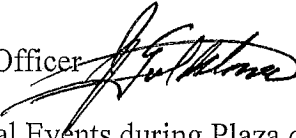


THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 21, 2012

TO: Allen Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff

FROM: Jay M. Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer 

SUBJECT: Permitting Balboa Park Large Special Events during Plaza de Panama Construction

Per your request I asked the Park and Recreation Department staff to provide the background for permitting large special events within Balboa Park during the Plaza de Panama project construction.

On July 9, 2012 City Council approved the Plaza de Panama project. With the City Council's approval and a time line to complete the construction of the project by December 2014. Staff in the Office of Special Events and Park and Recreation Department met with the members of the Plaza de Panama project design/construction team on numerous occasions to discuss the impacts construction would have on Balboa Park operations, including the daily park visitor as well as the large special events which are held year-round within the park.

Based upon those discussions and input from the Balboa Park institutions (museums and restaurants) who expressed concern the year-long construction would have on their operations and finances as well as the uncertainty of the construction timelines due to the edict the project would be complete by December 2014, it was determined by City staff that during the one- year construction period there would be three categories of outdoor permitting.

Category 1 – Requests for outdoor permits for areas throughout the park and within capacity (non-large special events) These permits would be issued through the normal procedures with the permittee/applicant being required to sign the attached "Disclaimer for All Permits Issued Within Balboa Park." This disclaimer would provide the permit holder the information as to the potential of impacts to their scheduled event, including noise, access disruptions, etc..

Category 2 – Requests for outdoor permits for large/over-capacity permits such as special events for areas outside the core of the park directly in the area of the Plaza de Panama construction. These permits would be reviewed and issued via the normal permitting process, but again the permittee/applicant would be required to sign the "Disclaimer for All Permits Issued Within Balboa Park."

Category 3 – Requests for large/over-capacity permits such as special events which were requested for within the core of the park. These permits would not be reviewed and permitted due to the overall impacts that might occur to the event due to the construction of the Plaza de Panama. Any applicant requesting such a permit, however, would be told that staff would evaluate the permit if the permit were to fall in Category 2 and outside of the core of the park.

Staff issues approximately 150 outdoor permits for Balboa Park each year and typically of those issued, approximately 25% are for Citywide Special Events which would fall within the Category 2 or 3, as outlined above. Since staff began this process in July 2012 staff has worked with event coordinators who would fall within Category 3 – a permit for the core of the park to modify and/or change their requested venue to another venue within the City. Attached is the list of various event modifications based upon those discussions.

To give additional context as to the complexity of permitting a large special event within a construction area the following was provided by the Plaza de Panama construction team on scheduling of events and impacts or concerns on the construction.

- The project's design and construction was always sequenced to limit the impacts on the normal daily operations of the park and their daily visitor with the understanding that large special events would be deferred until after completion of the project.
- Starting in April 2013, the excavation and shoring process in the Organ Pavilion parking lot will commence and will involve the removal and hauling of approximately 120,000 cubic yards of soil over to the Arizona Street Landfill site. The process is expected to last over two months, is scheduled to occur in the evening hours to avoid impacts to the daytime operations of the park, and will require between 300-350 truck trips per evening in order to achieve the revised schedule driven out of recent litigation. Attempts to facilitate large events within the park during this operation would cause interference to the construction operation, and conversely, the construction operation would create interference with any event staging, setup, and performance.
- While it was originally anticipated that the project would have work shifts occurring during both daytime and night time hours from Monday - Friday, the revised construction schedule as a result of the litigation may cause work to be performed on Saturdays as well to achieve the completion date. This schedule would create mutual inference between the large event and the construction project.
- Museum operators and other businesses in Balboa Park are already concerned about the financial impact the construction will have on their business. One way the City is attempting to minimize this impact is to try to limit construction to week days only. This would allow parking on weekends for visitors. To tie up limited parking with a large special event would be ill-advised. In addition, many Category 3 events need Friday to set up which would require that construction be shut down on that day as well.

- In addition to the immediate site of the parking structure located at the Organ Pavilion parking lot, contractor staging for all phases of the project will utilize portions of the Federal Lot, Inspiration Lot (for contractor parking), Gold Gulch, and other areas which have been pre-determined as dedicated to contractor staging. Many of these contractor staging areas are commonly used for large event staging, parking, medical/safety and police staging/venue locations which will be rendered unavailable due to the approved project logistics.
- Although public safety is paramount for the project and protective measures have been provided for Balboa Park general use, attendance associated with large events would create unforeseen safety considerations given the physical constraints of the project construction limits within the park. The project has not anticipated that level of risk based on the assurances that large events would be deferred until after construction.

