



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Parks
Department No.: 052
For Agenda Of: April 14, 2009
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Daniel C. Hernandez (568-2461)
Director(s)
Contact Info: Jeff Stone, North County Deputy Parks Director (934-6145)

SUBJECT: Allocation of \$178,000 from the Orcutt Development Fee Agency Fund Towards
Playground and Pond Improvements at Waller Park in Santa Maria; Fourth
Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors approve a budget revision to appropriate \$178,000 from the Orcutt Development Fee Agency Fund (#1398) towards the playground improvements and purchase and installation of an aeration and ozone system for the ponds at Waller Park in Santa Maria.

Summary Text:

Waller Park is a 154-acre park located in Santa Maria. It serves a diverse population and attracts over 760,000 annual visitors who enjoy the park and its many amenities. It is well-known for its urban forest setting and community support is widespread as many civic and private organizations hold their annual functions within the park. Waller Park contains youth baseball fields, family and group picnic sites, playgrounds, a Frisbee golf course, an off-leash dog park (which now features a dog wash/grooming station), pony rides, and ornamental ponds where the public can fish and feed the ducks and geese.

The Parks Department has conducted audits of the playgrounds within Waller Park, which revealed some shortcomings in terms of playground surface safety standards and safe-fall zone requirements. Additionally, issues have been identified regarding water clarity and quality in the ponds at Waller Park.

The total cost to address these public health and safety concerns at the park is estimated at \$218,000. An allocation of \$40,000 from General Fund deferred maintenance capital funding is currently budgeted

Subject: Allocation of \$178,000 from the Orcutt Development Fee Fund for Playground and Pond Improvements at Waller Park

Agenda: April 14, 2009

for these projects. An additional \$178,000 from the Orcutt Development Fee Fund (#1398) would provide sufficient funds to complete these projects.

It is therefore recommended that \$178,000 be allocated from the Orcutt Development Fee Fund for these improvement projects.

Background:

Waller Park is a 154-acre park located in Santa Maria. It serves a diverse population and attracts over 760,000 annual visitors who enjoy the park and its many amenities and is by far the most heavily used of the North County day use parks. It is well-known for its urban forest setting and community support is widespread as many civic and private organizations hold their annual functions within the park. Waller Park contains youth baseball fields, family and group picnic sites, playgrounds, a Frisbee golf course, an off-leash dog park (which now features a dog wash/grooming station), pony rides, and ornamental ponds where the public can fish and feed the ducks and geese.

The Parks Department has conducted audits of the playgrounds within Waller Park. The playground surfacing in the large playground in the front of the park does not meet current California Playground Safety Standards (CPSS) nor does it meet the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) safe-fall zone requirements. The play surfacing is currently sand and due to regulatory requirements must be replaced by 2010. We have prepared a site plan and received an estimate to install approximately 7,755 sq. ft. of pour in place rubberized playground surfacing within the fall zones of the front play areas. This play area is utilized by thousands of children and provides a multi-play area for children of all ages. Funding of this project, at a cost of \$75,000, would provide a safe play environment for children and improve the play quality of the existing structures.

The rear play area at Waller Park has a current fall surface of fill sand. This surfacing is inadequate and is required to be replaced by 2010. The surfacing does not meet current ASTM fall zone requirements. We propose to replace the current surfacing with engineered wood fiber which meets all current ADA and ASTM requirements. Funding of this proposal, at a cost of \$10,000, would increase the play value and experience of the children utilizing the structures.

The Friends of Waller Park recently purchased a large play structure for installation in the Don Potter section of Waller Park. Funding for this project, at a cost of \$70,000, would provide for the installation and safe-fall surfacing for the entire location. The project would include installation, concrete substrate for the pour-in-place safe-fall surfacing, curbing, walkways, and ADA access. The total cost of these three surfacing projects would be \$155,000.

Waller Park has two ornamental ponds, with fountains, in the park. These ponds are they crown jewel of the park given that they provide a beautiful visual welcome to everyone entering the park. Not only do the ponds provide aesthetic value, but they are used by children and families for fishing and to feed the ducks and geese that call the park and ponds their home. The ponds are constructed such that one is located at a higher elevation than the other, with a manufactured stream flowing from one pond to the other in order to maintain water levels. There is a fountain in each pond that provides a visual element and helps circulate the water. Maintaining the water clarity and quality of the water in the ponds has been difficult due to the high amount of organic matter deposited in the ponds from the ducks and geese, as well as from people feeding them.

Subject: Allocation of \$178,000 from the Orcutt Development Fee Fund for Playground and Pond Improvements at Waller Park

Agenda: April 14, 2009

Parks staff has explored and evaluated different methods to improve the water quality and has been advised that an ozone system and additional aeration of the ponds would improve the aesthetics, odor, and quality of the water. Staff has contacted a commercial company with expertise in the field and has received a recommendation on the type of equipment required. Funding of this project, estimated at \$23,000, would greatly improve the aesthetic value of the ponds and enhance the recreational experience for families and children who utilize the ponds.

The total cost for all of the playground and pond improvements is \$218,000. An allocation of \$40,000 from General Fund deferred maintenance capital funding is currently budgeted for some of these projects. An additional \$178,000 from the Orcutt Development Fee Fund (#1398) would provide sufficient funds to complete these projects. It is therefore recommended that \$178,000 be allocated from the Orcutt Development Fee Fund for these projects.

The Park Commission approved this funding request at its January 22, 2009 meeting.

Performance Measure:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees (Orcutt Development Fee Fund)	\$ 178,000.00		\$ 178,000.00
Other:			
Total	\$ 178,000.00	\$ -	\$ 178,000.00

Narrative:

The requested funding (\$178,000) is available from the Orcutt Development Fee Agency Fund (#1398). Use of the Orcutt Development Fee funds are restricted to park or recreational facilities within the Orcutt Quimby and Development Fee Demand Area. The current combined balance in the Orcutt Quimby and Development Fee Agency Funds is \$949,703. Approval of this request will reduce the remaining balance in these Funds to \$771,703.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board to provide a copy of the minute order to the Parks Department/Administration, Attn: Mike Gibson.

Page: 4 of 4

Subject: Allocation of \$178,000 from the Orcutt Development Fee Fund for Playground and Pond Improvements at Waller Park

Agenda: April 14, 2009

Authored by:

Jeff Stone, North County Deputy Parks Director

CC:

Mike Gibson, Parks Business Manager

Juan Beltranena, Parks Project Manager