

November 16, 2021

City of Lompoc
Honorable Mayor & City Council
100 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436

Dear Honorable Mayor & Council Members,

The Parks and Recreation Commission received a presentation from Parks and Recreation division staff at the November 9, 2021 regular meeting which described staff's ranked recommendations for use of recently identified federal funding. The commission had discussion and while we agreed that deferred maintenance and operational items identified on the prioritized list are important and essential to continued operations, the commission agrees that such cost should be budgeted regularly and funded through regular operational, maintenance and replacement reserves. The projects that ranked top three for the commission were:

- 1) Parks, Facilities, and Playgrounds Master Plan – the City of Lompoc is long overdue in completing a comprehensive assessment of Lompoc's parks, recreation facilities, and playground systems that takes into account future growth in the community as well as plans for appropriate use given our limited resources in Lompoc. We must plan for the future.
- 2) River Bend Park (Grass) – replacement of the soccer fields at River Bend Park is important to the community and a much utilized asset to the community. The deferred maintenance and lack of investment in the resource has created hazards for our youth who participate in soccer event. The \$1.6 million is not sufficient for gopher wire and replacement of sod, the realistic need for both is preferred. That cost would be closer to \$3.0 million. The commission would support the replacement of sod only, so long as Council recognizes the additional supply and part time staffing funding would need to continue to maintain the new sod and continue impactful gopher and ground squirrel abatement efforts.
- 3) Westvale Park Playground Equipment, Surfacing Replacement, and Tennis, Pickleball, ADA Improvements – This is one city park that is in dire need of attention in a community that has many families with children that would/could utilize the new amenities.

The commission recognizes council's task before you to allocate funding where it would be most impactful and address many unmet needs of the community and city organization.

The commission requests that council consider when allocating funding for Parks and Recreation projects, that such funding be allocated as a whole dollar amount to Parks and Recreation that would return to the commission for appropriate public outreach, comment, engagement and to allow the commission to develop a recommendation to council for funding.

Thank you for consideration of the commission's recommendation and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,

City of Lompoc Parks and Recreation Commission

Dave Baker, Chairperson

Chris Braxton, Commissioner

Ondray Simmons, Commissioner

cc:
City Manager
Community Development Director
Parks and Recreation Manager