Board of Supervisors Endorse a Preferred Alternative for the Master Plan

At their December 17th Meeting, The Board of Supervisors made their recommendation to endorse Alternative C as the Preferred Alternative for the Coyote Lake Master Plan. This Plan includes an Events Center, Equestrian Center, youth fishing pond, off-leash dog area, turfed picnic grounds, Historical Interpretation and Environmental Education Area, and a municipal golf course in the Western Flat Area at the intersection of New Avenue and San Martin Avenue. The recommendation was supported by all five supervisors after reviewing the proposed mix of uses and weighing the financial information presented. They also considered the recommendations of the Task Force and comments offered by members of the public and environmental groups attending the meeting.

The Supervisors stipulated that they expect the major components of Alternative C to be a model for sensitive environmental design, integrated pest management, and use of recycled water. They recommended that depreciation costs be identified for major capital improvements, and recommendations for offsetting these costs be included in the Financial section of the Master Plan. They were also receptive to requests from the public that hang gliding and bike park opportunities be included in the master plan.

The Board thanked the Parks Commission and the Task Force for their hard work and indepth study of the issues raised during the alternatives phase of this project. They stated that they were very pleased with the overall vision being crafted for the park, specifically the emphasis that the Task Force has placed on environmental education/recreation for youth, historic interpretation, trails and open space. The Board stated further that, while they were making a recommendation for the Western Flat Area different from the Commission and Task Force, the dialog that resulted from the debate between the recommendations clarified many of the key concepts for the Supervisors and the balance they sought.

A special thanks was made to Patty Ciesla and Jan Webb who attended the meeting and spoke on behalf of both the Parks Commission and the Task Force.

Our next Task Force meeting is planned for late February. Information on the date and meeting location will be announced shortly. At the upcoming meeting, we will review a preliminary draft of the Master Plan with special emphasis on the Phasing Recommendations and Design Guidelines sections.

It has been a very busy year and we thank everyone for their dedication and participation. We ask you continue to join us and add your input on concepts needed to complete the Master Plan project in the coming year.
Key Elements of the Proposed Plan

**Lakeside Area**: Continuing emphasis is on boating, camping, and picnicking with new camping and picnic areas proposed, along with showers, water play area and small amphitheater for ranger talks.

**Slopes and Ridges**: Over 4000 acres of passive open space will preserve the slopes and the hillsides overlooking the valley and the lake. Multi-use trails will traverse the area but most of it will remain as natural habitat. Opportunities for hang gliding and para gliding may be provided at key points along the ridge.

**Mendoza Ranch Area**: An environmental education center emphasizing natural history, education, and outdoor skills for both youth and the general public is proposed for this scenic backroads area. Staging areas will provide trail access to regional trails in the area and link up to the rest of the park.

**Western Flat Area**: Historically cultivated in crops, hay, and pasture, the 300 acres located off San Martin and Foothill Avenues offer the most potential for a mix of recreation for local and regional needs. A 35 acre equestrian center is proposed with the versatility to serve many types of equestrian related activities. Along with picnicking, youth fishing pond, off-leash dog area, trails, and a regional staging area, a 6 acre Historic Site is included at the location of the historic Martin Murphy Ranch site. A golf course is proposed for about 150 acres. Between 80 and 90 acres of open grassland will serve as a buffer and visual screen between the local community and the proposed uses.

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**Coyote Bear-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park Master Plan**

If you need more information or would like to add a name to our mailing list, please contact:

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