

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

697C



FROM: Redevelopment Agency

SUBMITTAL DATE:
July 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Thermal Pocket Park Project

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Directors:

1. Make the following findings in accordance with Health & Safety Code Section 33445:
 - a. The construction of the proposed park is a benefit to the Thermal Sub Area of the Desert Communities Project Area (DCPA) by helping to eliminate blight within the project area by expanding recreational opportunities and removing the current blighting condition of the property;
 - b. Due to the current economic crisis, there is limited funding for new capital improvements, and there are no other reasonable means of financing available to the community for this project;

(Continued) REVIEWED BY CIP

Christopher Hans
Christopher Hans

Robert Field
Robert Field
Executive Director

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	2011/12

COMPANION ITEM ON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA: Yes

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Redevelopment Agency Capital Improvement Funds- Desert Communities Project Area	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY: Jennifer L. Sargent
Jennifer L. Sargent

County Executive Office Signature

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY: ANITA C. WILLIS
DATE: 8-2-11
Environmental Concurrence

Dept't Recomm.:
 Per Exec. Ofc.:
 Policy
 Policy
 Consent
 Consent

RECOMMENDED MOTION: (Continued)

- c. The payment of funds for the proposed project is consistent with the implementation plan adopted for the DCPA which includes the development and construction of parks for the improvement of and benefit to the project area;
2. Approve, in concept, the Thermal Pocket Park project;
3. Find that the Thermal Pocket Park project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 and 15061; as there is no possibility that the landscaping and installation of trees, shrubs, and barbecue pits, and related amenities may have a significant effect on the environment; and
4. Direct the Clerk of the Board to file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk for posting.

BACKGROUND:

On April 22, 2008, the Board of Supervisors authorized to the purchase of real property, known as Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN) 757-052-001 thru 757-052-005, located in the Desert Communities Project Area. The proposed Thermal Pocket Park forms a triangular lot located on the corners of Date Street, Church Street and Main Street in the center of the unincorporated community of Thermal.

The above mentioned parcels are presently vacant parcels. The proposed park will help to eliminate blight by preventing further illegal dumping activities and will help in the revitalization of the substandard physical and economic conditions that exist within the community.

The proposed Park has been identified as a community development need; there are very limited recreational facilities in or nearby the community. A recreational field for seasonal sports at a local school site is currently used by the residents for recreational purposes. The proposed park will provide added recreational opportunities and will benefit and enhance the quality of life of the residents.

Through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, RDA staff solicited proposals from qualified firms to provide needed services. After interviewing top three (3) firms, Ian Davidson Landscaping Architects, Inc., was selected to provide the general professional design services.

The total cost to construct the new park will not be known until project is bid; the estimated project cost for the pocket park is approximately \$600,000. The project will be brought back before the Board of Directors once plans and specifications have been completed for approval; attached is a copy of the proposed park plan.

(Continued)
Redevelopment Agency
Thermal Pocket Park Project
July 14, 2011
Page 3

BACKGROUND: (Continued)

The funds for the project will come from RDA capital improvement funds from DCPA and will not impact county general funds. Section 33445 of the Health and Safety Code provides that a Redevelopment Agency may assist in the design or development of public improvements that are of benefit to the project area of immediate neighborhood in which the project is located. The Thermal Pocket Park Project has been in development since July, 2010.

The proposed park is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 and 15061; as there is no possibility that the landscaping , planting trees and shrubs and installation of barbecue pits, benches, gazebos, gravel trails and canopy covered playground equipment within the small pocket park may have a significant effect on the environment. Upon approval of the project, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Clerk of the Board in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

RDA staff recommends that the Board of Directors make the findings in accordance with Health & Safety Code Section 33445 and approve in concept the Thermal Pocket Park Project.

