

AGENDA

**Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
County Administrative Center - 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1st Floor
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Bakersfield, CA 93301**

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
6:30 P.M.

All agenda items and supporting documentation are available for public review at the Kern County General Services Division, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor, in Bakersfield, CA 93301 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, following posting of the agenda. Any supporting documentation that relates to an agenda item that is distributed after the agenda is posted and prior to the meeting will also be available at the same location.

Commissioners: Ryan Abler, District I;
William Chapman, District II;
Carol Lair, District III;
Lorena Cervantes, District IV; and
Ucedrah Osby, District V

Disclaimer: This agenda includes the proposed actions and activities with respect to each agenda item as of the date of posting. As such, it does not preclude the Commission from modifying the recommendations of staff or taking different actions than those proposed.

Salute to the Flag

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, COMMENTS, AND REQUESTS

1. This portion of the agenda is reserved for persons wishing to address the Commission on any matter not on this agenda and over which the Commission has jurisdiction. No response is required from the Commission or staff, and no action can be taken on items not on the agenda; however, Commissioners may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. Commissioners may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information, or request staff to report back to the Commission at a later meeting. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD.**

- I. Public Comments and Requests

CONSENT AGENDA

2. All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by staff. Consent items will be considered first and may be approved by one motion if no member of the Commission or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If discussion is desired, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence.
 - I. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on September 20, 2023; **APPROVE**
 - II. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on October 18, 2023; **APPROVE**
 - III. Miscellaneous Correspondence; **RECEIVE AND FILE**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

3. General Services Division – This portion of the meeting is reserved for General Services staff to provide a report regarding new and ongoing projects, programs, and plans relating to Kern County Parks; **INFORMATIONAL**
4. Park Ranger – Status Update; **INFORMATIONAL**

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

5. This portion of the meeting is reserved for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee appointed by the Commission for the purpose of supporting, identifying priorities and projects regarding the Parks Master Plan update to provide a report; **INFORMATIONAL**
6. This portion of the meeting is reserved for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee appointed by the Commission for the purpose of the establishment and naming of trails to provide a report; **INFORMATIONAL**

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

7. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **SET JANUARY 2024 MEETING LOCATION**

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. On their own initiative, Commission members may make a brief announcement or a brief report on their own activities. Commissioners may request that an item be agendaized at a future meeting, make a referral to staff for factual information, or request that staff report back to the Commission at a later meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

9. Adjourn to next regular meeting, scheduled for January 17, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., to be conducted at the County Administrative Center - 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1st Floor, Board of Supervisors Chambers, Bakersfield, CA 93301, unless otherwise indicated, changed, and/or cancelled by the Commission.

Americans with Disabilities Act (Government Code Section 54953.2)

The Kern County Administrative Center is accessible to persons with disabilities. Disabled individuals who need assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission may request assistance at the Kern County Parks and Recreation Division, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bakersfield, or by calling (661) 868-7000. Every effort will be made to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in alternate formats. Requests should be made five (5) working days in advance whenever possible.

To obtain past [Agendas or Minutes](https://www.kerncounty.com/gsd/parks/), please visit our website at:
<https://www.kerncounty.com/gsd/parks/>



Kern County

Parks and Recreation Commission

Public Presentations, Comments and Requests



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Consent Agenda

MINUTES

**Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
David Head Center – 10300 San Diego Street
Lamont, CA 93241**

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2023
6:30 P.M.

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Commission Chairman Abler presided and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioner(s): Ryan Abler, District I; William Chapman, District II; Carol Lair, District III; Lorena Cervantes, District IV; and Ucedrah Osby, District V

Staff: Carl Brewer, Senior CAO Manager; Brian Van Wyk, Deputy County Counsel; David Kessler, Chief Deputy, Kern County Sheriff

Others: There were 4 others present

Note: Ab, Ch, La, Ce, and Os are abbreviations for Commissioners Abler, Chapman, Lair, Cervantes, and Osby. As an example, Ab-La denotes Commissioner Abler made a motion and Commissioner Lair seconded the motion.

Salute to the Flag: Lead by Commissioner Abler

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

1. This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Commission on any matter not on this agenda and over which the Commission has jurisdiction. No response is required from the Commission or staff, and no action can be taken on items not on the agenda; however, Commissioners may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. Commissioners may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information, or request staff to report back to the Commission at a later meeting.

EDDY LAINE, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE SIERRA CLUB, TO DISCUSS KERN COUNTY'S ORV APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CONSENT AGENDA

2. All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by staff. Consent items will be considered first and may be approved by one motion if no member of the Commission or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If discussion is desired, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence.
 - I. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on August 16, 2023. Ch-Ce to approve the AUGUST 16, 2023, MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN. MOTION CARRIED. **4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Osby**
 - II. Miscellaneous Correspondence: Ch-Ce TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE DATED, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023, FROM CAROL LAIR REGARDING A REPORT TO GENERAL SERVICES AND KCAS FOR AUGUST 2023. MOTION CARRIED. **4 Ayes; 1 Absent - Osby**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

3. General Services – Status Update
 - I. **CASA LOMA PARK** – CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE PARK PROJECT
 - II. **BELLE TERRACE PARK** - CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE PARK PROJECT
 - III. **PANORAMA PARK** - CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE PARK PROJECT
 - IV. **INCREASE OF SERVICE** - CARL BREWER. SENIOR CAO MANAGER. WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON SERVICES PROVIDED BY ELITE LANDSCAPING
 - V. **GRANT OPPURTUNITY** - CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER. WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
 - VI. **GRAFFITI ABATEMENT** - CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON AN AGREEMENT IN PLACE WITH THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD FOR ASSISTANCE WITH GRAFFITI ABATEMENT

VII. **FULLER ACRES** - CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER. WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON FULLER ACRES PARK PROJECT COMMUNITY MEETINGS

4. Park Ranger – Status Update

- I. DAVID KESSLER, CHIEF DEPUTY, KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF; CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES WITHIN KERN COUNTY PARKS INCLUDING CITATIONS ISSUED, CALLS FOR SERVICE, RESCUE CALLS, TRAFFIC STOPS, AND VESSEL STOPS

