



STAFF REPORT

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR A COUNTYWIDE PARK DISTRICT

April 27, 2004

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

In an effort to develop a mechanism to provide an additional funding source for the operation, maintenance and improvement of local and County parks the County of San Mateo is supporting a proposal to create a countywide Special Park District. The first step in the process requires the State of California to pass legislation that provides the voters of San Mateo County the opportunity to vote on the formation of such a Special Park District.

Background & Discussion

The creation of a Countywide Special Park District would provide a mechanism for additional financial support for County and city park systems. If formed, this type of District would have the ability to raise funds for the operation, maintenance and improvement of local parks and recreation systems. Any increases in taxes or assessments would require separate votes once the District is formed. The District would not have any operational responsibilities. Each agency would continue to make all decisions for their own parks and facilities.

Two steps are required to form such a Special Park District:

- (1) Enabling state legislation that would give the voters of San Mateo County the opportunity to vote on the formation of the District.
- (2) A Ballot measure submitted to the voters asking for their approval to establish the District.

The immediate action being requested of each city and recreation district in the County is to approve a resolution supporting the enabling legislation for a countywide Special Park District. The Belmont Parks & Recreation Commission voted 7-0 at their April 7, 2004 meeting to recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution supporting the enabling legislation.

If the enabling legislation were to be approved by the state the next step would be to submit a proposal to all voters in San Mateo County. The District would be established by a simple majority of those voting. Prior to placing a proposal on the ballot the specifics of how the District would be governed, how the funding would be shared between the County, cities and special recreation districts and what level of maintenance of effort would be required, among other details, would have to be worked out.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact related to the adoption of this resolution.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council adopt the attached Resolution supporting the enabling legislation for a Countywide Special Park District.

Alternatives

- 1) Refer back to staff for additional information.
- 2) Deny the Resolution.
- 3) Take no action.

Attachments

- 1) Resolution.
- 2) Background information from the County.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl Mittelstadt
Director of Parks & Recreation

Jere A. Kersnar
City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**CITY OF BELMONT
SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR A
COUNTYWIDE SPECIAL PARK DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, decreased city revenues are significantly impacting the city's ability to provide parks and recreation services; and

WHEREAS, establishment of a countywide special park district would provide the ability to develop a variety of local funding mechanisms for operations, maintenance and additions to our local parks and recreation systems as well as provide a mechanism to support collaboration on projects; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a countywide special park district will require a vote of the citizens of San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, a broad-based participatory process is being established to develop the ballot measure to be placed before the citizens of San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, Senator Byron Sher is willing to introduce enabling legislation for the creation of a countywide special park district to serve the cities and County of San Mateo;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the City Council of the City of Belmont by the adoption of this resolution hereby states its support for legislation enabling the creation of a countywide special park district.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on April 27, 2004, by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBER(S): _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBER(S): _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBER(S): _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBER(S): _____

City Clerk of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of Belmont