



**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: CSD – Parks Division
Department No.: 052
For Agenda Of: April 3, 2018
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 15 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director(s)
Contact Info: Brian Yanez, Deputy Director, Parks Division (805) 568-2475

SUBJECT: **Approve the San Marcos Park Master Plan; and authorize the review of Master Plan consistency with the adopted EIR for the property, 2nd District**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- a) Approve the preliminary Master Plan for San Marcos Park; and
- b) Authorize the Parks Division to proceed with evaluation of environmental compatibility and consistency with the adopted EIR and conditions of development for the parcels; and
- c) Determine that the above recommended actions involve a feasibility or planning study for possible future actions which the County has not approved, adopted or funded and are thereby statutorily exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (Attachment A).

Summary Text:

The San Marcos Park Master Plan (Master Plan) proposes a conceptual design for passive recreation and park development opportunities on 3 parcels of County owned land totaling 10 acres. These parcels were dedicated for park purposes to the County with the approval and recordation of Tract Map 14,585 for The Preserve at San Marcos residential subdivision in 2006. The park parcels are adjacent to and serve as a gateway to the 200 acre County-owned San Marcos Foothills Preserve, dedicated to the County in 2007. The park parcels are near Hwy 154 at the end of Via Gaitero, north of Cathedral Oaks/Foothill Roads.

The new proposed park will provide passive recreation and park amenities (e.g. pathways, trails, seating and small viewing areas, off-leash dog areas, comfort station, etc.) The Master Plan for the park was reviewed by the County Parks Commission on December 7, 2017 and January 25, 2018 (Attachment B). The Parks Commission unanimously supported the plan and recommended the Master Plan for Board approval.

The Preserve at San Marcos subdivision, TM14,585, included the three park parcels dedicated to the County for a public park in its conditions of approval and the adopted EIR. County Parks will work with County Planning and Development to determine final consistency of the Master Plan with the EIR and permit compliance with the conditions of approval from the tract map.

Background:

The San Marcos Park consists of 3 parcels totaling approximately 10 acres that were dedicated to the County as part of a residential subdivision and set aside for a future passive park. The park parcels are adjacent to the 200 acre San Marcos Foothills Preserve and are maintained by County Park Division. These three parcels were dedicated to the County by the developer explicitly for passive park purposes and to further the recreation opportunities of the Eastern Goleta Valley. The park parcels are separate from the 200 acres dedicated to the County for purposes of a Preserve.

Park staff and a team of consultants consisting of landscape architects, planners, engineers and biologists participated in the completion of the preliminary Master Plan for the three parcels totaling 10 acres off of Via Gaitero. The consultant team and park staff together worked on a program for the Master Plan that was compatible with the site. The consultants and staff collected input and ideas brought forth in the public workshops and surveys, which were incorporated into the Master Plan for passive opportunities on these park parcels.

The public outreach process for the Master Plan consisted of outreach to members of the public from existing data bases created through a previous planning project, the San Marcos Preserve Management project (2014). In addition, a general press release to County contacts was generated as well as the targeted mailing of meeting notices sent to a designated radius of neighbors surrounding the park parcels. Park staff and the consultant team conducted three hands-on public workshops (one weekday evening and three weekend sessions) where the public was provided information relevant to the park master plan process and then was invited to give their input. At the final session the public participants were able to be hands-on and put their ideas on plans of the park sites to be considered along with all the other information taken into account for the park design by the landscape architects. Prior to the final workshop session, park staff and the consultant team also invited the public to join them on a Saturday visit to the site where the park parcels had been staked out and the public could get a sense of the topography and aspect of the three park parcels.

Upon Board of Supervisor's approval and confirming final consistency with Planning and Development on the EIR and permit compliance with the conditions of approval from the tract map, staff will commence with construction drawings dependent on available funding.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Construction for the Master Plan is currently unfunded. Sources for funding may come from County Service Area 3, as San Marcos Park is within its boundaries. Additional funding may be available from Parks Quimby, AB1600 mitigation funds, and possible grants.

Special Instructions:

Please send an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Claude Garciacelay, Park Planner, at CGarcia@sbparks.org

Attachments:

- A) CEQA Notice of Exemption
- B) Minutes from the December 7, 2017 and January 25, 2018, Parks Commission
- C) Master Plan illustrations prepared by Arcadia Studios, Santa Barbara