AH HOC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

5. AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE – COMMISSIONER OSBY REPORTED THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE ONGOING; MEETING SCHEDULED WITHIN THE NEXT 60 DAYS; UPDATE FORTHCOMING
6. AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE – COMMISSIONER ABLER REPORTED THAT TESTING OF THE ALL-TRAILS APP IS CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTIED

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

7. Referral from Commissioner Lair requesting consideration of the development of a Resource Management Plan - CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO REPORT THAT THERE ARE NO PLANS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS REQUEST
8. Referral from Commissioner Osby requesting information regarding photographs previously displayed on the walls of the Veteran's Hall previously located at Martin Luther King Jr. Park - CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO REPORT THAT KERN COUNTY GENERAL SERVICES – PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, RELEASED ALL MEMORIBILIA TO DEE SLADE WITH THE KERN COUNTY AFRICAN AMERICAN NETWORK
9. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(d); THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO HOLD THE OCTOBER MEETING AT COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER LOCATED AT 1115 TRUXTUN AVE., 1ST FLOOR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

10. On their own initiative, Commission members may make a brief announcement or a brief report on their own activities. Commissioners may request that an item be agendaized at a future meeting, make a referral to staff for factual information, or request that staff report back to the Commission at a later meeting.
 - I. COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN READ INTO RECORD WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE FROM DANIEL RODELA, DATED SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
 - II. COMMISSIONER LAIR PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES BEING HELD AT THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER AND EXPRESSED CONCERNS REGARDING PUBLIC USE OF THE NATURE CENTER RESTROOM
 - III. COMMISSIONER OSBY PROVIDED REMARKS REGARDING PARK UPDATES

Adjourn at 7:54 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for October 18, 2023, at 6:30 P.M., at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1115 Truxtun Ave. 1st Floor, Bakersfield, CA. 93301 unless otherwise indicated, changed, and/or cancelled by the Commission.

MINUTES

**Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
1115 Truxtun Ave, 1st Floor
Bakersfield, CA. 93301
Board of Supervisors Chambers**

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 18, 2023
6:30 P.M.

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Commissioner Lair presided and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioner(s): William Chapman, District II; and Carol Lair, District III

Absent: Ryan Abler, District 1; Lorena Cervantes, District IV; and Ucedrah Osby, District V

Staff: Brian Van Wyk, Deputy County Counsel; Isaac Preston, General Services Manager; and David Kessler, Chief Deputy, Kern County Sheriff

Others: There were 4 others present

Note: Ab, Ch, La, Ce, and Os are abbreviations for Commissioners Abler, Chapman, Lair, Cervantes, and Osby. As an example, Ab-La denotes Commissioner Abler made a motion and Commissioner Lair seconded the motion.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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COUNSEL ADVISED THAT DUE TO THE LACK OF QUORUM, THE COMMISSION COULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION, BUT COULD ELECT TO HEAR THE COMMENTS OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO DESIRED TO SPEAK.

KATHLEEN ARNOLD-CHAMBERS, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER

JEREMY ROWELL, PRESIDENT, BAKERSFIELD TRAILBLAZERS 4 X 4 CLUB, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO EXPRESS SUPPORT AND COMMENTS REGARDING THE NEED OF AN OHV PARK AND REQUEST MORE INFORMATION

RICHARD O'NEIL, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO EXPRESS CONCERNS REGARDING THE UPCOMING OHV PARK AND THE NEED FOR WI-FI AT HART PARK

MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM

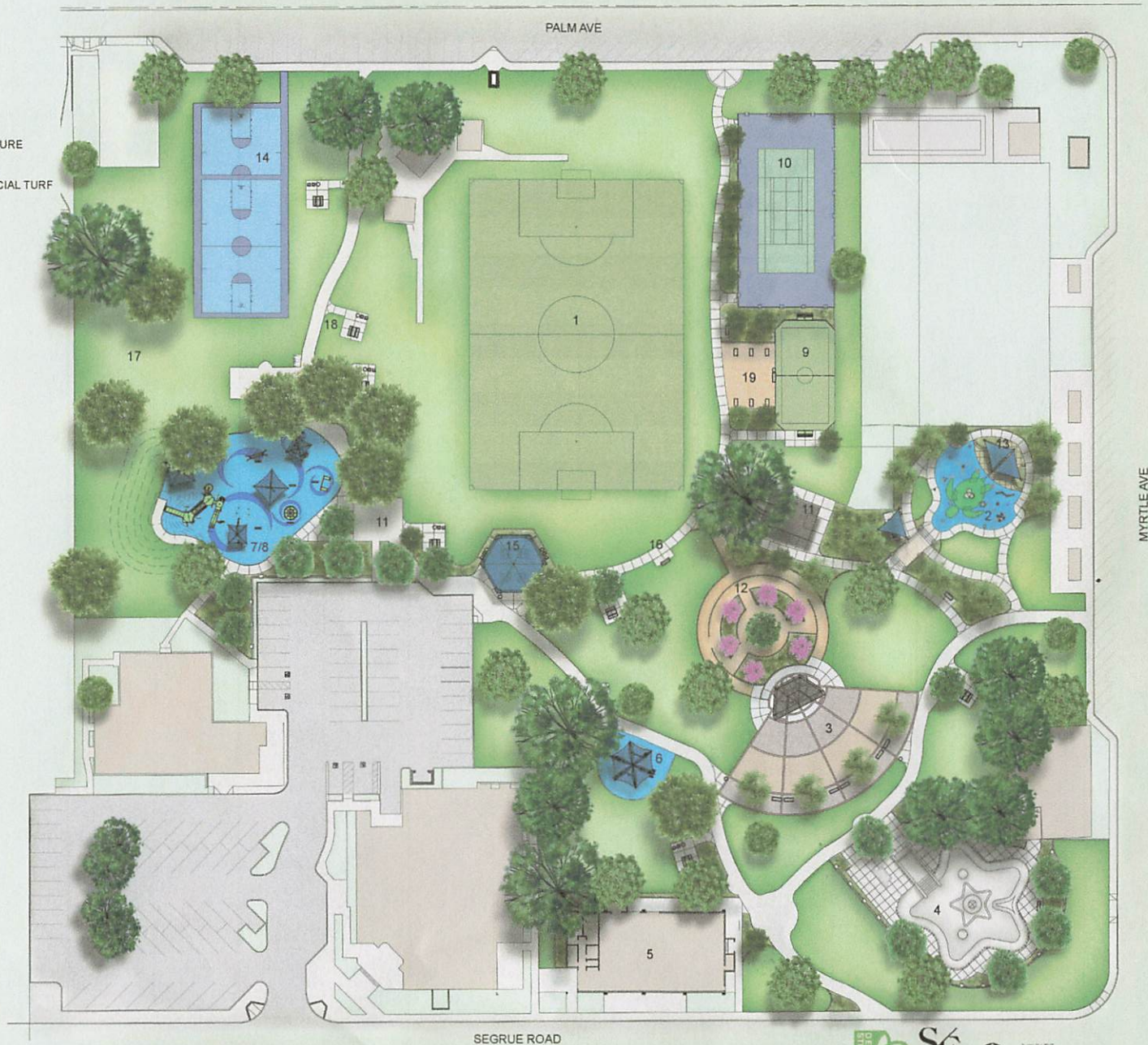
Adjourn at 6:44 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for November 15, 2023, at 6:30 P.M., at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1115 Truxtun Ave. 1st Floor, Bakersfield, CA. 93301 unless otherwise indicated, changed, and/or cancelled by the Commission.