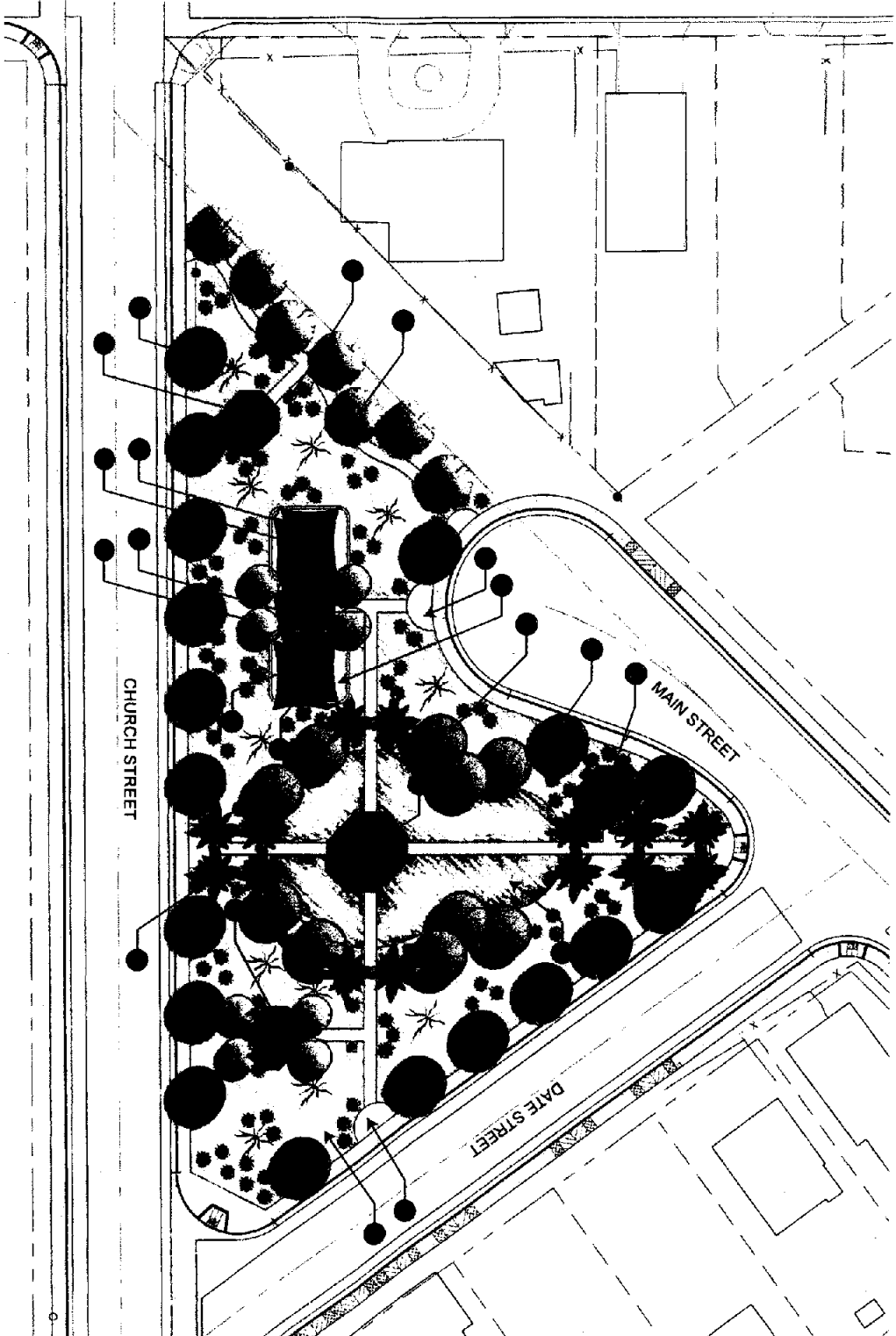
Attachment:
Preliminary Park Plan



THERMAL POCKET PARK

CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE PLAN

IAN DAVIDSON LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
3547 MARKET STREET RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92501 951-683-1283



DESIGN ELEMENTS

- CONCRETE PAVING
- SHADE SAIL STRUCTURE
- GAZEBO
- CONCRETE PAD WITH SHADE STRUCTURE, BARBECUE, PICNIC TABLE & TRASH RECEPTACLE
- BENCH
- TRASH RECEPTACLE
- RUBBERIZED PLAY SURFACE
- SHADE TREE
- STREET TREE
- SCREEN TREE
- ACCENT TREE
- PALM TREE
- DESERT LANDSCAPE PLANTING
- SMALL PLAY STRUCTURE
- ROPE CLIMBER
- FOUR WAY SPRING RIDER
- TRAMP AOPA



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

OCTOBER 2009



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

August 4, 2011

Project Name: Thermal Pocket Park

Project Number: ED14070014

Project Location: Unincorporated portion of Thermal, CA. Latitude: 33° 38' 19" N / Longitude 116° 08' 27" W (APN 757-052-013, 757-052-014, 757-052-015, 757-052-016 and 757-052-017) (See attached Exhibit A).

Description of Project: The Redevelopment Agency for the County of Riverside proposes to construct a public park (Thermal Pocket Park) on approximately 0.96 acres of vacant land located in an unincorporated portion of Thermal, CA. The project site consists of a triangular plot of land comprised of five parcel lots and is bounded by Main Street to the northwest, Church Street to the south, and Date Street to the northeast. The project will be landscaped planted with trees and shrubs and will involve the installation of barbecue pits, benches, gazebos, gravel trails and canopy-covered playground equipment (See attached Exhibit B). The proposed park will serve as an area for recreational gathering for local residents and will improve the overall blighted conditions currently existing within the project area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Redevelopment Agency for the County of Riverside

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Redevelopment Agency for the County of Riverside

Exempt Status: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15304, Minor Alterations To Land, Class 4 and General Rule Exemption Section 15061

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA specifically by CEQA Guidelines:

- Section 15304, Minor Alterations To Land, Class 4 – Consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.
- Section 15061 - With certainty, there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment.

