

Agenda City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Commission

COMMISSION MEMBERS

George Azar
Jonathan Rewers
Jeff Harris

Cindy Cooke
Malachi Smith
Dave Tamayo

Darrel Woo
Virginia Guadiana
David Heitstuman

Jay Hansen
Brandon Beaver

CITY STAFF:

*Jim Combs, Director of Parks and Recreation
Lori Harder, Support Services Manager
Cynthia Ramsey, Administrative Assistant*

Historic City Hall Hearing Room
915 I Street
December 2, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is a commission of the City Council that provides recommendations and advise on policies, projects and other matters pertaining to parks, recreation, trees, and human services affecting the City of Sacramento.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

You are welcomed and encouraged to participate in this meeting. Public comment is taken [REDACTED] on items listed on the agenda when they are called. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda will be heard at the end of the meeting as noted on the agenda. Comments on controversial items may be limited and large groups are encouraged to select 3-5 speakers to represent the opinion of the group.

Notice to Lobbyists: When addressing the Commission you must identify yourself as a lobbyist and announce the client/business/organization you are representing (City Code 2.15.160). **Speaker slips are located in the lobby of the hearing room and should be completed and submitted to the Commission Secretary.**

Government Code 54950 (The Brown Act) requires that a brief description of each item to be transacted or discussed be posted at least 72 hours prior to a regular meeting. The City posts Agendas at City Hall as well as offsite meeting locations.

The order of agenda items is for reference only; agenda items may be taken in any order deemed appropriate by the Commission. The agenda provides a general description and staff recommendations; however, the Commission may take action other than what is recommended. The agenda is available for public review on the [REDACTED] prior to the meeting. Hard copies of the agenda, minutes, and staff reports are available from the Parks and Recreation Department at 915 I Street, New City Hall, 5th Floor (25 cents per page). Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance to participate in the meeting, notify the Parks and Recreation Department at (916) 808-5200 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

December 2, 2010

***Historic City Hall Meeting Room
915 I Street***

All items listed are heard and acted upon by the Parks and Recreation Commission unless otherwise noted.

Call to Order – 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call / Commissioner Introduction

Public Comments- Matters Not on the Agenda

1. To be announced

Public Hearings

2. None

Special Oral Presentation

3. None

Consent Calendar

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered and acted upon by one motion. Anyone may request that an item be removed for separate consideration.

4. **Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Approve commission minutes for November 4, 2010

Contact: Lori Harder, Support Services Manager, 808-5172

5. **Update on Community Partnerships for the operation of City Community Centers**

Location: Council Districts 2, 4 and 6

Recommendation: Receive and File

Contact: Dave Mitchell, Operations Manager, 808-6076

Discussion/Action Reports

Discussion/Action reports include oral presentations including those recommending review and comment

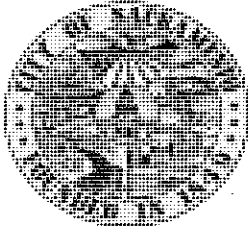
6. **Sacramento County Regional Parks and Open Space Funding Initiative from the Grassroots Working Group**
Location: Sacramento County
Recommendation: Review and Comment
Contact: Lori Harder, Administrative Manager, 808-5172

7. **Parks and Recreation Commission: Planning for 2011**
Location: Citywide
Recommendation: Review and Discuss
Contact: Lori Harder, Support Services Manager, 808-5172

8. **Parks and Recreation Director Report (Oral): Review Highlights of November and December, 2010**
Location: Citywide
Recommendation: Review and comment
Contact: Jim Combs, Parks and Recreation Director, 808-8526

Questions, Ideas, and Announcements of Commission Members

Adjournment



Meeting Minutes City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Commission

COMMISSION MEMBERS

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AGENDA

November 4, 2010
Historic City Hall Meeting Room
915 I Street

Call to Order – 7:05 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Rewers at 7:05 p.m. on Thursday, September 4, 2010. Commissioners Smith, Hansen and Woo were absent.

Public Comments- Matters Not on the Agenda

1. To be announced

Public Hearings

2. None

Special Oral Presentation

3. None

Consent Calendar

4. **Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**
Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Approve commission minutes for September 2, 2010

Contact: Cynthia Ramsey, Administrative Assistant, 808-8379

Note that the October 7, 2010 regular Commission meeting was cancelled.

Action: Moved, seconded and carried to approved as mailed. (Guadiana/Azar: Ayes: Azar, Cooke, Rewers, Harris, Tamayo, Guadiana, Beaver, Heitstuman; Absent: Woo, Hansen, Smith)

5. 2011 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Dates and Locations

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Support Staff Recommendation

Contact: Lori Harder, Support Services Manager, 808-5172

Action: Moved, seconded and carried to approve 2011 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting dates and locations. (Guadiana/Azar: Ayes: Azar, Cooke, Rewers, Harris, Tamayo, Guadiana, Beaver, Heitstuman; Absent: Woo, Hansen, Smith)

6. Change to Parks and Recreation Commission's Terms of Office and Commission Rules of Procedure Update

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and File

Contact: Lori Harder, Support Services Manager, 808-5172

Action: Received and filed.

7. Update on Clearwire Telecommunications Facility Application for Ninos Parkway

Location: Council District 1

Recommendation: Receive and File

Contact: Raymond Costantino, Associate Planner, 808-8826; J.P. Tindell, Park Planning and Development Services Manager, 808-1955

Action: Received and filed.

Discussion/Action Reports

Discussion/Action reports include oral presentations including those recommending review and comment

8. Request to Place Telecommunications Monopole in South Natomas Community Park

Location: Council District 1

Recommendation: Support Staff Recommendation

Contact: Raymond Costantino, Associate Planner, 808-8826; J.P. Tindell, Park Planning and Development Services Manager, 808-1955

Mary de Beauvieres, Principal Planner, introduced the item. Commissioners discussed specific community notification, any need for a public meeting, potential use of lease revenues, whether the lease amount adequately mitigates the placement of infrastructure and cell towers in parks, concerns about companies not being required to remove and restore park areas when equipment is no longer in use, any design

requirements, the necessity of cell towers, and processes in other cities. Director Combs stated a citywide telecommunications lease process review was underway and would be brought to the Parks and Recreation Commission for input.

Action: Motion approved to support the placement of a telecommunications monopole and associated telecommunications equipment at South Natomas Community Park contingent upon public notification to the neighborhood association prior to the item being heard by the Planning Commission. (Harris/Heitstuman: Ayes: Azar, Rewers, Harris, Tamayo, Guadiana, Beaver, Heitstuman; Nay: Cooke; Absent: Woo, Hansen, Smith)

9. Proposed Small Scale Solar Photovoltaic Farm at Sutter's Landing Park
Location: Council District 3

Recommendation: Review and Discuss

Contact: J.P. Tindell, Park Planning and Development Services Manager, 808-1955

J.P. Tindell, Park Planning and Development Services Manager, and Marty Strauss, Integrated Waste Planning Superintendent, reviewed the item. Commissioners and staff discussed how solar farm siting would be determined within the park, potential length of a lease and use of lease revenues, project process, timeline and environmental considerations, compatibility with current recreation uses, any impacts on future park development, and recommendation to require lessee to remove and restore park areas when equipment is no longer in use.

Action: Motion approved to request staff return to the Parks and Recreation Commission for further input when sufficient engineering drawings have been completed on proposed placement of solar panels in Sutter's Landing Park, prior to consideration of approval of a lease agreement by the City Council. (Harris/Guadiana: Ayes: Azar, Cooke, Rewers, Harris, Tamayo, Guadiana, Beaver, Heitstuman; Absent: Woo, Hansen, Smith)

10. Update on Parks and Recreation Commission's Proposal for a Lighting and Landscape Assessment for Park Maintenance
Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and Discuss

Contact: Jim Combs, Parks and Recreation Director, 808-8526

Director Combs stated the City Council will be asked to approve an engineering study next month that would provide for public input, conduct a nexus assessment and provide needed information for Council to consider a Lighting and Landscaping property assessment proposal benefitting park maintenance. If approved, the Commission would be asked to participate in the process and conduct public meetings. Commissioners suggested project bonding opportunities be considered and how businesses and multi-family residences would be addressed. Chair Rewers emphasized the impact significantly reduced park maintenance levels has on surrounding property values.