LAMONT PARK

LEGEND

1. SOCCER FIELD
2. SPLASH PAD
3. PAVILION WITH OVERHEAD STRUCTURE
4. SKATE PARK
5. RECREATION BUILDING
6. EXERCISE EQUIPMENT WITH SHADE STRUCTURE
7. INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND
8. STRENGTH AND COORDINATION EQUIPMENT
9. MULTI-PURPOSE SPORT COURT WITH ARTIFICIAL TURF
10. TENNIS COURT
11. RESTROOMS
12. SUNKEN GARDEN
13. SHADE STRUCTURE
14. BASKETBALL COURT
15. PICNIC SHELTER WITH BARBEQUES
16. NEW CONCRETE WALKWAYS
17. DISC GOLF
18. PICNIC TABLES WITH BARBEQUES
19. CORN HOLE GAME



SCAN ME



SEGRE ROAD

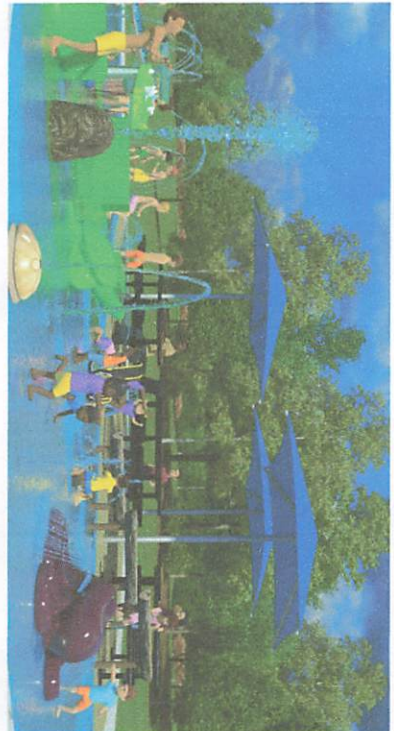
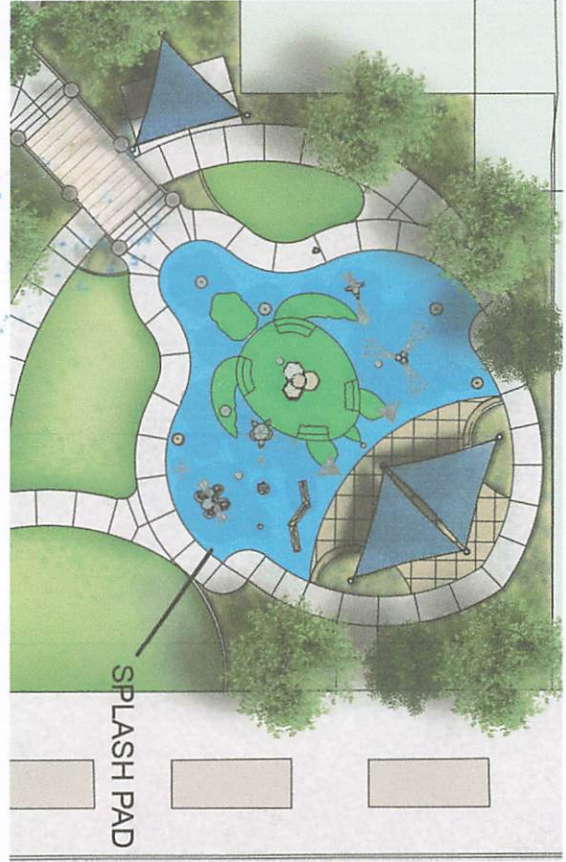
KERN COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION

SCOTT
DESIGN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

SF
SHAW-WALKER
ARCHITECTS



SPLASH PAD



SPLASH PAD

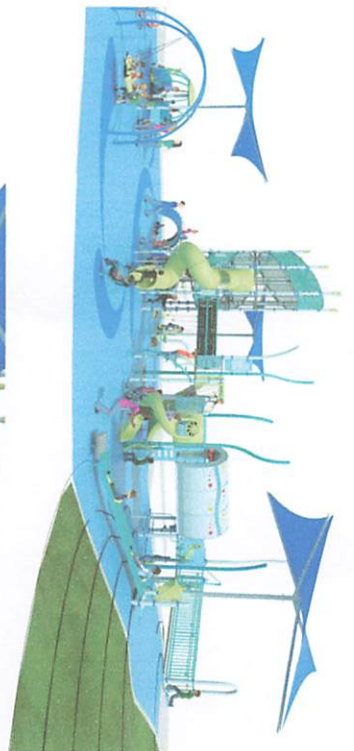
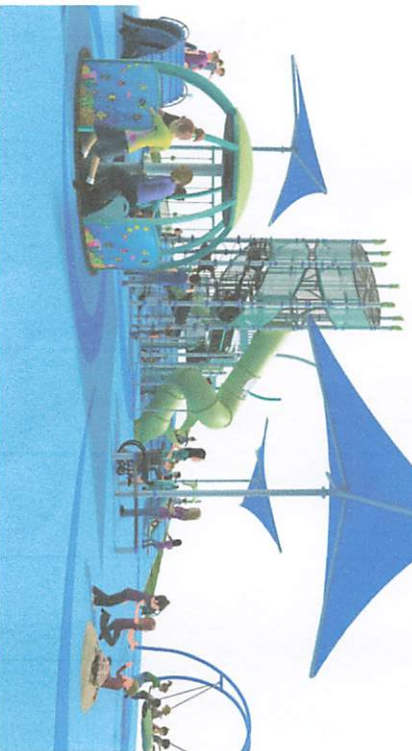
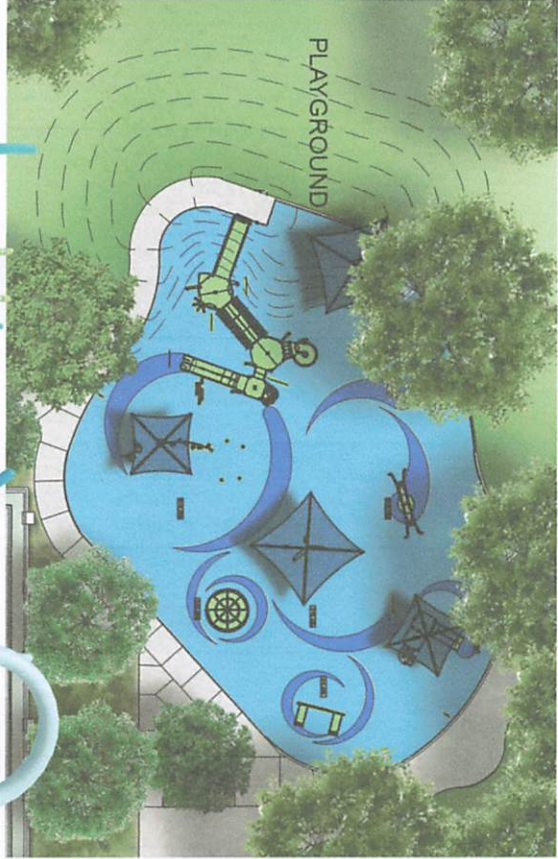
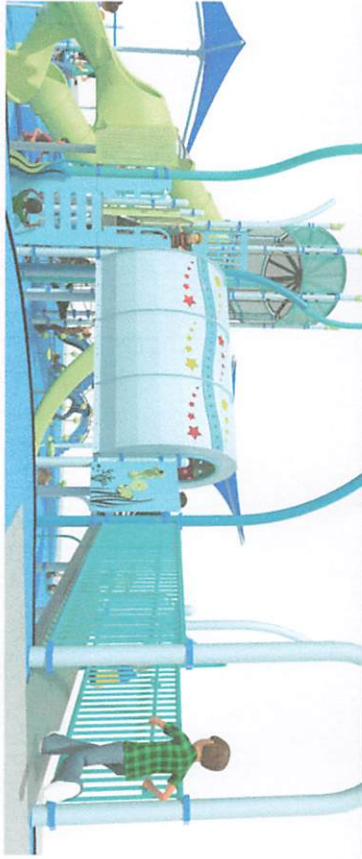


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PLAYGROUND



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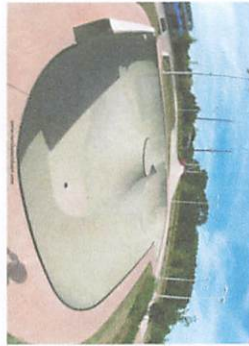
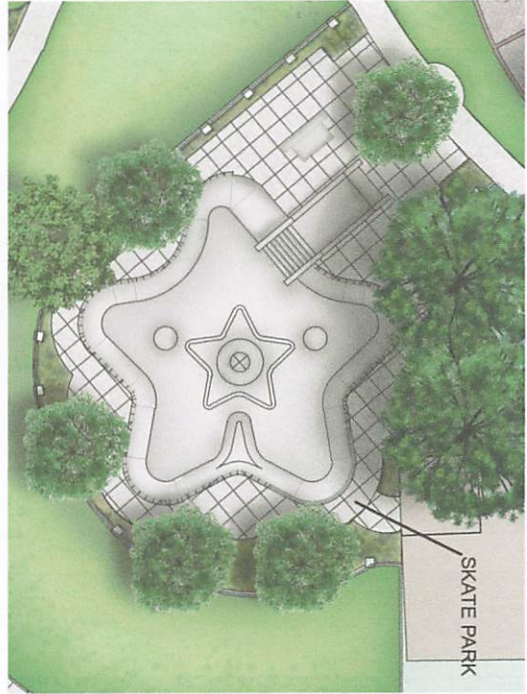
KERN PLACES & COAST RECREATION



