

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Nicholas J. Calderon, Parks Director
Subject: **Executive Summary:** Flood County Park Landscape Plan and Final Revised Environmental Impact Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing:

1. The approval of the Flood County Park Landscape Plan; and
2. The certification of the Flood County Park Landscape Plan's Final Revised Environmental Impact Report and Errata; and
3. Adoption of California Environmental Quality Act Findings of Facts and a Statement of Overriding Consideration; and
4. Adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, the Parks Department ("Department") initiated the Re-imagine Flood Park Project ("Project") with the desire to overhaul Flood Park's aging and obsolete infrastructure and amenities. The first step in the Project was to develop a landscape plan ("2015 Landscape Plan"). To gather community input regarding the features to be included in the 2015 Landscape Plan, the Department held six community workshops, posted an on-line survey and conducted in-person surveying. More than 500 individuals participated in the workshops and another 220 people submitted survey responses.

As proposed in the 2015 Landscape Plan, the park's baseball/softball field would be renovated, a new multi-use sport field would be constructed, and passive recreation improvements would be upgraded/added including, but not limited to, playgrounds, picnic/reservation sites, tennis courts, volleyball courts, and a pump track. The Department used the 2015 Landscape Plan as a basis for the environmental review which included the development of a draft, final, revised draft, and now a revised final Environmental Impact Report ("EIR").

On November 5, 2019, the Department presented the 2015 Landscape Plan and its EIR to your Board for consideration. During public testimony, concerns were expressed regarding (1) the proximity of the multi-use soccer/lacrosse field to

neighboring residences on Del Norte Avenue, (2) noise levels generated by programmed use of the sport fields, and (3) the accuracy of visitor projections. As a result, your Board directed the Department to re-evaluate the 2015 Landscape Plan to determine if revisions could be made to resolve concerns. Upon re-evaluation of the data collected during the Project's public engagement process, speaking with other park agencies that operate sport fields, and analyzing potential environmental impacts created by relocating proposed amenities, the Department prepared the 2020 Landscape Plan.

DISCUSSION

The Department completed the Project's Draft EIR in September of 2017. The Draft EIR identified 10 potential environmental impacts, and found that almost all significant impacts could be reduced to a less-than-significant level through mitigation. The Department received 79 comments during the Draft EIR's public review/comment period, some of which expressed concerns regarding noise, proximity of the multi-use sport field to houses, potential loss of mature trees, localized parking and traffic impacts and air quality.

The Final EIR, published in May of 2018, included responses to all 79 comments. The Final EIR determined that traffic congestion at the intersection of Bay Road and Ringwood Avenue was the only impact that could not be feasibly mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

When the Final EIR was issued, members of the public expressed concerns regarding projected growth in park usage and noise levels during concurrently held events. In response to these concerns, the Project's consultant conducted additional analysis. The Department issued a Draft Revised EIR in August of 2019 which uses adjusted visitor use data to project impacts and analyzes noise levels based on forecasted peak visitor usage.

The Department circulated the Draft Revised EIR (Attachment C) for a 45-day public review/comment period in August and September of 2019, and received 16 written comments in response. At a public meeting at the Fair Oaks Community Center on September 17, 2019, the Department received an additional 11 comments.

The Final Revised EIR (Attachment D), which was made available to the public on October 28, 2019, includes responses to all comments along with additional mitigation measures. The Final Revised EIR identified one significant and unavoidable impact: traffic noise on Ringwood Avenue during projected Saturday peak use (noon to 4 p.m.). Due to this impact, your Board must make Findings of Facts and adopt a Statement of Overriding Consideration to certify the Final Revised EIR (Resolution, Exhibit A).

Based on the directive given by your Board on November 5, 2019, the Department prepared the 2020 Landscape Plan. Analysis of the 2020 Landscape Plan conducted

by the Project's environmental consultants identified no new or significant environmental impact created by the proposed changes (when compared to the 2015 Landscape Plan), and therefore the Department did not need to re-circulate the Final Revised EIR to comply with CEQA. However, an Errata to the Final Revised EIR (Attachment E) is required to clarify and correct non-material information therein.

Should the Board certify the Final Revised EIR, the Department will select a design firm to develop detailed plans and specifications for a re-designed Flood Park. Working with the designers, the Department will also re-engage the community to gather further input on specific park features.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution and Final Revised EIR as to form and content.

FISCAL IMPACT

Appropriations for the design phase are included in the Department's FY 2020-21 Adopted Budget. The Department will collaborate with the San Mateo County Parks Foundation to raise additional funds as anticipated construction costs may exceed current budgeted amounts.