

**RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: March 1, 2007

TO: General Manager

FROM: Assistant General Manager

SUBJECT: Review and Approval of Modification to Phase 4 of the Rancho Tapo Community Park Master Plan

The District's adopted 10-Year Capital Improvement Program – Simi Valley includes completion of Phase 4 of Rancho Tapo Community Park in FY 2007-08. Phase 4 is located in the only undeveloped portion of the park, the southeast corner directly east of the Boys and Girls Club. The project is fully funded.

The District's approved development permit for Phase 4 includes four lighted tennis courts and two lighted sand volleyball courts. Staff is proposing that the two lighted sand volleyball courts be replaced with three lighted pickleball courts. The tennis courts would remain in their current location. A graphic depiction of the proposed new layout will be available at the Board meeting.

Pickleball is a game described as "a combination of Ping-Pong, tennis, and badminton", played in schools, parks and recreation centers, correctional facilities, camps, and retirement communities, mostly in North America. It uses a simplified combination of tennis rules and strategies. The United States of America Pickleball Association (USAPA) calls it the "fastest-growing sport in America", although this claim is disputed by some.

Pickleball is a game of shot placement and patience, not brute power or strength. The game itself is played on a court that is the same size as a badminton court (20 feet wide by 44 feet long). A ball similar to a wiffleball, made with a more rigid material and having smaller holes, is used in game play. Originally, during the time the game was invented, wooden paddles were used, but now lightweight fiberglass and composite paddles are most common due to their lower cost and higher durability.

Staff believes that the pickleball courts would be more popular than the sand volleyball courts, especially for senior citizens. The Simi Valley Senior Center currently offers a pickleball league at the Boys and Girls Club, and when not available, on the basketball courts at Rancho Tapo. This program, run through the District's senior citizen staff, current has 25-35 participants and is becoming increasingly more popular.

Upon the Board's concurrence, an Application will be submitted to the City of Simi Valley for an Administrative Adjustment to the park's development permit. Staff will also be presenting a Consulting Agreement to the Board in the near future for construction plans and specification. Construction of Phase 4 would be completed in FY 2007-08.

Fiscal Impact: Adequate funds are currently available to fund the design and construction of Phase 4 of Rancho Tapo Community Park in FY 2007-08.

Board Action Requested:

That the Board review and approve the modification to Phase 4 of the Rancho Tapo Community Park Master Plan.



Ed Hayduk
Assistant General Manager

EH:bjm