SKATE PARK



SCAN ME



SKATE PARK



SCAN ME

KERN PARKS & RECREATION



EXERCISE AREA



SCAN ME



PICNIC STRUCTURE



SCAN ME



KERN PLACES &
LEAVES RECREATION



GARDEN AREA



AERIAL VIEW



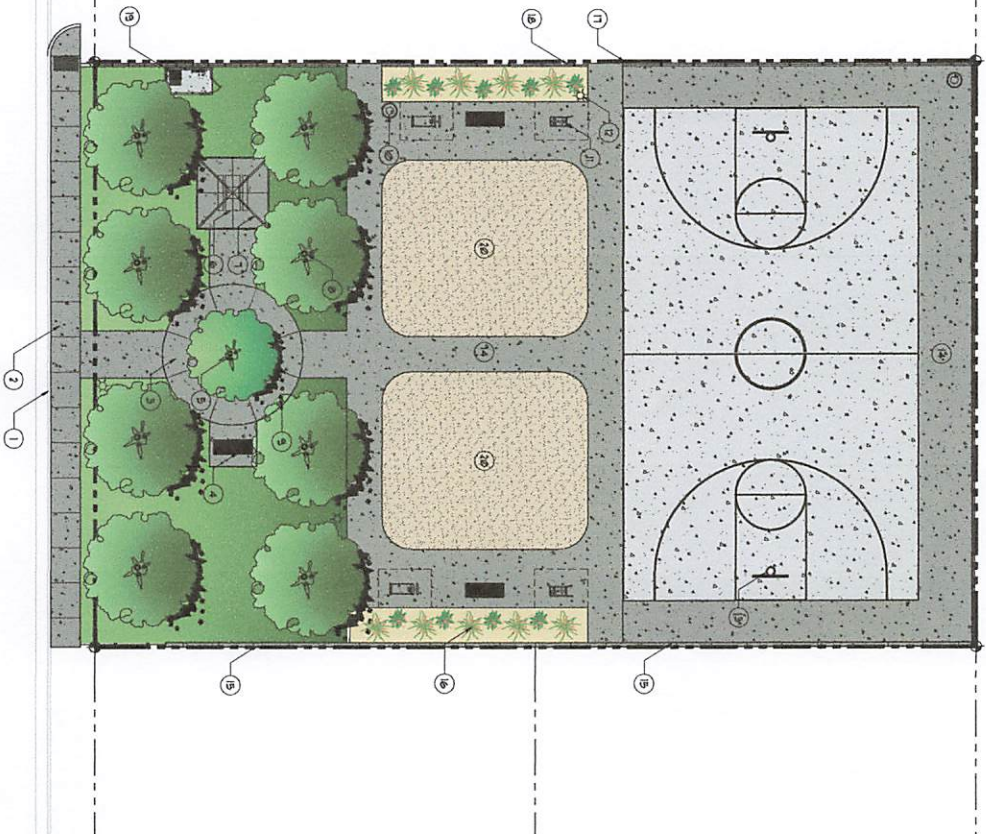
SCAN ME



KERN PARKS & RECREATION



(E) ALLEY



MARTINEZ STREET

PROPOSED SITE PLAN

1" = 10'-0"
NORTH

PROPOSED SITE PLAN

KEYNOTES: ①

- NO EXISTING CURB AND GUTTER
1. EXISTING CURB AND GUTTER
2. ADA COMPLIANT SIDEWALK
3. ROUNDABOUT 6' WIDE SIDEWALK
4. BENCH SEATING THROUGHOUT PARK
5. SHADE TREE PLANTED AT THE CENTER
6. 6' PICNIC BENCH
7. PICNIC STRUCTURE
8. DRINKING FOUNTAIN AND BOTTLE FILLER
9. TREES IN GRASS AREA
10. TRASH ENCLOSURE
11. EXERCISE EQUIPMENT STATIONS
12. SOLAR LIGHTING THROUGHOUT PARK
13. BASKETBALL COURT WITH BACKSTOP AND HOOPS
14. CONCRETE WALKING PATH
15. CITY WALL AT EAST SIDE OF PROPERTY
16. LANDSCAPING
17. PROPERTY LINE
18. CHAIN LINK FENCING
19. AIR MONITOR ENCLOSURE
20. FUTURE PLAY STRUCTURES



COUNTY OF KERN
GENERAL SERVICES
DIVISION

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
THIS TRACT/LOT AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT
GENERAL SERVICES

LA COLONIA
COMMUNITY
PARK
DEVELOPMENT

3074 MARTINEZ ST.
SHAFTER, CA 93283

CONTRACT NO. OF SUBMITTAL
DATE
CONTRACT NO. OF SUBMITTAL
DATE
CONTRACT NO. OF SUBMITTAL
DATE

DATE
DATE
DATE



THE ENGINEER HAS REVIEWED THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND HAS FOUND THEM TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENGINEERING ACT AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD OF ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS. THE ENGINEER'S REVIEW IS LIMITED TO THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A GUARANTEE OF THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HEREON. THE ENGINEER'S REVIEW IS LIMITED TO THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A GUARANTEE OF THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HEREON.

SHEET NO.

AS1

LA COLONIA COMMUNITY PARK DEVELOPMENT
SITE PLAN

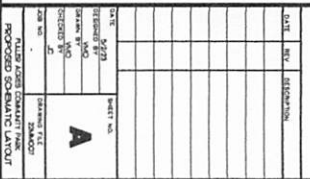
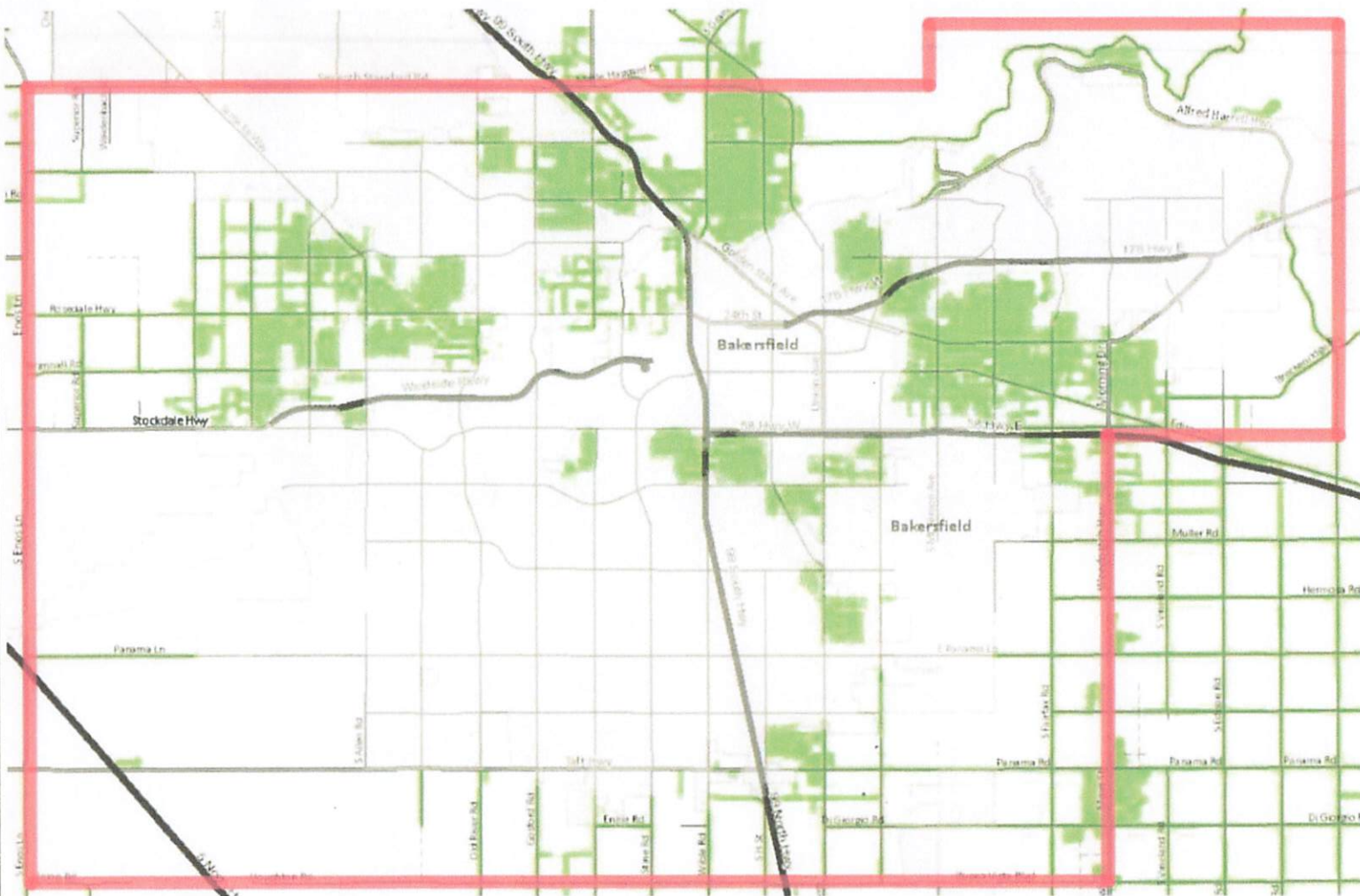