11. Parks and Recreation Commission: 2010 Review and Planning for 2011
Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and Discuss

Contact: Jim Combs, Parks and Recreation Director, 808-8526

Director Combs introduced the item. Chair Rewers suggested the Commission produce an annual report, present it to the City Council in February 2011, and encouraged Commissioners to be present. Commissioners and staff discussed potential 2001 agenda items including current park deficiencies, regional park development financing, potential property assessment outreach benefitting park maintenance, ordinances governing the City's park development funding sources, heritage tree ordinances, integrated pest management, community garden management and special event policy review. Staff will recommend updates to the Commission's Rules of Procedures to maintain consistency with the City Council's rules.

This will be discussed further at the next Commission meeting.

12. Parks and Recreation Director Report (Oral): Review Highlights of September, October, and November, 2010

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Informational

Contact: Jim Combs, Parks and Recreation Director, 808-8526

Director Combs highlighted recent events, park development, and budget related items.

Questions, Ideas, and Announcements of Commission Members

Chair Rewers spoke about absenteeism, the importance of regular attendance and the need to notify the Chair and/or staff prior to the meeting if a Commission is going to be absent. Commissioner Guadiana mentioned a tree planting in Cabrillo Park. Commissioner Azar asked about Ninos Parkway improvements and weed growth around new trees. Chair Rewers requested an update on the chemical free pilot program at Fremont Park.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori Harder, Support Services Manager
Department of Parks and Recreation

Approved by:

Jonathan Rewers, Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND
RECREATION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

915 I Street, 5TH Floor
Sacramento, CA
95814

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

916-808-5200
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November 23, 2010

Parks and Recreation Commission
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Update on Community Partnerships for the Operation of City Community Centers

COUNCIL DISTRICTS: 2, 4 and 6

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File

CONTACT: Dave Mitchell, Operations Manager, 808-8381, Sylvia Fort, Recreation Manager, 808-8381

FOR COMMISSION MEETING OF: December 2, 2010

SUMMARY: As part of achieving general fund savings in the City's Fiscal Year 2011 operating budget, the City Manager proposed to City Council to utilize one time funding from July 1st to October 31st for various community centers and clubhouses with a goal to transfer management and operations to community based organizations by November 1st. This report provides an update on the process.

On August 9, 2010, staff released a request for proposals entitled *Community Center Partnerships for the Operation of Community Centers* due by September 3, 2010. The City facilities included in that request were Robertson and George Sim Community Centers and Elmo Slider and Southside Park Clubhouses. The initial screening and rating process occurred on September 16, 2010. Nine candidates competing for four sites were reviewed, ranked and rated by a panel which included Commissioners and Council District staff.

Three finalists were then selected per site and will be participating in a second interview panel during the month of December. The goal is to contract out all four facilities, minimize operating costs to the City while maintaining similar, quality services to the community. Total savings will depend on the amount of fixed costs the City retains and will be negotiated during the contract negotiations but will be substantial.

City Council will be updated once the evaluation process is complete and contracts have been successfully negotiated with the selected candidates. If a selection is not made for any or all of the sites, staff will consider cancelling the request and/or re-releasing a new Request for Proposals.

BACKGROUND

In the Summer of 2010, the City of Sacramento explored the option of contracting with area community based organizations (CBOs) to operate up to three community centers and one to two rooms at major community centers located throughout the city. This process was initiated through a bid opening/request for proposals. Partnering with CBOs to manage community centers is a viable option to keep centers open to the community and to reduce expenses. Currently eight proposals are being evaluated with a goal to enter into four agreements with qualified CBOs at little to no cost to the CBO in exchange for the delivery of high quality, youth activities at each site.

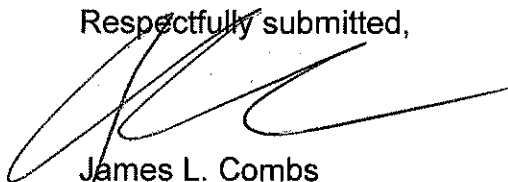
The primary goal is to ensure current customers receive at least or perhaps even greater levels of service in the way of recreation and programs that will benefit the surrounding community. Next steps will require the work of the City to determine the best fit for our community. Reviewers are addressing proposer successes, how they would transfer successes to a neighborhood setting, and how they will provide consistent qualitative management of a City asset. Ideal candidates must demonstrate their agency's viability and success by identifying: (1) years of direct community service; (2) measured results; (3) sustained partnerships; (4) financial health/funding source; and (5) fully operational board of directors. The following criteria is also being evaluated:

- Location - Organization based within the City of Sacramento
- Experience/Qualifications – Including consulting experience with local government agencies on similar projects including needs assessments; qualifications of the organization, experience, range of capabilities, and financial stability; previous contracting experience with governmental entities; experience and training of individuals to be assigned to the project; ability to meet project requirements.

- Methodology/Approach of Work – Includes project approach; innovative concepts; staffing availability; quality assurance procedures; deliverables in a timely manner.
- Pricing – Includes any City cost savings ideas or measures; (i.e. utilities and/or rent; capital reserve account for maintenance and upkeep of facilities.
- Other – Project schedule; client references; location and accessibility of staff.

The evaluation process will be completed in December and contract negotiations with selected candidates will begin at that time.

Respectfully submitted,



James L. Combs
Director, Department of Parks and Recreation



Parks and Recreation Commission
December 2, 2010

Agenda Item 6

DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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ADMINISTRATION

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November 23, 2010

Parks and Recreation Commission
Sacramento, California

Subject: Sacramento County Regional Park and Open Space Funding Initiative
from the Grassroots Working Group

Location: Region wide

Recommendation: Hear presentation; review and comment

Contacts: Lori Harder, Support Services Manager, 808-5172; Bill Davis, Chair, Grassroots
Working Group, 397-9068

For Commission Meeting of: December 2, 2010

SUMMARY:

At Commissioner Tamayo's request, a citizen volunteer group called the "Grassroots Working Group", formed to secure adequate, stable, long term funding for Sacramento County regional parks and open space systems, will review their initiative, process, timelines, goals and objectives with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The group's report is attached. Entitled "Progress Report #1: A Report to the Public and the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors" and dated September 7, 2010, the report and effort will be presented by Bill Davis, Working Group Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Harder, Support Services Manager

GRASS ROOTS WORKING GROUP

To Secure Adequate, Stable, Long Term Funding for Our Regional Parks and Open Space System

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 1

A Report to the Public and the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

September 7, 2010

Grassroots Working Group
C/o Save the American River Association
4441 Auburn Blvd. Suite H, Sacramento CA 95841
Phone: 916-482-2551 • Email: info@sarariverwatch.org

The Save the American River Association (SARA) supports the Grassroots Working Group. SARA has recognized that the threat to our Regional Parks and Open Space System posed by the ongoing County budget crisis is also a serious threat to the American River Parkway that cannot be mitigated by actions limited to the American River Parkway. SARA believes that the people, not a piecemeal process, should decide the future of the Regional Parks and Open Space System. If the people decide that they do not value the Regional Parks and Open Space System, the County can always proceed with divestiture of all or part of the Regional Parks and Open Space System.

Progress Report No. 1

Contents

Summary.....	i
The County Mandated Time Line.....	1
The Trust for Public Land.....	2
Save the American River Association (SARA).....	3
The Grassroots Working Group.....	4
The Advisory Committee.....	6
Disposition of Options Considered by the Working Group.....	7
Budget Estimate.....	7
Education and Outreach.....	8
Next Progress Report.....	9
Attachment.....	At end of Report

“Disposition of Options Considered by the Working Group” dated August 21, 2010, including the matrix
“Grassroots Working Group Analysis of Options” dated August 13, 2010.

Grassroots Working Group
To Secure Adequate, Stable, Long Term Funding for Our Regional Parks and Open Space System

Progress Report No. 1

SUMMARY

September 7, 2010

Clearly, this is a time of both crisis and opportunity. The continuing County budget crisis threatens our Regional Parks and Open Space System. Either we rise to the challenge of funding our Regional Parks and Open Space System or bear witness to the loss of our magnificent public Parkways and Open Space throughout the Sacramento region. The Grassroots Working Group is a response to this crisis.

Mandated Time Line: County Regional Parks Department staff has advised that any proposal needing voter approval must be submitted to the voters at the November 2012 general election.

Grassroots Working Group: Membership of the Grassroots Working Group is listed in the report. Persons serving on the Grassroots Working Group serve as individuals.

