



# Memorandum

**TO:** CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE **FROM:** Albert Balagso

**SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
BOND PROJECTS**

**DATE:** 03-23-09

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Approved

Date

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Accept this report on the status of San Jose Safe Neighborhood Parks and Recreation Bond Projects.

## **OUTCOME**

This report provides an opportunity for the Citizen Oversight Committee to review the status of the projects funded by the San José Safe Neighborhood Parks and Recreation Bond Program (Parks Bond Program) approved by voters in November 2000. It also provides the community the opportunity to provide input on the remaining projects to be delivered by the Parks Bond Program.

## **BACKGROUND**

In November 2000, the City of San José voters approved a \$228 million General Obligation Bond, specifically known as the San José Safe Neighborhood Parks and Recreation Bond (Measure P), for the purpose of acquiring property for and constructing improvements to parks and recreation facilities throughout the City. This bond passed with an over 78% approval rating.

On April 10, 2001, the City Council designated the Parks and Recreation Commission as a Committee of the Whole (Committee) to conduct the citizen's oversight review responsibilities associated with Measure P. The Citizen Oversight Committee provides the public with opportunities to understand, review, and address any significant and relevant issues related to the implementation of the parks and recreation bond projects.

On August 6, 2008 and November 5, 2008, the Citizen Oversight Committee for the Parks and Recreation Bond Projects conducted public hearings wherein the status of remaining projects to

be delivered under the Parks Bond Program as of the end of the Parks Bond Program's eighth fiscal year (2007-2008) was discussed. This report provides an update on the status of the projects through February 28, 2009.

## **ANALYSIS**

Fiscal Year 2008-2009 marks the ninth year of the City's implementation of the Parks Bond Program. By the end of February 2009, improvements to sixty-nine neighborhood parks and five of the seven regional parks projects, construction of seven of the nine community centers and three of the five trail projects had been completed. The construction of Happy Hollow Park and Zoo – Phases I and II, two sports complexes, two community centers, and two trail projects remain to be completed. Following is the status of these remaining projects:

### **Regional Facilities**

The renovation and expansion of the approximately 12 acres of the Happy Hollow attractions (Phase IIa) began on February 2, 2008 and are currently 60% complete. Construction completion is scheduled for fall 2009. Major construction activities in progress include interior painting, animal holding caging work, door and door hardware work, electrical, and plumbing for the new buildings in the new zoo area. Lemur pier footings and lemur waterfall ponds are in progress. Construction for attractions work began on July 9, 2008. Demolition and ride operator booth concrete pads are complete. Redwood lookout playground footings and shotcrete wall footings are in progress in the attractions area.

Phases IIb of the project is a pedestrian bridge across the Coyote Creek that will connect a new parking lot (Phase I) and other development on the east side of Coyote Creek. The redesign of the pedestrian bridge is completed and is out to bid. The design of the parking lot component is also near completion, with bidding expected in May, and with a final revision tied to a realignment of the bridge underway. The parking lot construction schedule will coincide with the pedestrian bridge schedule

### **Community Centers Projects**

Two new community centers opened to the public since the last report to the COC in November. The Roosevelt Community Center opened in December 2008. The Mayfair Community Center opened to the public in January 2009. With the opening of these two centers, the Parks Bond Program has delivered seven of the nine community centers in the program.

The construction of the Seven Trees Community Center and Branch Library is now 29% complete and is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2010. The construction of Bascom Library and Community Center started in September of 2008, is now 17% complete and is scheduled for completion in fall of 2010.

### **Trail Projects**

The two remaining trail projects to be completed are the Coyote Creek Trail (Tully Road to Los Lagos Golf Course) project and the Guadalupe River Trail Reach 6 (Woz Way to Virginia Street) project. Construction has started on the Coyote Creek Trail and is expected to be completed in July 2009. Design work on Guadalupe River Trail Reach 6 (Woz Way to Virginia Street) is 95% complete and final permits are being sought from Caltrans. Construction is estimated to start in the summer of 2009 pending availability of frozen State grants.

### **Sports Parks**

Staff is no longer pursuing the development of a Bond funded facility at the San Jose State University south campus. However, staff is evaluating other potential options, scenarios and sites for the construction of sports fields. Staff is currently in discussions with East Side Union High School District to place a sports complex on School District owned land. On December 16, 2008, the City Council approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the shared planning, development and operation of recreational facilities. In 2009, the District and City will analyze potential sites for sport field partnerships.

An evaluation of all potential options, scenarios, and sites for the construction of sports fields continues. This evaluation will ensure that the City delivers the best possible sports parks to the residents of San José.

The City remains committed to completing all remaining Parks Bond projects within the 2009-2013 Capital Improvement Program. To ensure completion of projects, staff continues to implement cost management strategies which include, but are not limited to, requiring that the funding needs for the successful completion of the bond programs be considered prior to funding new capital projects in the City's Capital Budget, placing completion of the Bond programs as a priority over new projects when seeking external Federal and State grant funding, and re-scoping of projects.

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For questions please contact Matt Cano, Division Manager, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services at (408) 535-3580.