EXHIBIT B



- Legend**
- County
 - City Incorporated >250k
 - Roads 250k-500k
 - Freeway
 - Highway
 - Major
 - County Maintained Roads
 - Service Area

1: 288,895



COUNTY COPY

9.1 0 4.56 9.1 Miles

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere
© Latitude Geographics Group Ltd.

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for general reference only. The County of Kern assumes no liability for damages, incurred by the user of this information, which occur directly or indirectly as a result of errors, omissions or discrepancies in the information.

Notes

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 COMMENTS TO KERN COUNTY PARKS AND
RECREATION COMMISSION**

Good evening. I am Eddy Laine representing the Sierra Club.

I am passing out a September 13, 2023 letter to Kern County General Services reviewing information obtained through a California Public Records Act Request about Kern County's ORV application to the State. This is information which to my knowledge was not shared (and in my opinion should have been shared) by General Services with members of this Commission and members of the Kern County Board of Supervisors when the application was being considered.

Some items in this letter:

- 1. The biological firm hired to review potential properties for an ORV site reviewed seven sites and recommended further study of two sites—with none of the seven sites the one which General Services is currently promoting. In its review the firm recommended avoiding "major streams" which included "Poso Creek"—which the property currently being promoted borders.**
- 2. BLM holds minerals rights on 480 acres on the site being promoted and Chevron USA holds minerals rights on the other 307 which according to the biological firm "could impact the use of the property."**
- 3. There is a "cloud on the (existing) title"—an incomplete transfer.**
- 4. There are "operating oil wells" on the property being promoted.**
- 5. PG and E has several overhead lines on the property being promoted.**
- 6. Aside from the special status and federally protected species previously noted, the San Joaquin Badger and San Joaquin Kit Fox (the Kit Fox being an endangered species) were observed on the property being promoted.**

These issues are aside from the unaddressed issue of potentially serious health risks related to the possible presence of Valley Fever Spores.

The Sierra Club has asked two questions: (a) in light of the issues raised in our letter is Kern County continuing to pursue an application at this location and (b) was \$150,000 deposited for the property being promoted?

I am disappointed to say that we have not received an answer to the two questions asked in our letter.

SIERRA CLUB



KERN-KAWEAH CHAPTER

September 13, 2023

Geoffrey Hill, Chief, General Services
Kern County Administrative Office
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA. 93301

Dear Mr. Hill:

This is written to request clarification regarding whether Kern County is pursuing a grant to the State Department of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division at the location identified in grant application #705211. The Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah Chapter, has previously indicated our opposition to this grant proposal based upon a series of concerns reviewed in our June 6, 2023, letter to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division (OHMVD)—a copy of which was provided your office.

Since June 6 additional information has surfaced—primarily based upon California Public Records Act requests. Some additional information includes:

1. In November of 2021 Angelique Herman, the biologist with AECOM consulting firm hired by Kern County to review the location identified in the grant application, identified the following species at the proposed site: golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*; CDFW FP and WL), western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*, CDFW SCC, loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*, CDFW SSC, horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*, CDFW SSC and Bakersfield cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*, FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1), which is a federally protected species.

This information was not provided to the Kern County Board of Supervisors when this application was considered.

2. A series of emails (beginning December 23, 2021) from Daniel Cronquist, Senior Engineer, DCS US Western Region ACEOM, indicating:

a) "the biological survey report for the four parcels along Oilfield Road. Dens were observed for San Joaquin Kit Fox and American Badger."

(b) “the property was significantly altered in the 1950s and 1960s with pads, roads, and impoundments throughout the area from oil production.”

(c) “We recommend evaluating encumbrances on the property including easements, surface leases, etc. that could impact the use of the property. During our visit it looks like PG&E has several overhead lines, there are several large pipelines with surface markers, and operating oil wells.”

(d) “protocol-level biological surveys are needed to look for each of the species of concern. Each species has a different time of year the survey can be performed at, so it would be good to get those scheduled in the near future.”

(e) other “technical studies can be prepared concurrently with the above tasks including cultural, noise, air quality, etc.

(f) “Chevron has the right of surface entry to both parcels” on which they “they own mineral” rights.

(g) “avoid major streams including the Kern River, Cottonwood Creek, Poso Creek, etc.”

(h) if Kern County were to proceed the ORP would “design around drilling islands”

(i) other sites considered included the Lost Hills Disposal Site, Lerdo Detention Facilities, Poso Airport, Famoso Drag Strip, Meadows Field Airport, Delano Disposal Site, Delano Borrow Pit, and Bena Landfill, and

(j) “Attached is AECOM’s review of the Kern County owned parcels. We recommend further study of Option 1 (Lost Hills Disposal Site) and Option 7 (Bena Landfill).”