Trust for Public Land: The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has been engaged to provide (a) feasibility research for options selected by the Working Group, (b) conduct professionally administered, statistically valid public opinion survey through telephone interviews of randomly selected voters in Sacramento County, and (c) provide recommendations for a finance strategy, ballot language, including legal parameters, examples of successful ballot questions and assist in presentation of results. Major milestones for the TPL work and associated Grassroots Working Group activities are as follows:

• Conduct Feasibility Study and submit Draft Report to the Grassroots Working Group	November 1, 2010
• Complete Public Opinion Survey	December 10, 2010
• TPL provides recommendations to Grassroots Working Group	December 21, 2010
• Grassroots Working Group provides recommendations to public and Board of Supervisors	January 28, 2011
• Summit Meeting for public consideration of Grassroots Working Group recommendations	February 5, 2011

Save the American River Association (SARA): The Board of Directors of SARA, by Resolution, has recognized that preservation and protection of the American River Parkway requires a thriving, successful Regional Parks and Open Space System. SARA has recognized that the threat posed by the ongoing County budget crisis cannot be mitigated by actions limited to the Parkway alone. SARA supports the Grassroots effort and provides administrative services to the Grassroots Working Group.

Successor Effort Needed: The Grassroots Working Group is the first step in the process to secure adequate, stable, long-term funding for our Regional Parks and Open Space System. The outcome of will be a recommended solution, provided by the Grassroots Working Group, during the first Quarter of 2011. The intention is to then turn the project over to a successor effort that will move forward and develop any needed campaign for a successful result on the November, 2012 ballot.

It is envisioned that the Grassroots Working Group, after completion of this first phase, will become an advocate for the solution recommended by the Group, monitor the development of any ballot measure(s) and campaign, and work to secure successful passage of ballot measure(s) that incorporate the recommendations of the Grassroots Working Group.

Progress Report No. 1 - SUMMARY

Advisory Committee: An Advisory Committee has been formed to periodically review outputs from the Grassroots effort, provide feedback, offer suggestions regarding the Grassroots Working Group's efforts, and provide a forum for discussion. Persons who have volunteered to serve on the Advisory Committee are listed in the report. Persons serve on the Advisory Committee as individuals and not as representatives of the listed affiliation/interest.

Options Analysis: The Grassroots Working Group has, since first meeting on June 7, 2010, been analyzing options for securing adequate, stable, long term funding for our regional parks and open space lands and facilities. A total of nine options were identified and five of the nine have been selected options for further study.

The description of each of the options and basis of the sorting of the options is provided in the attachment to this report, "Disposition of Options Considered by the Working Group", August 26, 2010. A matrix summarizing the results of the Working Group analysis is included in the attachment.

Options for Further Study by TPL: The following options have been selected by the Grassroots Working Group. The selected options are not listed in any particular order or preference.

1. New INDEPENDENT Regional Parks and Open Space District
2. New DEPENDENT Regional Park and Open Space
3. Non-Profit Conservancy
4. Countywide Community Services District
5. Continue County Department of Regional Parks ("No Project Option")

Options NOT Recommended for Further Study: The following options are not proposed for further study. Discussion of the reasons for not selecting these options is provided in the attachment, "Disposition of Options Considered by the Working Group", August 26, 2010 provided at the end of this Progress Report under "Discussion of Options Not Selected".

1. Co-operative Working Relationship among Parks and Open Space
2. Form a new Community Facilities District
3. County Service Area 11
4. County Divests Responsibility for Parks except American River Parkway and Retains Open Space

Budget Estimate: The Estimate that will be provided to TPL for use in their work will be based upon an independent regional parks and open space district and will be accurate to within +30% or -15%. The Grassroots Working Group will continue to review and refine this budget in parallel with the TPL work so that the Grassroots Working Group is confident that it is based upon efficient operation and maintenance and includes revenues from user fees and services charges to the maximum extent reasonably practicable. Guiding principles for budget development are described in the report.

Education and Outreach: Education and outreach efforts have heretofore focused on fundraising to pay the costs of the TPL Proposal and establishment of the Advisory Committee described earlier. Attention now shifts to include activities to inform the public of (a) the crisis facing our Regional Parks and Open Space System, (b) status of efforts to secure adequate, stable long term funding for our System, and (c) the solution recommended by the Grassroots Working Group. Fund raising efforts also shift to payment of the costs of Education and Outreach activities.

Grassroots Working Group
To Secure Adequate, Stable, Long Term Funding for Our Regional Parks and Open Space System

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 1

September 7, 2010

The Grassroots Working Group to Secure Adequate, Stable, Long Term Funding for Our Regional Parks and Open Space System (the "Grassroots Working Group") has its genesis in the consensus reached at the American River Parkway Coalition meeting held on March 12, 2010¹. This consensus identified the following five fundamental conclusions:

1. The Regional Parks and Open Space System are important to the quality of life and economic future of the residents of Sacramento County.
2. Sacramento County government is unable to provide adequate, long term, stable funding for the Regional Parks and Open Space System.
3. Sacramento County government has the duty, which is on par with the other duties of the Board of Supervisors, to preserve the Regional Parks and Open Space System assets and to protect these assets from damage.
4. Sale, transfer, or other disposition of Regional Parks and Open Space System lands or facilities to overcome County budget problems is unacceptable.
5. Sacramento County government, cities and other local agencies should endorse, support, and facilitate Grassroots' efforts to develop adequate, long term, stable funding option(s) for the County Regional Parks and Open Space System so that the public can make a decision regarding the future of the Regional Parks and Open Space System.

Clearly, this is a time of both crisis and opportunity. The continuing County budget crisis threatens our Regional Parks and Open Space System. Either we rise to the challenge of funding our Regional Parks and Open Space System or bear witness to the loss of our magnificent public Parkways and Open Space throughout the Sacramento region. The Grassroots Working Group is a response to this crisis.

The County Mandated Time Line

A fundamental problem is that our Regional Parks and Open Space System is facing a financial crisis. It is clear that a part of the solution will rest with the public as it considers additional taxes or fees to provide adequate, stable long term funding for the operation and maintenance of our Regional Parks and Open Space System. The other parts are (1) finding more efficient ways of operating and maintaining our Regional Parks and Open Space System and (2) securing revenues from other sources(e.g. user fees and charges, grants) to the maximum extent reasonably practicable.

County Regional Parks Department staff² has reported that the County is insisting that any proposal needing voter approval be submitted to the voters at the November 2012 general election. This mandate has become a guide post for the conduct of the Grassroots Working Group.

¹ "Sacramento County Government Budget Problems and the County Regional Parks System", March 22, 2010, which represents the consensus of the seventeen people present at the March 12, 2010 American River Parkway Coalition meeting.

² Ms. Janet Baker, Director, Sacramento County Regional Parks Department

Progress Report No. 1

The Trust for Public Land (TPL)

On March 24, 2010, a meeting of American River Parkway stakeholders was held with representatives of The Trust for Public Lands ("TPL") to discuss how to proceed. As a result of this meeting, TPL was requested to submit a proposal for consideration. TPL was invited to the stakeholder meeting at the recommendation of members of the Board of the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) and Save the American River Association (SARA).

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national, nonprofit, land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Since 1972, TPL has worked with willing landowners, community groups, and national, state, and local agencies to complete close to 4,000 land conservation projects in 47 states, protecting 2.8 million acres. Since 1994, TPL has helped states and communities craft and pass over 380 ballot measures, generating \$36 billion in new conservation-related funding.

TPL has performed work for the City of Sacramento³. The Trust for Public Land has protected land throughout the diverse Central Valley area. Some examples of their work are San Joaquin River Parkway, Tuolumne River Regional Park, Tulare Lake Land Retirement Program, and Butte Sink Wetlands. Additional information can be found at <http://www.tpl.org/>.

TPL was selected before the identification of options for further study because of its reputation, experience, quality of work, and willingness to help address the crisis facing our Regional Parks and Open Space System. The timeline subsequently mandated by Sacramento County (i.e. any decision by the voters must be submitted to the voters at the November 2012 general election) has not allowed for a formal request for proposals process.

The TPL Proposal

TPL submitted a proposal to SARA which was approved by the SARA Board of Directors on June 15, 2010. This proposal provides for:

- (a) Feasibility Research: Duration = 8 weeks. Budget = \$7,500

Research and analysis focused on broad based tax and bond mechanisms capable of generating significant funding at the local level that are practical and have been proven. TPL will examine up to four scenarios. For each local funding option, TPL will examine the legal framework, revenue raising capacity, the fiscal impact to government budgets and taxpayers, and how such options are implemented. TPL will also provide examples of where and how these mechanisms have been used by other jurisdictions in California. The objective is to provide a fact-based reference document to be used as a shared information source and frame of reference for use in evaluating available financing mechanisms from an objective vantage point.

