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CITY of SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

LE NO.:

ATE : March 8, 1971

: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

OM : City Manager

BJECT: Southeast San Diego Environmental Task Force Report

As a result of Councilman Leon Williams' concern over environmental deficiencies prevalent in the southeast area, a task force was initiated to determine means available to improve such physical conditions in the community. The Southeast San Diego Environmental Task Force was formed on November 23, 1970 consisting of eleven City departments and five community organizations. Included are representatives from Building Inspection, Citizens Assistance, City Council, Community Development, Engineering, Fire Department, Planning Department, Police Department, Public Relations, Public Works, Zoning Administration, Model Cities, Southeast San Diego Development Committee, Urban League of San Diego, Inc., Neighborhood House, and NAACP. Overall coordination is provided by the Community Development representative, while sub-coordination is provided by two subcommittee chairmen from the Public Works and City Planning Departments.

Basically, the purpose of the Task Force was to:

1. Investigate existing manpower, resources, codes, and ordinances, and develop possible immediate, intermediate, and long range solutions to correct environmental deficiencies in the City of San Diego;

2. Investigate and define physical environmental problems in a representative 10± block test area in the Southeast San Diego Model Neighborhood;

3. Coordinate proposals with local organizations, i.e., Urban League and the Model Cities committee;

4. Prepare an action program for City Council approval; and

5. Initiate implementation and monitoring procedures.

So far the Task Force has had seven regular meetings and one bus tour. During the bus tour the Task Force selected the proposed 15± small block test area bounded by 32nd Street to the west, Imperial Avenue to the north, Wabash Boulevard to the east, and Interstate 5 to the south. The test area was selected because it has major physical problems found in other environmentally deficient areas of the City, including zoning, building, fire, police, engineering, and public health violations.

Based on the study and findings, the following actions are recommended:

1. That the Planning Commission be directed to amend the C, M-1, and M-2 zones requiring screening.

2. That the City Manager and City Attorney be directed to prepare a Weed and Litter Abatement program by utilizing the State Government Code as a guide. After the first year of the program, it is believed that field operations and administration would be self-supporting by charging property owners for enforcement of code violations after giving them sufficient notice.

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3. Continue abatement of violations under existing procedures, and direct the City Manager to test the field representative concept for possible incorporation with the Weed and Litter Abatement program, and weekend clean-up programs.

4. Direct the City Manager as far as possible to furnish City support of City vehicles and staff to haul away materials collected on special community weekend clean-ups. It is recommended that the Model Neighborhood be the first priority area for periodic weekend clean-ups. In this regard, the Urban League Block Clubs are prepared to provide citizen support for the clean-up program.

5. Lastly, it is recommended that a Public Information program be initiated through the Public Relations Director concerning the environmental program.

Walter Hahn Jr.

WALTER HAHN, Jr.

WH/KHM