



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: 6/2/09
Placement: Set Hearing for 6/16/09
Estimated Tme: 45 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

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

**SUBJECT: Set Hearing for Adoption of Resolution Prohibiting Use of Alcohol in the
Recreational and Open Space Areas Commonly Known as Orcutt Community
Park; Fourth Supervisorial District**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors set a hearing for June 16, 2009 (estimated 45 minutes) to:

- a) Approve a resolution to prohibit the use of alcohol in the recreation and open space areas commonly known as Orcutt Community Park located within the community of Orcutt.

Summary Text:

In February 2009, the Board of Supervisors accepted the grant deed to Orcutt Community Park, a 26-acre public park, which was developed as a condition of the Rice Ranch residential development in the community of Orcutt. This community park, along with four neighborhood parks, an elementary school, and a network of connecting trails, will provide much needed recreational amenities for the greater Orcutt community.

Currently, consumption of alcohol is allowed within the majority of the County's parks. However, on December 14, 2004, the Board of Supervisors authorized the use of alcohol by permit only in parks, recreation areas, open spaces, and beach access ways within the community of Isla Vista. On that same date, the Board adopted an ordinance amending Chapter 26 of the County Code to allow the Board of Supervisors, by resolution, to prohibit the possession of an open container or use of alcohol in any County recreation area.

Orcutt Community Park includes active recreation areas containing soccer fields, baseball fields, and a concession stand. The majority of park activities will cater to youth and/or family groups and organizations, which are not conducive to alcohol consumption.

It is therefore recommended that the Board approve the attached resolution prohibiting the possession of an open container or use of alcohol within Orcutt Community Park.

Background:

In February 2009, the Board of Supervisors accepted the grant deed to Orcutt Community Park, a 26-acre public park, which was developed as a condition of the Rice Ranch residential development in the community of Orcutt. Rice Ranch was developed as part of the Orcutt Community Plan and was approved by the County through a specific plan process. Public participation and input provided at Planning Commission and Park Commission workshops and hearings, supported by consultant studies and reports, contributed greatly to defining the recreational needs of the Orcutt community that lead to the designation of a community park as the centerpiece of this development project. The community park, along with four neighborhood parks, an elementary school, and a network of trails, will provide much needed recreational amenities for the greater Orcutt community, which is currently approaching a population of 30,000.

The developer of Rice Ranch, Rice Ranch Ventures, LLC, of Santa Maria, agreed to deliver to the County a turnkey community park with the desired recreational amenities on the 26-acre site designated in the specific plan. This community park will serve the growing Orcutt community and provide parks and sports facilities within walking and bicycling distance of the residents, as well as trails in close proximity that will link to the broader regional open space trails network.

During the vast majority of time, the consumption of alcohol in County parks and recreation areas is done in a reasonable and responsible manner. The acceptance of Orcutt Community Park and those improvements and amenities contained within the park, however, brings with it a new level of responsibility for the County Parks Department. The inclusion of an active recreation element containing soccer fields, baseball fields, and a concession stand requires County Parks to work directly with youth groups in scheduling field time and managing agreements with the local youth sports groups for the duration of their respective seasons. The majority of park activities will cater to youth and/or family groups and organizations, which are not compatible with alcohol consumption. The areas where the family picnic and group picnic areas are located are directly adjacent to the only play structure in the park, which will be heavily utilized by both preschool-aged children as well as children up to 12 years of age.

In a review of other park jurisdictions and facilities where youth recreation is the primary activity, all prohibit alcohol consumption to some extent. In these jurisdictions, there is either a blanket prohibition of alcohol consumption in all of the parks, or alcohol consumption is prohibited within certain parks where youth activities take place. The City of Santa Maria prohibits alcohol in all of its parks, including all active recreation fields and facilities. Those agencies that do have an alcohol prohibition in place cited increased maintenance concerns, safety issues related to public intoxication, vandalism, trash and debris, broken glass, and the use of foul language as their main reasons for banning alcohol consumption in their parks.

Currently, consumption of alcohol is allowed within the majority of the County's parks. However, on December 14, 2004, the Board of Supervisors authorized the use of alcohol by permit only in parks, recreation areas, open spaces, and beach access ways within the community of Isla Vista. On that same date, the Board adopted an ordinance amending Chapter 26 of the County Code that governs County parks to add Section 26-17 (c), which states: "The Board of Supervisors may, by resolution, designate any County recreation area as an area in which the possession of an open container or use of alcohol is prohibited. Upon passage of such resolution, the Parks Director shall cause signs to be posted in the area subject to the prohibition. After the posting of signs, no person shall use or possess an open container of alcohol in a County recreation area designated pursuant to this section."

Due to the predominance of youth and family-oriented activities in the Orcutt Community Park, it is recommended that the Board approve the attached resolution prohibiting the possession of an open container or use of alcohol within the park. As noted, the resolution must specifically set forth the areas to be impacted. In this instance, the County property known as Orcutt Community Park, and all areas within the 26-acre park boundaries, are proposed for inclusion in the resolution prohibiting alcohol use.

The Park Commission unanimously approved the alcohol prohibition for Orcutt Community Park at its March 26, 2009 meeting and also recommended a resolution be presented to the Board of Supervisors approving this policy recommendation.

Performance Measure:

N/A.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal or facilities impacts associated with the recommended action.

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

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Resolution Prohibiting Use of Alcohol in Orcutt Community Park

Authored by:

Jeff Stone, North County Deputy Parks Director

cc:

Mike Gibson, Parks Business Manager