- (b) Public Opinion Survey: Duration = 2 – 4 weeks. Budget = \$17,000 to \$24,000

After completing the Feasibility Research, TPL will contract with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Metz, a qualified public opinion survey firm, to conduct a professionally administered, statistically valid public opinion survey through telephone interviews of randomly selected

³ "How Much Value Does the City of Sacramento Receive from Its Park and Recreation System", The Trust for Public Land, 2009.

Progress Report No. 1

voters in Sacramento County. The polling will be designed to test (i) level of support for a conservation funding mechanism, (ii) alternative funding sources and amounts, (iii) purposes for use of funds that voters find most compelling, (iv) the timing for submittal of questions to the voters, and (v) various governance possibilities and accountability measures. The latest polling known to be available is from 2007.

(c) Presentations & Recommendations: Duration = 2 weeks. Budget = \$6,000

TPL will provide recommendations for a finance strategy, ballot language including legal parameters, examples of successful ballot questions, and consultation with legal counsel as necessary. TPL will assist in development of presentations and participate in a limited number of presentations, including presentations to the public.

Major Schedule Milestones

The schedule for the TPL work and associated Grassroots Working Group activities are listed in Table 1, "Major Milestones for TPL and Working Group Activities".

TABLE 1

Major Milestones for TPL and Working Group Activities

• Conduct Feasibility Study and submit Draft Report to the Grassroots Working Group	November 1, 2010
• Complete Public Opinion Survey	December 10, 2010
• TPL provides recommendations to Grassroots Working Group	December 21, 2010
• Grassroots Working Group provides recommendations to public and Board of Supervisors	January 28, 2011
• Summit Meeting for public consideration of Grassroots Working Group recommendations	February 5, 2011

Funding of the TPL Proposal

Total budget for the TPL work is \$37,500. At the time of approval of the TPL Proposal on June 15, 2010, the SARA Board of Directors authorized expenditure of \$8,000 as its contribution to the funding required for the TPL work and the American River Natural History Association committed \$2,000 towards funding the TPL Proposal. From that time until August 13, 2010, when the American Parkway Foundation contributed the last \$10,000, funds were solicited from concerned citizens and organizations. As of August 17, 2010, all funds needed to pay the costs identified in the TPL proposal are in SARA's hands.

Save the American River Association (SARA)

The Board of Directors of Save the American River Association (SARA) on April 20, 2010, considered the conclusions reached by the American River Parkway Coalition and adopted a resolution⁴ finding, among other things, that "Preservation and protection of the American River Parkway requires a thriving, successful Regional Parks and Open Space System." SARA has recognized that the threat

⁴ "Resolution of the Board of Directors Save the American River Association (SARA) Regarding the County Government Budget Problems and the County Regional Parks System", adopted April 20, 2010.

Progress Report No. 1

posed to our Regional Parks and Open Space System by the ongoing County budget crisis is also a very serious threat to the American River Parkway that cannot be mitigated by actions limited to the American River Parkway.

The SARA Board resolution authorizes SARA participation in a Grassroots effort guided by the objectives of protection and preservation of the Regional Parks and Open Space System and development of adequate, long term, stable funding options and encouraged other interested groups, neighborhood associations, and individual citizens to join the effort. In adopting the resolution, the SARA Board also declared that, regardless of the means or option that may be selected to provide adequate, long term, stable funding of the Regional Parks and Open Space System:

- (a) The American River Parkway shall be managed to balance the goals of (i) preserving naturalistic open space and protecting the environmental quality within the urban environment, and (ii) contributing to the provision of recreational opportunities in the Sacramento area; and
- (b) The American River Parkway Plan shall guide decisions affecting the Parkway, specifically addressing the preservation, use, development and administration of the Parkway.

SARA is providing administrative support to the Grassroots Working Group by receiving and disbursing funds for the Grassroots Working Group. Donations earmarked for the Grassroots effort are restricted to use by the Grassroots Working Group. This Progress Report and future Progress Reports are sent to contributors so that they can be apprised of progress.

SARA maintains a website at <http://www.sarariverwatch.org/grassroots.html> where information regarding the Grassroots activities can be found.

The Grassroots Working Group

The Grassroots Working Group held its first meeting on June 7, 2010. At that meeting, Group reviewed the TPL Proposal and the attached description of the Grassroots Process⁵.

The Grassroots Working Group is the first step in the process to secure adequate, stable, long-term funding for our Regional Parks and Open Space System. While funds necessary to pay the costs of the TPL Proposal are in hand, additional funds are needed to launch the outreach and education effort to inform the public of the crisis at hand, the options under consideration, and ultimately, the recommended solution.

Successor Effort

The outcome of this initial phase will be a recommended solution, provided by the Grassroots Working Group, and likely available during the first Quarter of 2011. The intention is to then turn the project over to a successor effort that will move forward to further develop detailed information and to develop the campaign for a successful result on the November, 2012 ballot.

It is envisioned that the Grassroots Working Group, after completion of this first phase, will become an advocate for the solution recommended by the Group, monitor the development of any ballot measure(s) and campaign, and work to secure successful passage of ballot measure(s) that incorporate the recommendations of the Grassroots Working Group.

⁵ "The Grass Roots Process to Secure Adequate, Stable, Long Term Funding for Our Regional Parks and Open Space System", June 7, 2010.

Progress Report No. 1

Grassroots Working Group Members

Grassroots Working Group members participate as individuals and not as representatives of their listed affiliation. Table 2, "Grassroots Working Group Members" lists the members in alphabetical order and their affiliation or interest. Working Group members can be contacted at info@sarariverwatch.org.

TABLE 2
GRASSROOTS WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

	Name	Affiliation/Interest
1	Lea Brooks	Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA)
2	Rob Burness	Environmental Council of Sacramento, Habitat 2020
3	Keith Coolidge (Alternate)	American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF)
4	Bill Davis	Save the American River Association (SARA)
5	Pablo Garza	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
6	Dennis Greenbaum (Alternate)	American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF)
7	Lou Heinrich	American River Natural History Association (ARNHA)
8	Gay Jones	Butterfield Riviera East Community Assoc.(BRECA)
9	Charlea Moore	Dry Creek Parkway, Gibson Ranch
10	Aimee Rutledge	Sacramento Valley Conservancy
11	Warren Truitt	Save the American River Association (SARA)
12	Betsy Weiland	Save the American River Association (SARA)
13	Charlie Willard	Pathways to Recreation
14	Leo Winternitz	American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF)

Vision

The guiding vision of the Grassroots Working Group is an integrated system of regional parks and open space areas linked by a bicycle transportation network. A system that is safe, accessible, and well-maintained provides recreational and educational opportunities to Sacramento County's diverse communities. This system will also incorporate farmlands and wildlands, thereby allowing the people of the Sacramento area to enjoy the health and welfare benefits of clean air and water, locally grown food, and abundant opportunities to fish, boat, paddle, row, walk, hike, bike, ride horses, observe nature and enjoy all types of recreation.

Mission

The Mission of the Grassroots Working Group is to identify an appropriate structure to manage our regional parks and open space system linked by a non-motorized transportation network, coupled with a reliable funding stream that adequately provides for the operations, maintenance, and expansion of the system.

Meetings

The Grassroots Working Group is NOT a governmental entity. However, Grassroots Working Group meetings are open to the public unless the Working Group determines a closed session is appropriate to the work of the Grassroots effort.

Progress Report No. 1

Members of the public and Advisory Committee attend as observers and will be afforded a place on the agenda to provide comments to the Working Group. Otherwise, members of the public and the Advisory Committee should not expect to participate in Working Group deliberations unless requested to do so by the Working Group.

The results of the Working Group effort are expected to be the subject of future public meetings by governmental agencies before any final decision is made. Every effort is made to make Grassroots Working Group meeting agendas available to the public at the same time that agendas are provided to Working Group members.

The Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee has been formed to periodically review outputs from the Grassroots effort, provide feedback, offer suggestions regarding the Grassroots Working Group's efforts and provide a forum for discussion. Persons who have volunteered to serve on the Advisory Committee are listed in alphabetical order in Table 3, "Advisory Committee Membership, August 26, 2010". Persons serve on the Advisory Committee as individuals and not as representatives of the listed affiliation/interest.

