

RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 20, 2007

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: General Manager

SUBJECT: Approval of Response to Assemblywoman Audra Strickland  
Regarding Suggested State Legislation

**SUMMARY**

Each of the District's Board members received the attached correspondence from Assemblywoman Audra Strickland. She was kind to request your input in contemplation of the legislative session that begins in January. The obvious issue confronting the Park District is the threat of another diversion of local property tax funds from it by the State of California. The State's budget has now faced many years of structural deficits.

Despite having the power to tax or reduce service (or both), the State has instead relied heavily on borrowing from Wall Street and on diverting revenues from local government, among other things. Borrowing has created large interest obligations that will saddle residents for years, and diverting has required local governments to raise fees and charges, essentially equating to a tax that the State has chosen not to implement directly.

In recent days we have heard that the State Budget will have a \$14 billion deficit within the next 18 months. According to the 2000 census, there are roughly 27 million residents in California over the age of 18, which translates to an obligation of \$519 for each such resident. How that amount is ultimately derived is clearly important to the District and the residents it serves. Passing a portion of the obligation to local government will affect service delivery.

Since 1992, "ERAF" diversions of Park District property tax revenues have totaled \$18,804,311. Clearly this affected the Park District's service delivery. Restricting future diversions was the goal of Prop 1A, and yet only a couple of years later it would seem that the State's financial position makes local government funding again vulnerable. The Board should determine what legislation, if any, should be considered under these circumstances.

Other areas worth considering: including a "per capita" component in future park bonds, ensuring a proper clean-up of the Boeing site, providing affordable health insurance alternatives, and supporting open space preservation. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, or even the focus of the Board's deliberations. It is simply meant to identify several areas of potential interest.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED**

Develop recommendations and direct staff to prepare correspondence to Assemblywoman Audra Strickland which memorializes those recommendations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry Peterson".

Larry Peterson  
General Manager

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0037  
(916) 319-2037  
FAX (916) 319-2137

DISTRICT OFFICE  
2659 TOWNSGATE RD., STE 236  
WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 91361  
(805) 230-9167  
FAX (805) 230-9183

# Assembly California Legislature



**AUDRA STRICKLAND**  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

November 7, 2007

Mr. James Meredith  
Rancho Simi Parks & Recreation District  
1692 Sycamore Drive  
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Dear Vice-Chair Meredith:

As we begin a new legislative session next January in California, I wanted to give you the opportunity to present any suggestions you might have for local issues that need to be addressed through state legislation. As a community leader, I certainly value your input.

In the next couple of months I will be finalizing my legislative package. As I am only able to introduce a limited number of bills each year, I want to make sure to leave room to be able to address any issues of concern to you.

Please note the deadline to submit requests to the Legislative Counsel to draft bill language is Friday, January 25, 2007. The deadline to introduce legislation is Friday, February 22.

I look forward to working with you during the upcoming legislative session. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (916) 319-2037.

As always, it is an honor to serve you in the California State Assembly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audra Strickland".

Audra Strickland  
Assemblywoman, 37th District