This detailed information was not provided to the Kern County Board of Supervisors when this application was considered.

3. Emails from Tim Garrison (Kern County General Services) from 2021 to 2023 including the following information:

(a) BLM holds the mineral rights to 480 acres and Chevron USA Inc. holds the rights to the other 307 acres.

(b) West Coast Land Service “found a cloud on the title that might be a problem. That item is within Report #2, Note #1. It is an incomplete transfer of 50% ownership,” and

(c) a question whether \$150,000 had been deposited on the property.

The issues of BLM and Chevron USA holding mineral rights and a possible “cloud on the title” were not provided to the Kern County Board of Supervisors when this application was considered.

4. However, based upon a careful review of the numerous files provided by Kern County Counsel, there is no mention of any records related to the Valley Fever issued raised in the June 6, 2023, letter and subsequent emails. If "all of the records" (as indicated by County Counsel) have been provided and there is no record of testing for Valley Fever spores (coccidiomycosis), then it would seem that that serious issue has not been (formally) considered.

Many issues regarding this proposed OHV park are noted above. Some examples: protected and/or endangered species at the proposed site, “operating oil wells,” mineral rights—including BLM mineral rights, the “cloud on the title,” and the apparent rejection of alternative locations recommended by AECOM.

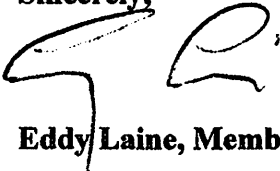
To repeat our basic requests:

- In light of the issues raised in our June 6, 2023, letter and the issues just noted, is Kern County still pursuing application #705211 at the location indicating in that application?**
- Directly related to that question and repeating Mr. Garrison’s question, was \$150,000 option payment deposited for the property identified in application #705211?**

Given the seriousness of these issues, copies of this letter are being provided to appropriate California Department of Parks and Recreation staff and Babak Naficy, an attorney representing the Sierra Club, who submitted a letter to the County of Kern regarding this application.

Thank you. For ease of communication my email is: eddylaine@aol.com

Sincerely,



Eddy Laine, Member, Executive Committee

**cc: Lorelei Oviatt, Director, Kern County Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Margo Raison, Kern County Counsel
Callan McLaughlin, Division Chief, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, California Department of Parks and Recreation
Kathryn Tobias, Senior Counsel, California Department of Parks and Recreation
Babak Naficy, Attorney at Law**

From: [Carol Lair](#)
To: [Parks and Recreation Commission Correspondence](#)
Subject: REPORT TO GENERAL SERVICES & KCAS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023
Date: Monday, October 09, 2023 9:15:34 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or provide information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Finally, Fall is in the air!!

9-4-23 A cat was rescued by a park visitor

9-10-23 A sibling group of 4 kittens 12 weeks old rescued--1 dark gray tabby, 2 light gray tabbies, and a Siamese mix. They were briefly in foster care then taken to KCAS.

9-26-23 A mother calico cat and 2 kittens rescued and are in foster care.

9-28-23 A gray cat, and a gray tabby/white cat taken to KCAS.

9-29-23 A gray tabby cat, and a gray cat taken to KCAS.

9-30-23 Three 8 week old kittens-- 1 black, 1 flame point, and 1 Siamese mix were rescued and are in foster care.

9-30-23 Two dogs abandoned and were rescued.

1 Cat rescued by a park visitor

8 Cats and kittens taken to KCAS

6 Cats and kittens in foster care

TOTAL CATS REMOVED FROM THE PARK: 15

TOTAL DOGS ABANDONED AT THE PARK : 2

Carol Lair

SIERRA CLUB



KERN-KAWEAH CHAPTER

October 10, 2023

**The Attorney General's Office
California Department of Justice
ATTN: False Claims Unit
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000
San Francisco, CA. 94102-7004**

To Whom It May Concern:

This is written to request the Office of the Attorney General to enforce the California False Claims Act. Specifically this is with regard to the possibility of false information provided by the Kern County Administrative Office General Services Division Chief to the State of California in pursuit of \$1,125, 000 in State funding (application #705211 to the OHMVR Division of the State Department of Parks and Recreation).

The false information provided in the application (approved April 25, 2023 by the Kern County Board of Supervisors) for funding included:

1. On page eight (8) of the application the General Services Chief indicated that "there was no need for CEQA" and checked the box "no" regarding whether the proposal was "under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378."

With regard to CEQA issues (and other matters related to the suitability of the proposed project), several issues of concern were known prior to April 25, 2023. Among them (included in this list are issues identified by Kern County Planning and Resources Development Director Lorelei Oviatt during a September 26, 2023 meeting of the Kern County Board of Supervisors as possible Environmental Impact Report issues):

- (a) The specific recommendation by the biological firm contracted by Kern County that "streams" be avoided—including "Poso Creek"—when the project borders Poso Creek.**
- (b) BLM holds minerals rights on 480 acres and Chevron USA holding mineral rights—including "the right to entry" on the other 307 acres.**
- (c) There is a "cloud on the (existing) title" on the property being promoted.**
- (d) PG and E having has overhead lines on the property.**

- (e) There are "operating oil wells" on the property.
- (f) The property was "significantly altered in the 1950s and 1960s with pads, roads, and impoundments throughout the area from oil production."
- (g) No soil testing had been done on the property with regard to the existence of and extent of Valley Fever Spores (*Coccidioides immitis* or *Coccidioides posadasii*).

2. On page ten (10) of the application General Services staff check the box "no" regarding whether "Special-status species habitat is known to occur in Project Area."

In fact in November and again in December of 2021 General Services had been provided information from the AECOM Biological Consulting firm that the following special status species had been observed at the proposed site: golden eagle, western burrowing owl, loggerhead shrike, horned lark, Bakersfield cactus, the San Joaquin Kit Fox and American Badger. Please note that the Bakersfield Cactus and San Joaquin Kit Fox are federally protected species and the other species are special status species.

In addition, the AECOM recommended that "protocol-level biological surveys are needed to look for each of the species of concern." Note: the information obtained about this grant application and the AECOM Biological Consulting firm was obtained from California Public Records Act Requests.

If useful, there is considerable background information (including previous letters to the ORMVR Division) regarding this request available for your use.