**TABLE 3
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
August 26, 2010**

	Name	Community	Zip	Affiliation/Interest
1	Katie Baygell	Carmichael	95608	ARNHA & ARP Equestrian Patrol
2	Dave & Maxine Clark	Carmichael	95608	American River Parkway
3	Ginger Enrico	Rancho Cordova	95670	Sun River Neighborhood
4	Marilyn Evans	Sacramento	95864	Friends of Mather Park
5	Jane Hagedorn	Sacramento	95864	Regional Parks & Open Space
6	Jude Lamare	Sacramento	95814	ECOS
7	Joseph Larzalere	Sacramento	95819	Regional Parks & Open Space
8	Chris Lewis	Carmichael	95608	California Native Plant Society
9	Dave Lydick	Fairfield	94534	Regional Parks & Open Space
10	Clyde MacDonald	Sacramento	95818	Water Forum
11	Shelley Mathews	Fair Oaks	95628	American River Parkway
12	Ted Robinson	Sacramento	95864	County Parks & Rec Commission
13	Mike Savino	Sacramento	95822	Save Our Sandhill Cranes
14	Robert & Lyvonne Sewell	Sacramento	95816	Friends of the Riverbank
15	Dave Tamayo	Sacramento	Unk	Park Commissioner City of Sacramento
16	Mary Tappel	Sacramento	95838	American River Parkway
17	Paul Tebbel	Sacramento	95811	Friends of the River

It is expected that meetings of the Advisory Committee would be held, as desired by a majority of the Advisory Committee, or requested by the Working Group, to obtain feedback on a particular matter. Grassroots Working Group meeting agendas are provided to Advisory Committee members so they may determine whether or not to attend specific Working Group Meetings. Also, the Working Group will issue periodic status reports to keep the Advisory Committee informed.

The Advisory Committee will also need to consider what role it wishes to play in the successor effort described above.

Progress Report No. 1

Disposition of Options Considered by the Working Group

The Grassroots Working Group has, since first meeting on June 7, 2010, considered options for securing adequate, stable, long term funding for our regional parks and open space lands and facilities. A total of nine options were identified and five of the nine have been selected for further study.

The description of each of the options and basis of the sorting of the options is provided in the attachment to this report, "Disposition of Options Considered by the Working Group", August 26, 2010. A matrix summarizing the results of the Working Group analysis is included in the attachment.

Options for Further Study by TPL

The following options were selected by the Grassroots Working Group, at its meeting on August 13, 2010, for further study by TPL. The selected options are not listed in any particular order or preference.

1. New INDEPENDENT Regional Parks and Open Space District
2. New DEPENDENT Regional Park and Open Space
3. Non-Profit Conservancy
4. Countywide Community Services District
5. Continue County Department of Regional Parks ("No Project Option")

Options NOT Recommended for Further Study

1. Co-operative Working Relationship among Parks and Open Space
2. Form a new Community Facilities District
3. County Service Area 11
4. County Divests Responsibility for Parks except American River Parkway and Retains Open Space

Discussion of the reasons for not selecting these options is provided in the attachment, "Disposition of Options Considered by the Working Group", August 26, 2010 provided at the end of this Progress Report under "Discussion of Options Not Selected".

Budget Estimate

Development of an estimated budget for an independent regional parks and open space district has begun. This budget will identify costs and revenues using the following principles:

1. The Initial Budget Estimate will be based upon a service plan that provides services equivalent to those services provided under the County's FY 2008/09 budget for the Regional Parks Department and using estimates of salaries and benefits that are deemed to be competitive in the market place.
2. Consideration will be given to additions to the Initial Budget Estimate for additional services that are demonstrated to be needed to achieve industry standards for properly operated and maintained regional parks and open space systems.

Progress Report No. 1

3. Consideration will be given to further additions to the Initial Budget for additional services, lands, or system features needed for rational expansion and connectivity of the existing regional parks and open space system.
4. The Final Budget Estimate will be based upon means and methods for organization and performance of work using objective measures of efficient ways of operating and maintaining the Regional Parks and Open Space systems and include salaries and benefits that are demonstrated to be competitive in the market place.
5. The Final Budget Estimate will include revenues from user fees, and service charges and sources other than taxes or assessments to the maximum extent reasonable practicable and consistent with securing adequate, stable, long term funding.

The Estimate that will be provided to TPL for use in their work will be based upon an independent regional parks and open space district and will be accurate to within +30% or -15%. The Grassroots Working Group will continue to review and refine this budget in parallel with the TPL work so that the Grassroots Working Group is confident that the Budget Estimate is based upon salaries and benefits that are competitive, use of efficient operation and maintenance practices, and includes revenues from user fees and services charges to the maximum extent reasonably practicable consistent with securing, adequate, stable long term funding.

The Grassroots Working Group is seeking assistance from experienced and knowledge individuals to assist in the review of the budget estimate proposals and to provide suggestions to the Working Group for modification or acceptance of estimates.

Education and Outreach

Education and outreach efforts have heretofore focused on fundraising to pay the costs of the TPL Proposal and establishment of the Advisory Committee described earlier. Attention now shifts to include activities to inform the public of (a) the crisis facing our Regional Parks and Open Space System, (b) status of efforts to secure adequate, stable long term funding for our System, and (c) the solution recommended by the Grassroots Working Group. Fund raising efforts also shift to payment of the costs of Education and Outreach activities.

Initial efforts are focused on development of cogent responses to the following questions that will serve as the foundation for preparation of materials used in the education and outreach activities.

1. How does our Regional Parks and Open Space System benefit people?
2. How does our Regional Parks and Open Space System protect water supplies?
3. How does our Regional Parks and Open Space System provide wildlife and wildlife habitat protection that benefits people?
4. How does our Regional Parks and Open Space System preserve working farms and ranches, particularly small family farms and ranches?
5. How does our Regional Parks and Open Space System benefit future generations? What is the legacy that we will provide future generations?
6. What is the recreational value, in specifics, of our Regional Parks and Open Space System (e.g. hiking, biking, camping, fishing, hunting, viewing wildlife, enjoying nature, paddling, boating, riding horses)?

Grassroots Working Group

To Secure Adequate, Stable, Long Term Funding for Our Regional Parks and Open Space System

September 7, 2010

Progress Report No. 1

7. How important is access to our Regional Parks and Open Space System to other than dedicated outdoor enthusiast (e.g. hikers, bicyclists, etc.)
8. What is the shared responsibility of the residents of the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Sacramento County with respect to our Regional Parks and Open Space System?
9. How does our Regional Parks and Open Space System benefit public health?
10. What role does our Regional Park and Open Space System play in the economic health of the area?

It is possible that fully developed answers to all of the above may not be achievable due to limitations in available information. In such event, the best possible answers will be used and, as appropriate, need for further research or data will be noted.

Additionally, individual members of the Grassroots Working Group are attending meetings of neighborhood associations, service clubs and other organizations to present information regarding the Grassroots effort. Members of the Group are also distributing information at various locations within park lands and communities and have secured publication of information in community newspapers (e.g. North County News, August 2010) and neighborhood newsletters (e.g. Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association, August 2010). Meetings are continuing with elected officials and staff of public agencies to update them on the Grassroots effort. In this latter regard, the Grassroots Working Group provided an update to the County Parks and Recreation Commission on August 26, 2010.

Next Progress Report

A firm date for publication of the next Progress Report has not been established. The intent, however, is to publish Progress Reports when significant results are obtained. In the meantime, it is suggested that <http://www.sarariverwatch.org/grassroots.html> be monitored for information as work progresses.

Attachment:

"Disposition of Options Considered by the Working Group" dated August 21, 2010, including the matrix
"Grassroots Working Group Analysis of Options" dated August 13, 2010.

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Attachment to Progress Report No. 1

Grassroots Working Group

To Secure Adequate, Stable, Long Term Funding for Our Regional Parks and Open Space System

DISPOSITION OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY THE WORKING GROUP

August 26, 2010

The Grassroots Working Group has, since first meeting on June 7, 2010, considered options for securing adequate, stable, long term funding for our regional parks and open space lands and facilities. The Working Group has considered a total of nine options and has selected options for further study and identified the options which the Working Group does not believe should be given further consideration. The basis of the sorting of the options is provided in the attachment to this report.