City staff developed a method in which a majority of the requested outdoor permits would be issued to applicants as well as a process in which staff is available to work with the organizers of special events to offer suggestions and assistance in permitting their large special event in an area of Balboa Park outside the construction impacted areas or in some cases to other city venues outside of Balboa Park. I am convinced that staff is being consistent in enforcing these procedures and if the City were to permit one event, I would suspect that other large event organizers who have used the Park in previous years would also demand accommodations.

Jay M. Goldstone
Chief Operating Officer

JMG:sl

Attachments:

1. Disclaimer for Balboa Park Permits
2. Balboa Park Special Event Modification – November, 2012
3. Central Mesa Map

DISCLAIMER FOR ALL PERMITS ISSUED WITHIN BALBOA PARK

EFFECTIVE JULY 20, 2012

The City of San Diego acknowledges that planned construction activities, Facility Use Permits, Park Use Permits and Special Events occurring in Balboa Park between October 1, 2012 and February 2016 may affect the ability to hold your event or activity as well as generate construction noise and impact traffic circulation, parking and overall access to some or all of the Park's venues.

These impacts would result from;

- Construction of Balboa Park improvements in and around the Plaza de Panama, Plaza de California, Spreckels Organ Pavilion parking lot and Alcazar parking lot;
- Temporary and scheduled closures of the Cabrillo Bridge by the California Department of Transportation for purposes of a seismic retrofit, and;
- Park-wide activities celebrating the Centennial of the 1915 Panama-California International Exposition.

With respect to the Park improvements in and around the Plaza de Panama, the City Council approved the Project on July 9, 2012. An aggressive time line to complete the Project scope will lead to an aggressive construction schedule which will start in early October 2012. **The schedule and location of work will be available once it is finalized.**

As with any public works project, the City of San Diego will make every effort to work with event organizers, Applicants for Facility Use and Park Use Permits and the construction contracting team to successfully implement Special Events and other activities during construction, and to stage construction in order to minimize its impact on the public and accommodate a wide variety of concurrent activities.

However, the City of San Diego cannot guarantee the events or activities will take place in traditional venues or on traditional dates, as it reserves the right to modify or suspend Special Event Permits and Facility and Park Use Permits after they have been issued based on the needs of the City.

As an Applicant for a Permit within Balboa Park, I acknowledge that I have read, and understand the foregoing and acknowledge that by accepting this Permit I do so at my own risk. The City of San Diego is not responsible for any costs incurred or lost revenue associated with the planning of a Special Event that is modified, canceled or cannot be scheduled. No refunds for the Permit will be accepted beyond the Permit Refund Policies.

