

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 04/21/08

Reviewed by: *BP*

SUBJECT: Gilman Ball Fields/Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex

REPORT BY: Beth Pollard, City Administrator

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Receive presentation on the status of the new sports fields currently under construction as a joint effort among five cities.

BACKGROUND

The City of Albany, along with the cities of Berkeley, El Cerrito, Emeryville, and Richmond approved a joint powers agreement (JPA) to design, construct, operate, and maintain sports fields at the end of Gilman Street, adjacent the waterfront. Since the property was in Berkeley's jurisdiction, the City of Berkeley has been the project leader. The land, formerly owned by Golden Gate Fields/Magna, is now owned by the East Bay Regional Park District. The District is leasing the land to Berkeley for the sports fields use.

The City Council asked that an update be provided to the Albany community on the project status, scheduled uses, and related elements.

DISCUSSION

City of Berkeley staff would be at the meeting to present an update on the following areas:

- a) Project Milestones/Schedule: latest update on synthetic turf installation natural turf installation, completion of fencing, bio-swale, retaining walls, lights, etc.
- b) Formal Completion Date: September 1, 2008.
- c) Formal Groundbreaking Ceremony: September 6, 2008 (first Saturday in September). The East Bay Regional Park District is the lead on the groundbreaking and will invite State funders. The JPA cities and the East Bay Regional Park District is starting to form a committee this month to work on details.
- d) Anticipated field uses, maintenance, and operations

FINANCIAL IMPACT

To-date, all five JPA cities have provided \$5,000 each towards a grant writer (in 2003); and \$6,400 each towards the burrowing owl habitat on the Albany Plateau that was a mitigation project for the ballfields. The State provided \$5 million and the City of Berkeley obtained \$2 million from CBS Outdoors, Inc. for the project. The City of Berkeley has also contributed several years worth of staff time (project management) towards the project.