During the course of work, the Working Group became aware of changes to the California Government Code (Section 61000 et seq.) that have been enacted since the memo report by M. Holly Gilchrist, Supervising Deputy County Counsel⁶. This change relates to Community Services Districts (CSD). The consensus of the Working Group is that the CSD option should be included as an option for further study so that additional information can be obtained from the work to be performed by TPL.

OPTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

The following options were selected by the Grassroots Working Group, at its meeting on August 13, 2010, for further study by TPL. The selected options are not listed in any particular order or preference.

1. **New INDEPENDENT Regional Parks and Open Space District** - Formation of a new regional parks and open space district that encompasses all incorporated and unincorporated territory in Sacramento County as an INDEPENDENT regional parks and open space district, such as East Bay Regional Parks District, with an independently elected 5 or 7 member governing body. One or more ballot measures would commit base level funding from County General Fund and identify needed additional revenue. See Item No. 1 below under "Options Converted to Analysis Factors" for additional information regarding ballot measure.

A majority vote of the people within the territory to be included is required to establish the district. Also, a proposal involving special taxes will require a 2/3 vote of approval and special benefit assessments will require approval by a majority vote +1 of affected property ownership interests. Other requirements of Proposition 218 must also be met.

Formation of a new independent regional parks and open space district can be initiated by petition containing the signatures of not less than 5,000 registered voters within the territory of the proposed district or by action of two or more cities or a single city with at least 50,000 population. The Board of Supervisors, after holding a hearing, acts within four weeks to either approving the petition in whole or in part or denying the petition.

2. **New DEPENDENT Regional Park and Open Space District** – Formation of a new regional parks and open space district with the County Board of Supervisors as the governing body. One or more ballot measures would commit base level funding from County General Fund and

⁶ Memorandum from M. Holly Gilchrist, Supervising Deputy County Counsel, to Supervisor Susan Peters, Subject: Regional Parks Maintenance – Possible funding strategies, March 1, 2005.

Attachment to Progress Report No. 1

DISPOSITION OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY THE WORKING GROUP

August 26, 2010

identify needed additional revenue. See Item No. 1 below under "Options Converted to Analysis Factors" for additional information regarding ballot measure.

A majority vote of the people within the territory to be included in the new district is required to establish the district. Also, a proposal involving special taxes will require a 2/3 vote of approval and special benefit assessments will require approval by a majority vote +1 of affected property ownership interests. Other requirements of Proposition 218 must also be met.

Formation of a new dependent regional parks and open space district is initiated by the County Board of Supervisors acting pursuant to Section 5506.10 of the California Government Code. The Board is to hold a hearing and adopt a resolution which among other things, specifies that all revenue generated by the regional district shall be allocated among all affected public agencies within the territory within the territory for expenditures consistent with the purposes specified in the law and to address the needs specified in Government Code Section 5539.10. This option was previously considered by voters in Sacramento County as Measure B in the general election of November 1994 and was rejected by a vote of 52.2 % "No" vs. 47.8% "Yes".

3. **Non-Profit Conservancy** - Establish a new Non-Profit conservancy or negotiate the transfer of management and operational responsibility and revenues for parks and open space from the County to an existing non-profit organization. Arrangements for establishing a new Non-Profit Conservancy would be established or negotiations with an existing non-profit would need to be completed. Base level funding would be established by negotiation and subject to annual budget process or no Base level funding would be provided. Same applies to needed additional revenue. One or more ballot measures may be needed to commit Base level or identify needed additional funding. See Item No. 1 below under "Options Converted to Analysis Factors" for additional information in the event that a ballot measure is required.

A proposal involving special taxes will require a 2/3 vote of approval and special benefit assessments will require approval by a majority vote +1 of affected property ownership interests. Other requirements of Proposition 218 must also be met if a special tax or benefit assessment is involved. Taxing or assessment power would remain the province of the County.

4. **Countywide Community Services District** – Formation of a countywide community services district (CSD) initiated either by (a) petition signed by not less than 25% of registered voters in the County or (b) adoption of a resolution by the County Board of Supervisors, any city, or special district containing any territory to be included in the proposed CSD following a public hearing by the adopting body. Action by Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) approving the formation of the CSD is required and will be conditioned specifically on voter or property owner approval of any special taxes or special benefit assessments needed to generate revenues sufficient for the CSD to operate. A ballot measure would commit base level funding from County General Fund and identify needed additional revenue. See Item No. 1 below under "Options Converted to Analysis Factors" for additional information regarding ballot measure.

Formation of a countywide CSD does not require the consent of the governing bodies of the cities or special districts within the county. However, there are many opportunities for other agencies to contest the formation of a CSD by way of the LAFCo process and to submit their own competing proposals.⁷

⁷ Email from William Burke, County Counsel's Office, to Bill Davis, Grassroots Working Group, Subject: Community Services District and Cities & Special Districts", August 13, 2010, 11:43 am.

August 26, 2010

Formation of a CSD does not require the consent of the voters if protests are NOT received by LAFCo from at least 25%, but less than 50%, of the registered voters or property owners within the proposed CSD.⁸ A 5-member CSD Board of Directors is however required to be elected.

Any proposal involving special taxes will require a 2/3 vote of approval and special benefit assessments will require approval by a majority vote +1 of affected property ownership interests. See Item No. 1 below under "Options Converted to Analysis Factors" for additional information. Other requirements of Proposition 218 must also be met.

The Working Group recognized that this option, as a result of the LAFCo proceedings, suffers from the same limitations with respect to "Timely by July 2012" as some of the options that have not been considered for further study. The Working Group also understood that, while this option would allow creation of a new governance structure without an election, the possibility would exist that implementation of the CSD could occur without also achieving adequate, stable, long term funding of the Regional Parks and Open Space System. It was the consensus of the Working Group that other factors were sufficiently offsetting that this option should be included in the options to be considered by The Trust for Public Land.

5. **Continue County Department of Regional Parks ("No Project Option")** – This option would continue the existing County Department of Regional Parks with existing funding arrangements for the Regional Parks and Open Space System and provide a basis for comparison. Base level funding and needed additional funding would be subject to the annual budget process.

However, it is possible to overcome revenue problems if one or more ballot measures commit base level funding from the County General Fund and identify needed additional revenue. See Item No. 1 below under "Options Converted to Analysis Factors" for additional information.

Any proposal involving special taxes will require a 2/3 vote of approval and special benefit assessments will require approval by a majority vote +1 of affected property ownership interests. See Item No. 1 below under "Options Converted to Analysis Factors" for additional information. Other requirements of Proposition 218 must also be met.

OPTIONS CONVERTED TO ANALYSIS FACTORS

During the course of the analysis by the Working Group, it became clear that two options were not separate and distinct options but were rather factors that should be used in the evaluation of the remaining options.

1. **Property Tax Revenue Dedicated by a Vote of the People** - This would be very similar to the Park Charter Fund approved by the voters in Santa Clara County first in 1973 and most recently renewed in the 2006 Election.

The electorate residing in the unincorporated and incorporated areas of Sacramento County would be asked to approve a ballot measure that would specify the annual transfer of an amount of money from the General Fund to a Regional Parks and Open Space Fund. Base level of funding and/or needed additional revenue would be established by formula specified in the ballot measure as the amount that would be determined annually from a percentage of assessed valuation with separately specified percentages for acquisition, improvements and operation and maintenance.

⁸ California Government Code Section 57075.

**Attachment to Progress Report No. 1
DISPOSITION OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY THE WORKING GROUP**

August 26, 2010

This option has converted to a factor for analysis of other options with the assumption that the amount of revenue to be dedicated will range from zero to either a Base Amount or an amount that will avoid the need for new taxes or special benefit assessments.

In Santa Clara County, the voters have mandated that revenue equivalent to \$0.01425 per \$100 of assessed valuation of all real and personal property in Santa Clara County be annually transferred from the County General Fund to a separate Parks Fund. Santa Clara County voters also required that a minimum of 15% of the amount transferred be dedicated to acquisition and an additional minimum of 5% of the amount transferred be dedicated to park development. These features could be included in a ballot measure for any of the options selected for further study.

The Sacramento County Assessor's office has advised that the 2010/2011 gross assessed value for the unincorporated area, including both secured and unsecured, is \$48,288,728,894.⁹ Applying the Santa Clara County values to this assessed value would result in a FY 2010/2011 transfer amount of \$6.881 million, a minimum acquisition amount of \$1.032 million, and a minimum park development amount of \$344,000. These amounts are offered for illustrative purposes only and are not proposed for consideration at this time.

