



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



June 4, 2019

File ID: 19-0244

## **TITLE**

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA APPROVING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE PARK BOUNDARIES OF SDG&E PARK EAST, SDG&E PARK WEST, LOMA VERDE PARK, AND RIENSTRA PARK INTO LOMA VERDE SPORTS PARK

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Council adopt the resolution.

## **SUMMARY**

Staff is recommending the consolidation of 4 identified park sites, SDG&E Park East, SDG&E Park West, Loma Verde Park and Rienstra Park into a single park and to name the consolidated park Loma Verde Sports Park. The consolidation of the parks would improve opportunities for State park grant funding.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The proposed Project has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and it has been determined that the Project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Class 1 (Existing Facilities), Section 15303 class 3 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), Section 15323 Class 23 (Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings), and Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. Thus, no further environmental review is required.

## **BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Parks and Recreation Commission had a scheduled Special Meeting on Monday, April 15. The Parks and Recreation Commission did not have a quorum, with only three Commissioners present. This item was presented to the members who were present, and the Commission allowed for discussion. The Commissioners who were present expressed no concerns regarding the proposed consolidation.

## **DISCUSSION**

Loma Verde Park and Rienstra Park have been identified as Chula Vista parks since 1974. These two parks are adjacent to one another yet provide significantly different recreation programming options. Loma Verde Park has a recreation center, aquatic center, and a children's playground located on its premises servicing aquatic needs, recreation classes, rental space, after school youth recreation, and senior recreation programming. Rienstra Park has 7 baseball fields on its premises and services the recreational

and club baseball needs of South Chula Vista. SDG&E Park East and West are park sites located on a public utility corridor and they are leased by the City from San Diego Gas & Electric. The original agreement was entered into between the City and SDG&E in 1977. On SDG&E West, there is a large multipurpose grass field and a playground. There is a large multipurpose field and current talks to develop a disc golf course on SDG&E East.

Each current park site comprises of a unique recreation opportunity. With this proposal, consolidating the park sites into one unified park complex provides several benefits. The primary benefit is enabling the City of Chula Vista the opportunity to utilize the demographic data surrounding SDG&E West Park to count towards grant funding opportunities through the State of California's Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program to apply towards redevelopment of Loma Verde Park facilities and Rienstra Park facilities. Currently, the demographics of the community surrounding Loma Verde Park and Rienstra Park without the inclusion of SDG&E West Park does not qualify the City of Chula Vista to apply for the State grant funding through the Statewide Parks Program. If the City were to be eligible for State grant funding for this park site, the first recommended grant application would be for the redevelopment of the Loma Verde Recreation Center and Aquatic Center to better service the community's needs. Future grant funded redevelopment projects could include a redesign of Rienstra Park ballfields, improved connectivity through all of the parks and a robust disc golf course.

Another benefit would be to create a greater community draw to a much larger park site with combined amenities, rather than that which is currently being attracted through the individual park sites. The combined acreage of the 4 parks would be 39.35 acres, putting Loma Verde Sports Park as the second largest park in Chula Vista, behind Rohr Park. Also, with the current discussion to develop a disc golf course at this site, it would be the first amenity of its kind south of Morley Field in Downtown San Diego.

If the consolidation of the park sites into one Loma Verde Sports Park is approved, it would not decrease the number of park acreage per 1,000 residents, nor decrease the total park acreage for the City. It would reduce the total number of parks in the City but all of the current park amenities and acreage would remain.

Also, the City is currently in discussions with San Diego Gas & Electric to establish a long-term extension for continued recreational use of the currently named SDG&E East and West park sites.

### **DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT**

Staff has reviewed the property holdings of the **City Council** members and has found no property holdings within 1,000 feet of the boundaries of the property which is the subject of this action. Consequently, this item does not present a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under California Code of Regulations Title 2, section 18702.2(a)(7) or (8), for purposes of the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code §87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware, and has not been informed by any **City Council** member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision-maker conflict of interest in this matter.

### **CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact this current year.

### **ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT**

The consolidation of the park sites into one Loma Verde Sports Park would allow for the City to qualify to apply for grant funding from the State of California's Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Program. The current grant cycle allows for requests of up to \$8.5 million per project site.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Loma Verde Sports Park Map
2. Demographic Data of Loma Verde Park
3. Demographic Data of SDG&E West Park

*Staff Contact: Tim Farmer, Parks and Recreation Administrator*