

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JEN SANTOS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PARKS
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, AND
COLIN CLOSE, SENIOR WATER RESOURCES PLANNER,
WATER DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: A PLACE TO PLAY PARK MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT TO
INCLUDE LOCATIONS FOR AN EMERGENCY GROUND WATER
WELL AND PUMP STATION, BASKETBALL COURT,
HYDRATION STATIONS, PICNIC AREAS, ENTRY GATES AND
IRRIGATION PUMP STATION

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Transportation and Public Works Department, Parks Division and the Water Department that the Council, by resolution, adopt the A Place to Play Park Master Plan Amendment to include locations for an emergency ground water well and pump station, basketball court, hydration stations, picnic areas, entry gates and existing irrigation pump station.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the proposed A Place to Play Park Master Plan Amendment is to update the park master plan to include an emergency ground water well and pump station, basketball court, hydration stations, picnic areas and location of the existing irrigation pump station.

BACKGROUND

On June 18, 1996, the Council authorized development of "A Place to Play", an 83-acre community park located at 2375 West Third Street owned by the City of Santa Rosa. On November 13, 1997, the Planning Commission adopted resolutions approving a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Conditional Use Permit for the park. On September 7, 2004, Council, by resolution, reaffirmed its approval of the park master plan for A Place to Play park and authorized its implementation.

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In 2006, the Water Department, upon approval of the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) via Resolution No. 776, installed a test well in the southwest corner of A Place to Play park near the intersection of Third Street and the west park entry. In 2008, the Water Department, upon approval of the BPU, installed a recycled water pump station at A Place to Play Park near the northern edge of the pond. This pump station uses recycled water from the on-site pond to provide irrigation water for the park. The existing pump station is operated and maintained by the Water Department.

In September 2013, the Water Department, via approval from the BPU, adopted the Groundwater Master Plan which authorized the process of securing locations throughout the City to install emergency ground water stations to provide the City with emergency ground water in the event of an emergency or disconnection from the Sonoma County Water Agency (SWCA) Aqueduct. Water provided by the proposed well would provide a temporary clean water source for Santa Rosa Water customers. In 2014, the BPU awarded a Master Professional Services Agreement to begin the process to investigate emergency groundwater supply, well-siting and construction management services.

On July 7, 2015, Council adopted a Park Master Plan Amendment to indicate locations of a dog park, remote-control car track, and skate park, and to delete one ball diamond and a basketball court.

In 2017, the Water Department tested the existing test well for compatibility to use as an emergency ground water well and pump station. As a result of the investigative process, the existing test water well was recommended as the location for an emergency ground water well and new pump station at A Place to Play park.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

Not applicable

ANALYSIS

A Place to Play park is partially improved with six soccer fields, two ball diamonds, restroom/concession building, paved parking lots, recycled water pump station, recycled water pond, dog park, remote control car track, one play structure and access to the Santa Rosa Creek trail. Currently 33 acres remain unimproved pending future funding to construct remaining planned amenities, including sand volleyball courts, skate park, two combination baseball and soccer fields, restroom, bocce, shuffleboard and horseshoe courts, children's play area, ball diamond, pavilion with observation deck, and connections to trails.

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The Water Department has recommended placement of an emergency water well and pump station at the corner of Third Street and the west park entry, which should be approved through an amendment to the Park Master Plan. The existing irrigation pump station located at the northern edge of the existing pond should also be included as a formal label on the Master Plan.

The Recreation and Parks Department conducted community outreach from May 1 - 15, 2017 regarding the proposed Park Master Plan amendments. Outreach included notification through the Department newsletter and website, City's home web page, Facebook and Nextdoor.com and on-site posting of the proposed park master plan graphic. Input from 22 comments included requests for basketball, hydration stations, skate park, park entry gates and one comment to relocate the well and pump station outside the park. Through community outreach regarding the proposed Master Plan Amendment, the Recreation and Parks Department received requests for a basketball court, hydration stations, picnic areas, and park entry gates and recommends their addition to the plan as well as the proposed emergency well and pump station and the existing irrigation pump station.

The project was put on hold after the October 2017 wildfires. On September 21, 2019 another public meeting was conducted on-site at A Place to Play park to check-in with the community regarding previous comments received regarding the Master Plan Amendment since the fires. Seventeen people signed-in at the meeting and staff from Parks and the Water Department were on-hand to answer questions. The meeting confirmed the current amendment captured community interest previously documented. The community also desired additional amenities that can be considered during future amendments. There were also numerous comments regarding park maintenance.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund. The Water Department will fund the future project to convert the existing test well to an emergency Ground Water Well and Pump Station. The remainder of the improvements will be funded as park development impact fees are collected in Zone 1.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), on November 13, 1997, the Planning Commission adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Master Plan Project.

Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines identifies the threshold for requiring an update or addendum to an adopted CEQA document. There are no substantial changes in the master plan amendment project, no substantial changes in circumstances, and no new

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information of substantial importance. The scope of the originally adopted MND was such that there are no new or more severe adverse impacts associated with the proposal currently under consideration and no additional environmental review is necessary.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), in 2008, the Water Department submitted an Exemption to the State Clearinghouse for installation of the pump station at the northern edge of the recycled water pond.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), on September 19, 2013 the BPU adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation and Monitoring Program for conversion of the existing test well to an Emergency Ground Water Well and Pump Station Project.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On April 26, 2017, the Board of Community Services (BOCS) reviewed a presentation regarding the proposed Master Plan Amendments. The BOCS and public comments provided input supporting hydration stations.

On May 24, 2017, the BOCS reviewed a revised amendment incorporating input from the April 26, 2017 BOCS meeting. The BOCS voted unanimously in favor of the proposed Park Master Plan Amendment and recommends Council approval of the same.

NOTIFICATION

The proposed Master Plan Amendment was noticed for a Public Hearing. Notification was provided by posting a sign on site, publishing notice in a newspaper of general circulation, mailing notice to surrounding property owners, electronic notice to parties that had expressed interest in projects taking place at A Place to Play park, and bulletin board postings at City Hall and on the Department website.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – A Place to Play Location Map
- Attachment 2 – A Place to Play Master Plan 2015
- Resolution
- Exhibit A – Master Plan Amendment dated September 2017

CONTACT

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