- 2. Remove Section 71J Contracting Limitation from County Charter-** This option has been changed to a factor titled "Subject to Section 71J of the County Charter".

Section 71J of the County Charter generally provides that the County may not contract for services if County employees are available to perform the work to be contracted.

OPTIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER STUDY

- 1. Co-operative Working Relationship among Parks and Open Space Authorities -** Negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) among the existing park districts, cities and Sacramento County. Final arrangements require consent of each City Council and Board of Supervisors. Base level funding and needed additional revenue annually budgeted from County General Fund. Negotiations assumed to result in cost savings for County Regional Parks Department sufficient to avoid needed additional revenue. If this assumption is not realized, ballot measure will be needed. See Item No. 1 below under "Options Converted to Analysis Factors" for additional information if ballot measure is needed.

A proposal involving special taxes will require a 2/3 vote of approval and special benefit assessments will require approval by a majority vote +1 of affected property ownership interests. Other requirements of Proposition 218 must also be met if a special tax or benefit assessment is involved.

- 2. Form a new Community Facilities District-** Establish a new Community Facilities District and negotiate arrangements for inclusion of territory within cities. Final arrangements require consent of each City Council and Board of Supervisor. Base level funding annually budgeted from County General Fund.

If this assumption is not realized, a ballot measure will be needed to commit base funding and to secure needed additional revenue. See Item No. 1 below under "Options Converted to Analysis Factors" for additional information if ballot measure is needed. See Item No. 1 above under "Options Converted to Analysis Factors" for additional information

⁹ Email from Hector Garcia-Gonzalez, Appraisal Support Section, Office of the Assessor, to Bill Davis, dated August 20, 2010, Re: Assessed Value – Unincorporated Area Only.

**Attachment to Progress Report No. 1
DISPOSITION OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY THE WORKING GROUP**

August 26, 2010

A proposal involving special taxes will require a 2/3 vote of approval and special benefit assessments will require approval of a majority vote +1 of affected property ownership interests. Other requirements of Proposition 218 must also be met if a special tax or benefit assessment is involved.

3. **County Service Area 11** - Activate latent powers for recreation and parks services for existing County Service Area No. 11 which includes only unincorporated area within the Urban Services Boundary and expand powers to include open space. Negotiate arrangements for inclusion of territory within cities. Final arrangements require consent of each City Council and Board of Supervisors. Base level funding annually budgeted from County General Fund. If this assumption is not realized, a ballot measure will be needed to commit base funding and to secure needed additional revenue specified by ballot measure. See Item No. 1 above under "Options Converted to Analysis Factors" for additional information

A proposal involving special taxes will require a 2/3 vote of approval and special benefit assessments will require approval by a majority vote +1 of affected property ownership interests. Other requirements of Proposition 218 must also be met if a special tax or benefit assessment is involved.

4. **County Divests Responsibility for Parks except American River Parkway and Retains Open Space** - Negotiate transfer of management, operational responsibility, and associated revenues for all parks, excepting the American River Parkway, from the County Department of Regional Parks to community recreation and park districts, or cities, or private entities and develop a more effective co-operative process (e.g. MOU, JPA) for the American River Parkway.

County would retain management and operational responsibility for open space. Negotiations would need to provide for transfer of revenue from the County to the receiving entity and final arrangements would require consent of the governing body of each receiving entity and the Board of Supervisors. Base level funding for remaining Open Space responsibility would be budgeted from the County General Fund and is assumed to be achieved by cost savings resulting from success in divesting responsibility for operation and maintenance of parks. If this assumption is not realized, a ballot measure may be needed to secure additional funding. See Item No. 1 above under "Options Converted to Analysis Factors" for additional information if ballot measure is needed.

A proposal involving special taxes will require a 2/3 vote of approval and special benefit assessments will require approval by a majority vote +1 of affected property ownership interests. Other requirements of Proposition 218 must also be met if a special tax or benefit assessment is involved.

DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS NOT SELECTED

In reaching the above conclusions the Grassroots Working Group considered the factors listed in the attachment, "Grassroots Working Group Analysis of Options" dated August 13, 2010. In summary, the options not recommended for further study would:

1. Not to be amendable to the time schedule mandated by the County (i.e. submittal to electorate at November 2012 election) because of complex negotiations related to governance and ballot measure provisions that would need to be successfully concluded by July 2012 in order to make a November 2012 general election. In addition to being time consuming, these negotiations could result in loss of the regional parks system and unforeseen consequences due to pressure to respond to the budget crisis facing the County government.

Attachment to Progress Report No. 1

DISPOSITION OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY THE WORKING GROUP

August 26, 2010

2. Be seen as allowing for diversion of tax and other revenues intended for the Regional Parks and Open Space System to other purposes or as generating new tax revenues for the County.
3. Lead to the balkanization of the American River Parkway (based upon past experience with attempts to negotiate a joint powers agreement for the American River Parkway and the update process for the 2008 American River Parkway Plan).
4. Not allow for future expansion of parks and open space lands and facilities nor improved connectivity within the county or future expansion of the system beyond the boundaries of Sacramento County.
5. Not provide increased accountability to the public for the funding, operation and maintenance of the Regional Parks and Open Space System.
6. Would continue the inefficiencies of the existing arrangements for maintenance and operation.
7. Depend upon a governance structure without good models of successful implementation elsewhere in California.
8. In addition to the foregoing, the option "County Divests Responsibility for Parks except the American River Parkway and Retains Open Space" the Working Group concluded that this option would mean:
 - (a) Privatization of a public resource,
 - (b) Loss of the Regional Parks system, and
 - (c) Reduced opportunity for connectivity among the park and open space lands.
9. Although in some instances it would appear that voter action to commit a base level of funding or to provide for needed additional revenue would be avoided, this conclusion is premised on the realization of the assumptions described in the definition of the option. If these assumptions are not realized, then it is most likely that all options will require a ballot measure to secure base funding and/or additional needed revenue.
10. For three of the four options not selected for further consideration, a new governmental agency may need to be created depending upon the outcome of negotiations.
11. On balance, the foregoing more than offset positive attributes of the options not selected for further evaluation.

GRASSROOTS WORKING GROUP ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

13-Aug-10

Line No.	Category: Number (3)	Options for Further Study					Not Recommended for Further Study				Text Item Number (8)		
		1 New INDEPENDENT Regional Parks and Open Space District	2 New DEPENDENT Regional Parks and Open Space District	3 Non-profit Conservancy	4 Community Services District	5 County Dept of Regional Parks	1 County Divests Responsibility for Parks	2 County Service Area #11	3 New Community Facilities District	4 Co-operative Working Relationship			
1	Timely by July 2012	Yes	Yes	(1)	No (4)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	1
2	Good models for successful implementation elsewhere in CA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	7
3	Some or all Tax revenues subject to diversion for other purposes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
4	Option May be Seen as Allowing Division of Existing Parks and Open Space Revenues to other purposes	No	No	Yes	(7)	Yes	(7)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2
5	Privatization of a Public Resource	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	8
6	Balkanization of American River Parkway	No	No	No	(1)(4)	Yes	(1)(4)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3
7	Loss of Regional Parks System	No	No	No	No	(2)	No	Yes	(1)	Yes	(1)	(1)	1,8
8	Allow County Parks/Open Space to Grow within county	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	(2)	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	4,8
9	Can expand beyond county boundaries	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	4,8
10	Produces governance stability	Yes	Yes	NA(9)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	11
11	Increased Accountability to the Public	Yes	(7)	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	5
12	Dedicated Revenue By Voter Action (6)	Yes	Yes	(1)	Yes	(2)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No (6)	9
13	Subject to Section 71J of County Charter (6)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	6
14	Requires Public Vote (i.e. Ballot Measure) for Governance	Yes	Yes	No	(5)	No	(5)	No	No	No	No	No	11
15	Creates New Government Agency	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	(1)	No	(1)	(1)	10, 11
16	Ballot Measure for Funding Seen as new taxes for County	No	Yes	NA(9)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2
17	Allows for cross jurisdictional boundaries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	(1)	No	(1)	(1)	8
18	Could be more efficient than Existing	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	(1)	No	No	No	6

See Following Page for Notes.