Again, we are requested that your Office review the possibility of false information provided in the April 25, 2023 application for State funding.

This letter was authorized by the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah Chapter. For ease of communication my email address is:
eddylaine@aol.com

Sincerely,



Eddy Laine, Member, Executive Committee

cc: Callen McLaughlin, Division Chief, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation
Division, California Department of Parks and Recreation
Kathryn Tobias, Senior Counsel, California Department of Parks and
Recreation
✓ Geoffrey Hill, Chief, Kern County Administrative Office General Services
Kern County Board of Supervisors
Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission

From: [Carol Lair](#)
To: [Parks and Recreation Commission Correspondence](#)
Subject: REPORT TO GENERAL SERVICES & KCAS FOR OCTOBER 2023
Date: Friday, November 03, 2023 7:09:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or provide information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

10-1-23 An 8 week old kitten rescued and is in foster care.

10-5-23 Two brown pug mix dogs abandoned.

10-10-23 A calico cat adopted by a park visitor.

10-11-23 Three young adult cats--two gray tabby and a black/white were rescued and are in foster care.

10-15-23 Three black 6 week old kittens rescued and are in foster care being treated for ringworm.

10-15-23 An adult gray/white cat found dead and appeared to have been attacked by some animal.

10-15-23 Another adult cat found dead and appeared to have been attacked by some animal.

10-18-23 Orange cat hit by a car and killed.

10-18-23 A park visitor saw two small kittens and one was attacked and killed by a raccoon the other kitten she was able to rescue.

10-20-23 Two dogs--one black and the other was white were abandoned.

10-22-23 A cat was found hit by a car and killed.

10-22-23 Another cat found hit by a car and killed.

10-22-23 Two skunks found dead and had been hit by cars and killed.

10-26-23 Critters Without Litters allowed us to take in a group of feral cats to be spayed or neutered. We trapped 8 cats but one was able to escape its trap. We took four males and three females to be fixed. They were then returned to the park. The cat that escaped is not at the park.

10-31-23 A skunk was found dead and it had been attacked by some animal.

7 Cats in foster care

2 Cats picked up by park visitors

6 Cats died at the park--three cats hit by cars, two cats attacked by an animal, one kitten killed by raccoon.

7 Cats TNR (one escaped from trap but no longer at the park)

3 Skunks died at the park--2 hit by cars and one attacked by an animal.

TOTAL CATS REMOVED FROM THE PARK: 16

TOTAL DOGS ABANDONED: 5

October was another unusual month. From 10-15-23 through 10-31-23 we found several dead animals. Three cats and two skunks were killed by cars. Two cats and one skunk appeared to have been killed by an animal. No coyotes have been seen at the park and it is very rare for raccoons to attack adult cats or skunks. This was unusual and alarming. Possibly someone is letting their dogs chase animals at the park.

Two cats were hit by cars on River Road and one hit by car on Bison Road. The two skunks hit by cars were on River road.

I am going to keep track of deceased animals at the park and areas where they are found. River Road seems to be a problem area based on information for October as well as our recollections of the current year. During this year we have seen several raccoons, skunks, an opossum, red squirrels, a goose, and a peacock killed by cars.

Cars speeding through the park are an ongoing issue along with the loud music, clouds of dust, and black smoke as they spin their tires.

Carol Lair

September 20, 2023



REG: Ford City Park Town Hall II

Dear Kern County Parks & Recreation Commission:

For twelve years, I have called the Taft community my home, and I am happy to echo the collective voice of folks who care deeply about Taft and who are essential to continuing to help this city and its unincorporated areas thrive. I am privileged to share comments this evening as an organizer with Faith in the Valley, residing in Kern County.

Faith in the Valley is a faith-based grassroots community organization in California's Central Valley representing families in Fresno, Kern, Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties. In this region alone, we organize 120 congregations representing over 100,000 people. Our work is led by volunteer leaders who are among the most impacted by equity issues: low-wage workers, young people, immigrants, and the formerly incarcerated, to mention a few. We are a federated member of PICO California, the largest faith-based community organizing network in California, with an institutional membership of 485 congregations from more than a dozen faith traditions across the state. Faith in the Valley is also part of the National Faith in Action Network.

Due to the current state of Ford City Park and the importance of parks and recreation for the physical and mental well-being of children, youth, and community members, Faith in the Valley-Kern community leaders and other groups from the Hispanic-Indigenous community shared a strong interest in convening a community conversation. Surveys were conducted to assess community needs within this segment of the Taft population and found the topic of parks and recreation to be identified as a top priority.

Over 250 members of the Taft Hispanic-Indigenous community attended the first town hall last February regarding improvements at Ford City Park. The community's questions and comments to local panelists revolved around the vision, timeline, meaningful participation, and overcoming challenges to improving the park. Towards the end of the conversation, community members representing various segments of the community that Faith in the Valley works with, stood up to demonstrate their collective interest in taking the next step to transform this initiative into a community-driven effort with meaningful participation.

As a result of the meeting, funding, and jurisdiction were identified as barriers. However, in May 2022, District 2 County Supervisor Zach Scrivner announced \$600,000 for a splash pad upgrade at Ford City Park. The county was also awarded \$10 million from the National Recovery Act for park upgrades and \$1.47 million via Prop 68 for similar objectives. An additional \$49 million in planned park renovations was announced county-wide last August, and funding is available to do more in line with community needs and involvement.

Regarding jurisdiction, we identified a need to convene a second town hall to have a similar discussion with county officials and continue this project moving forward with meaningful community involvement. Panelists include the Director of Parks and Recreation, the District 2 Parks and Recreation Commissioner, the District 2 County Supervisor, or his regional representative. The Ford City Park II town hall will occur on October 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Taft College, with English and Spanish interpretation services available to attendees.

You are welcome to attend.

Kindly,

Daniel Rodela
Faith in the Valley Kern, et al.
661-800-7566



COMMUNITY FORUM

**TOPIC: FORD CITY PARK
IMPROVEMENTS**

**Thursday
October 19th, 2023
6:30 pm**

**Place:
Taft College
Student Center
29 Cougar Court
Taft, CA 93268**



*For more information please contact
Daniel Rodela 661-800-7566*



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Department Staff
Report(s)



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

New/Unfinished/
Other Business



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Commission Member Presentations or Announcements