

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 3/4/03
Department Name: Parks
Department No.: 052
Agenda Date: 3/18/03
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Terri Maus-Nisich
Parks Director

STAFF CONTACT: Mike Gibson
Business Manger (568-2477)

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Private Donations for Construction of a New Playground at University Circle Open Space; Second Supervisorial District

Recommendations:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Accept donations from the University Circle Playground Committee, received through the Santa Barbara County Park Foundation, totaling \$33,588, for use towards the construction of a new playground at University Circle Open Space in the Goleta area.
- B. Approve the attached budget revision to appropriate \$33,588 in unanticipated revenue from these private donations to the University Circle Playground capital project in the Park ACO Fund (0030).

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 5 – A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In March 2002, the Parks Department was contacted by neighbors living near the University Circle neighborhood park (open space) in the Goleta area who were concerned with the condition of the 15-year-old wooden playground equipment located within this open space area. Parks Department staff met with a group of neighbors at this time and informed them that the replacement of this equipment was not included in the Parks Department's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), as projected out for the next several years. The neighbors offered to fund-raise and partner with the Parks Department to upgrade the existing playground equipment outside of the regular CIP cycle.

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Staff agreed to participate in a replacement plan that depended heavily on neighborhood fund-raising and volunteerism. In order to secure volunteers to raise funds and support this project, the neighbors formed a group they called the "University Circle Playground Committee" (UCPC). The UCPC agreed to utilize an existing community foundation, the Raintree Foundation, to receive most of the money generated through its fund-raising efforts in order that individual donors could receive tax credits for their donations.

The estimated total cost to replace the play equipment is \$76,000. The Parks Department has committed a total of \$42,000 for this project. This is comprised of a \$15,000 allocation from the South Coast West Quimby Fee Trust Fund (#1400) and \$27,000 reallocated from prior year CIP funding remaining from other completed Parks' playground projects. This funding participation was approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 24, 2002. The Parks Department will also provide the labor for installation of the equipment.

The UCPC raised a total of \$33,588 through its fund-raising efforts, which consisted of many individual donations from area neighbors as well as sizable donations from foundations and businesses (e.g., Raintree Foundation - \$15,000; Hutton Foundation - \$5,000, Venoco Foundation - \$2,500, and Mid-State Bank Foundation - \$1,000). In order for these individuals and organizations to receive the tax benefits associated with the donations, these funds will be received by the Parks Department through the Santa Barbara County Park Foundation, which is designated as a 501 (c) (3) organization with the Internal Revenue Service.

When the UCPC donations are combined with the Parks Department's contribution of \$42,000, total funding available for this project is now \$75,588. This will be adequate to complete the new playground construction.

Mandates and Service Levels:

There are no mandates or changes in service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Total estimated construction costs for the playground and equipment replacement is \$76,000. With the donation of \$33,588 from the UCPC and the \$42,000 previously committed by the Parks Department, total funding available for this project is \$75,588, which will be sufficient to complete the project. This funding is located in the Park ACO Capital Fund (0030), Department 052, Program 1931, Project 8510, Line Item Account 8700. The Parks Department will also provide the labor for installation of the equipment.

There is no impact to facilities that requires additional staffing or other ongoing costs.

Special Instructions:

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

Concurrence:

Auditor-Controller