**Attachment to Progress Report No. 1
DISPOSITION OF OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY THE WORKING GROUP**

August 26, 2010

NOTES FOR PRECEDING PAGE.

- (1) Maybe. Depends upon outcome of negotiations
- (2) Maybe Depending upon amount of General Fund Revenue made available by Board of Supervisors
- (3) Number corresponds to the number in "Disposition of Options Considered by the Working Group", August 26, 2010.
- (4) LAFCo process involves complex negotiations
- (5) Maybe. if sufficient protest vote is received by LAFCo
- (6) See "Options Converted to Analysis Factors" in "Disposition of Options Considered by the Working Group", August 26, 2010.
- (7) Maybe. Public may not perceive this as separate from County government.
- (8) Refers to the numbered items listed under "Discussion of Options Not Selected" in "Disposition of Options Considered by the Working Group", August 26, 2010
- (9) NA = Not Applicable



DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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November 23, 2010

Parks and Recreation Commission
Sacramento, California

Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission: Planning for 2011

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and discuss; give input to staff.

Contact: Jim Combs, Parks and Recreation Director, 808-8526

For Commission Meeting of: December 2, 2010

SUMMARY: At last month's meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed items addressed in 2010 (repeated below) and gave input on agenda items for calendar year 2011. Chair Rewers recommended the Commission develop an annual report and present it to the City Council in February.

Staff requests the Commission briefly review 2010 items below, and discuss more thoroughly the attached proposed list of agenda items for 2011. The list incorporates requests from Commissioners and both routine and specific agenda items recommended by staff.

Staff also requests Commissioners discuss what is working well, and what could be clarified or improved, between staff and the Commission as we begin the new year.

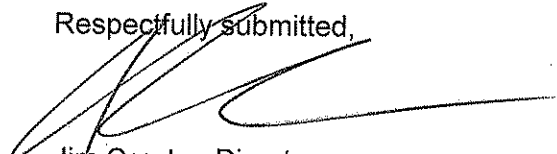
Summary of Items Addressed by the Commission in 2010 (from the November 4th meeting):

- 1) The Parks and Recreation Commission was re-established by council district, with a mayoral appointment and two at large positions. Rules of Procedure and Rules for Administrative Hearings were confirmed.
- 2) Significant planning items affecting parks and recreation were reviewed including: Curtis Park Village, Township 9, River District, Sutter's Landing Regional Park and a future zoo, a proposed Sacramento Tree Foundation Nature/Education Center in North Natomas Regional Park, and individual park master plans.

- 3) Financing issues were discussed including approaches to reductions in funding and services and the potential impact on the community, support for park maintenance through property assessments, and streamlining/maximizing revenues from telecommunication facility siting.
- 4) The Commission provided a forum for community engagement by addressing community garden management and recognizing volunteers.
- 5) Individual Commissioners volunteered for special projects including representation on a Special Events Task Force and participating in a process to lease community center space to the nonprofit community.
- 6) The Commission conducted residential heritage tree appeal hearings on behalf of the City Council.

Input from the Commissioners is appreciated in planning for the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Combs, Director

Attachment: Proposed Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda Items for 2011

PROPOSED 2011 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS

for discussion at the December 2, 2010 Commission Meeting

#	ITEM TYPE	DESCRIPTION	WHEN	STAFF LEAD(S)
1	Financing/ Budget	Potential Lighting and Landscaping property assessment proposal benefiting park maintenance: <i>With City Council approval in December, an engineering study will be conducted over the next 5 to 6 months to establish benefit nexus, feasibility and timing. The Commission would be asked to appoint an ad hoc/technical committee to work with staff and the engineer to provide input into the study, and the Commission would review the draft engineering study prior to any Council action.</i>	Ongoing as needed	Dave Mitchell
2		City of Sacramento Regional Park System Financing Strategies: <i>Staff will seek input from the Commission. Strategies will address acquisition, development, operations and maintenance funding for regional parks, parkways, natural areas, open space.</i>	TBD	J.P. Tindell
3		Neighborhood/Community Park Capital Financing: <i>Informational briefing on Quimby and Park Development Impact Fee Programs, and changes under consideration (ordinance updating, language clarifications, fee schedules, administrative rates).</i>	TBD	J.P. Tindell
4		Annual Capital and Operating Budget Processes / General Fund Reductions: <i>For Commission review and input. Various agenda items will include information on the City Manager's Recovery Plan as it relates to Parks and Recreation.</i>	April - July	Lori Harder
5	Planning/ Develop- ment	Parks & Recreation Master Plan Overview: <i>Informational briefing on importance of and use of Master Plan including its relationship to other Department planning and implementation tools and decisionmaking.</i>	Spring	J.P. Tindell
6		Solar Farm at Sutter's Landing Regional Park: <i>During the design process, return to Commission for further input on this proposed development project to install solar power generation facilities compatible with park development.</i>	TBD	J.P. Tindell
7		Future of Sacramento Zoo Update: <i>Any next steps resulting from proposed City Council Workshop currently scheduled for February 22, 2011.</i>	TBD	J.P. Tindell
8		Private Development Project Reviews: <i>Review of private development projects for input as they are submitted to the City, prior to City Council action.</i>	Ongoing as needed	J.P. Tindell
9		Site-Specific Park Master Plan Reviews: <i>New park master plans or master plan updates for Commission input prior to City Council action.</i>	Ongoing as needed	J.P. Tindell

10		Annual Sustainability Plan for Parks & Recreation: Information on activities that implement the Department Sustainability Plan, Internal Operations Climate Action Plan, City Sustainability Master Plan, and Water Conservation Ordinances.	TBD	J.P. Tindell
11	Projects	Community Partnerships for the Operations of Community Centers and Clubhouses: Periodic updates on the process and outcomes, with a goal to keep centers open for community use and youth programming in the face of City budget and staffing reductions.	July/ August	Dave Mitchell
12		Citywide Cell Tower Policy and Procedure Review: Information provided by Economic Development and General Services Departments on recommended changes for Commission input prior to going to City Council.	TBD	J.P. Tindell
13		Citywide Special Events Policy and Process Review: Commissioner Heitstuman and staff will give periodic progress updates and request input from the Commission on proposed changes prior to Council action.	Ongoing as needed	Vincene Jones
14		Heritage Tree Ordinance Review: Parks and Recreation staff has requested the Department of Transportation/Urban Forest Services division give an update. Note that sections of the ordinance relating to heritage tree removal processes and appeals have been updated.	TBD	Joe Benassini
15	Programs	Chemical Free Pilot Program at Fremont Park Update: Staff will update the Commission on the outcome of this effort.	January	Dave Mitchell
16		Adopt a Park Program / Volunteerism: In addition to program scope, management, trends, and citizen accomplishments, staff will seek input from the Commission on proposed program improvements.	February	Dave Mitchell
17		Community Garden Management: In addition to a program update, staff will review and seek input from the Commission on key points in management guidelines.	March	Dave Mitchell
18		Swimming Pool Sponsorships: Staff will review plans and opportunities to seek major sponsors to help keep pools open in the face of budget and staffing reductions.	March	Dave Mitchell
19		Access Leisure Services, Sponsors and Partners: Status report on successful partnerships and sponsorships to maximize opportunities in the community.	March	Dave Mitchell
20		"Cover the Kids" Governance and Management: Update on services and funding partners. Evaluation process underway to determine if program partners should form a nonprofit organization to assume management and governance.	April	Dave Mitchell
21		Integrated Pest Management Systems: The new Park Operations Manager will seek Commission input on current systems and practices.	March or April	Dave Mitchell

22		Neighborhood Services Review: <i>The Neighborhood Services Department was merged with Parks and Recreation on July 1, 2010. The organization's mission, activities, goals and objectives will be reviewed with the Commission.</i>	May	Vincene Jones
23	Partners	Support Nonprofit Organization Review: Gifts to Share, Inc., Friends of Camp Sacramento, etc. <i>To inform the Commission of the mission, scope and activities of the organizations.</i>	April	Lori Harder
24	Commission	Commission's Rules of Procedures Update: <i>An update is needed to maintain consistency with those of the City Council. Recommendations will be brought forward with the City Clerk and City Attorney's Office.</i>	TBD	Lori Harder
25		Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report: <i>Per Chair Rewers' request, the Commission would determine how to develop the report (Commission volunteers draft (up to 5); staff develop with the Chair, etc.), finalize and approve the report in February, and present to City Council.</i>	February	Lori Harder