Event Title _____ Event Date _____

Host Organization _____

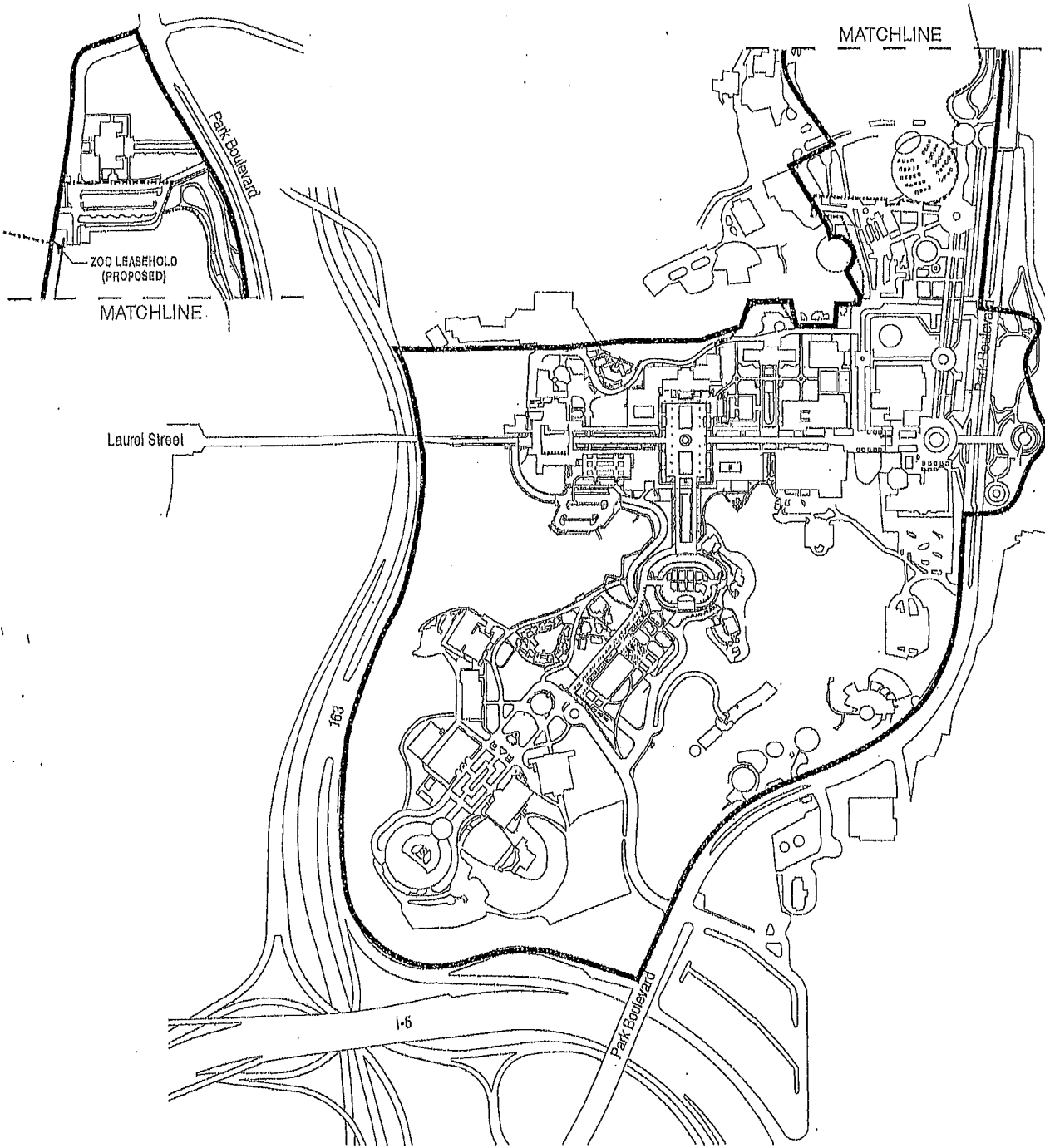
Authorized Representative Signature/Title/Date _____

(This shall be signed by the same Individual who has signed the Permit)

cc: Copy attached to executed Permit

Balboa Park Special Events 2013 Modifications - November 2012

Month of Event	Event	Location Time	Audience	Road/Parking Lot Closures/Description	Modification for 2013
January	Lunar New Year TET Festival	Park & Presidents 8am-10pm	20,000	Federal Bldg. Lot - Used for venue, booths, etc.	Relocated to Mira Mesa
February	Circus Vargas	Lower Inspiration Parking Lot 1:30pm-9:30pm	300 Daily	Lower Inspiration Point - Use for venue/tent.	Relocated to Mission Bay Park
March	Finish Chelsea's Run	Westside/Central Mesa 7am-10am	4,000	Start 6 th & Palm to uniper/Balboa across the Bridge to PdP to PAP Plaza to Presidents Way, Park Blvd to 163, up Quince off-ramp/Finish @Balboa Drive.	Changed route of race course.
March	San Diego Race for Autism	6 th Ave South of El Prado 7am-9:30am	4,000	Start - West of the Bridge to Plaza de Panama to Pan-American Plaza, back across the Bridge & Finish - Balboa Drive.	Changed route of race course.
June	Rock 'n' Roll Marathon	Westside, Park Blvd, Village Pl, El Prado, PdP, Presidents 6am-10:30am	30,000	Start - 6 th Ave, Park Blvd, Village Place, El Prado, Plaza de Panama, Pan-American, Presidents Way to 163 - Out of the Park	Changed route of race course.
July	Old Globe Gala	Alcazar Garden/Lot 5pm-9pm	500	Alcazar Parking Lot closed during setup and during the event.	Relocated event within the institutions.
September	20 th Annual Heart Walk	War Memorial Lawn 7am-11am	9,000	Start - War Memorial Bldg S to Evenson Fountain, El Prado, PdP, across the Bridge, S on Balboa Dr to Marston Pt, back to the Bridge, to El Prado, Village Place, & back to the - Finish War Mem. Bldg.	Relocated out of Balboa Park-location unknown.
November	Father Joe's Thanksgiving Day 5K	Organ Pavilion/Westside 7am-11am	9,000	Start - PdP W across the Bridge, north on Balboa Dr turn around at Upas St, S on 6 th Ave to Juniper St to Marston Pt, Balboa Dr east back across the Bridge - Finish PdP.	*Changed route of race course for 2012. *Changed venue for Nov 2013- SD Zoo



Central Mesa Study Area

revised 5 April 2012

Figure 1