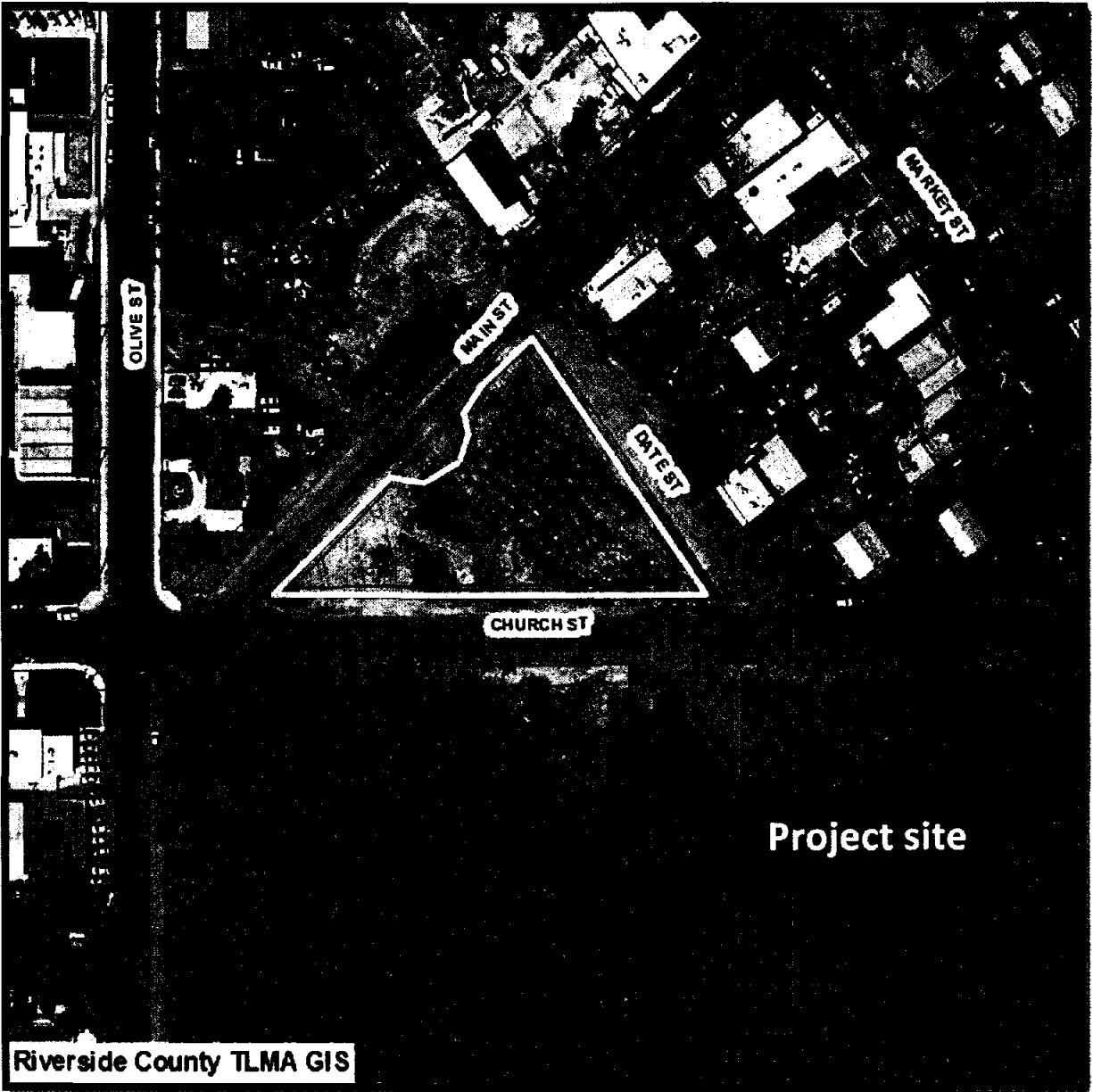
Signed: _____

Date: _____

8-4-11

Charles Waltman, Deputy Director Design and Construction
County of Riverside, Economic Development Agency

