

REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council
From Vice Mayor Pierce

February 14, 2005

Subject

Parks for the Future

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council provide feedback on the San Mateo County Parks for the Future Initiative.

Background

On April 26, 2004, staff asked requested a letter of support for State Legislation that would enable the formation of a Countywide Park District. This district was proposed by a coalition of park advocates (Parks for the Future) from all parts of San Mateo County headed up by Supervisor Jerry Hill and former Supervisor Mike Nevin. Staff support was and continues to be provided by the County Parks Foundation. Council agreed to provide a letter of support, but it was clear that more details on the proposed district would be needed to achieve strong support of the Council. Ultimately, the enabling legislation was not put forward.

Summary

In November of 2004, the Coalition held a meeting with interested parties to determine next steps. Based on feedback from this meeting the coalition basically decided to remove any predetermined time frame for creation of the district and do further research and outreach on the specifics of what a district might be able to achieve as well as the political feasibility of such an effort before moving forward. The general consensus was that funds created by a district would need to be available for both maintenance and capital improvement needs.

On January 27, 2005, a meeting was held to review the polling data for a park district. The poll looked at likely support for a sales tax, parcel tax and assessment district. In the case of the sales and parcel tax two different amounts were tested. The consultant ultimately recommended that a one-eighth of one percent a sales tax could be viable. If a Measure A type distribution was used this tax would generate a total of \$ 16,074,486 countywide and 9.612% or \$1,545,080 for Redwood City. The next meeting of the Parks for the Future Coalition is scheduled for February 17, 2005, 11:30 a.m. at Red Morton Community Center. At the meeting there will be further discussion of fund allocation, distribution and governance.



Barbara Pierce
Vice Mayor