



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Parks



**Date:** September 13, 2016  
**Board Meeting Date:** November 1, 2016  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Marlene Finley, Parks Director

**Subject:** County Parks Vehicle Entry Fee Waiver

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution authorizing a change to the San Mateo County Parks Fee Schedule to waive vehicle entry fee for U.S. military veterans presenting proof of veteran status, including a San Mateo County Veterans ID.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the request of Supervisor Slocum's office, the Department reviewed the viability of waiving the parks entry fee for military veterans to promote issuance of San Mateo County Veterans ID cards to the approximately 33,000 San Mateo County residents who are veterans and eligible for the ID cards. These ID cards are provided by the County's Human Services Agency's Veterans Services Office.

**DISCUSSION:**

County Parks has begun using an electronic gate system for paid entry to the Coyote Point Recreation Area and has plans to install similar entry fee equipment at other parks. In discussion with staff, the Parks Director has determined that the use of the Veterans ID card for entry fee waiver at the electronic gate system is possible to accommodate.

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the vehicle entry fee waiver proposal at its October 6, 2016 regular meeting and unanimously approved a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to amend the parks fee schedule to provide that the vehicle entry fee be waived for veterans of the U.S. Armed Services with valid ID and that the San Mateo County Veterans ID card serves as satisfactory proof of such status.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

Approval of this resolution supports the 2025 Shared Vision of a Collaborative Community by promoting a resource, through several County offices, for valued veterans of military service.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Based on a San Mateo County Parks estimate, County Parks will provide an annual benefit to the veterans of the U.S. Armed Services in the amount of \$20,000 by waiving vehicle entry fees. Based on these considerations, staff approximates that the impact on parks revenue from this entry fee waiver would be minimal and offset by the positive value of increased incentive for veterans to access County Parks, including mental and physical health, and the benefits and resources associated with the County Veterans ID card.