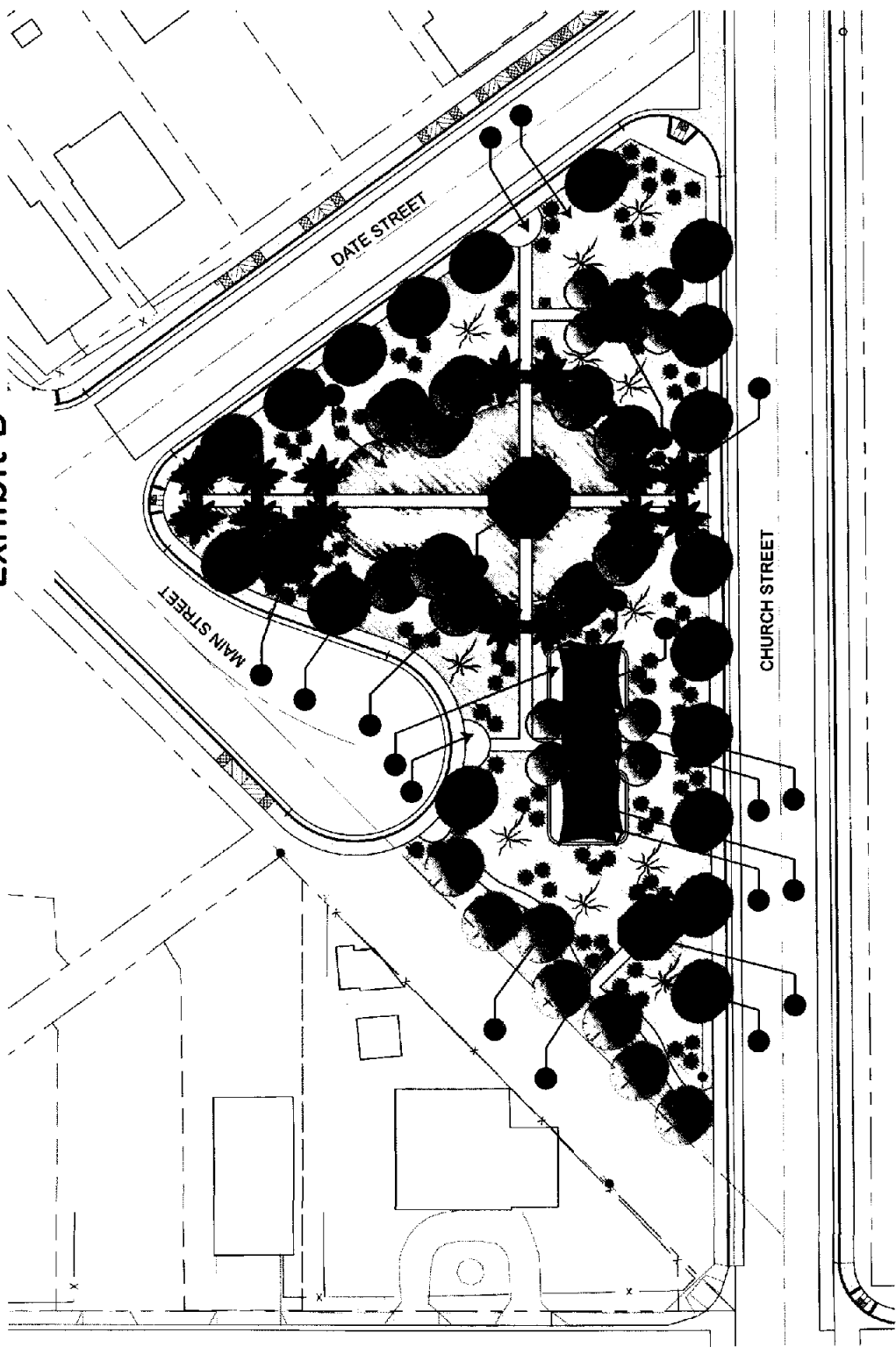
Exhibit A



Riverside County TLMA GIS

Project site

Exhibit B



- DESIGN ELEMENTS**
- CONCRETE PAVING
 - SHADE SAIL STRUCTURE
 - GAZEBO
 - CONCRETE PAD WITH SHADE STRUCTURE, BARBEQUE, PICNIC TABLE & TRASH RECEPTACLE
 - BENCH
 - TRASH RECEPTACLE
 - RUBBERIZED PLAY SURFACE
 - SHADE TREE
 - STREET TREE
 - SCREEN TREE
 - ACCENT TREE
 - PALM TREE
 - DESERT LANDSCAPE PLANTING
 - SMALL PLAY STRUCTURE
 - ROPE CLIMBER
 - FOUR WAY SPRING RIDER
 - TURE AREA

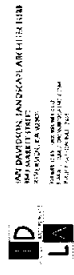
CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE PLAN

THERMAL POCKET PARK

I A N D A V I D S O N L A N D S C A P E A R C H I T E C T
 3547 MARKET STREET RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92501 951-685-1283



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



OCTOBER 2006