

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

Agenda date: February 2, 2009
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Use of Measure R funds for Ocean View Sports Field Improvements

REPORTED BY: Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve use of Measure R funds of up to \$94,000 for Ocean View Sports Field Improvements

BACKGROUND

At the December 15, 2008 Council meeting, Council approved design plans and staff's recommendation to go out for bid for the Ocean View Sports Field Improvements project. The improvements are being funded by the 2000 and 2002 RobertiZ'berg (RZB) Grant which is a per capita block grant given by the California State Parks Department. On December 29, 2008 staff was notified that the California State Parks Board voted to freeze the grant funds until further notice. Originally the 2000 RZB grant had a deadline of March 31, 2008. It is unknown at this time if the State will extend that deadline should the funds be released. As of January 26, 2009 we have no further information.

At the January 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission voted to recommend to Council that Measure R funds be used in order that at least a portion of the Ocean View Sports Field improvements can be completed. The total project that was approved by Council includes two bullpens, a batting cage, additional fencing behind the backstop, an electronic scoreboard, and a snack shack. The plans for the snack shack are not complete and the original plan was to go out for bid for the snack shack at a later date. The Commission would like to use Measure R funds for the construction of the bullpens, batting cage, and electronic scoreboard.

Since the grant funds were frozen after staff publicly posted the project, several contractors have requested the bid packet. Staff made the decision to postpone the bid opening to February 9, in hopes that there would be more information about the grant funds by that date or other funds for the could be identified.

DISCUSSION

There were two key factors the Commission considered when making the recommendation to use Measure R funds for the Ocean View Sports Field project. First, should the grant funds be released in the near future, but the deadline for the 2000 RobertiZ'berg grant not be significantly extended, the City would have a completed project to submit for reimbursement. Secondly, over the past year it has become apparent that there is a need to ensure that Albany's sports fields are compatible. By improving Ocean View Sports Field in a manner that it is compatible with the amenities at Memorial Sports Field the City is taking important steps to make the two facilities compatible.

Given that there is not enough information at this time to determine if the City will be reimbursed for the project, it is possible that Measure R funds could be the permanent funding source.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The Ocean View Sports Field improvements do not pose any health risks to the community, but rather offers the community another opportunity to exercise and participate in sports. When not being used for organized practices/games the facility and the new amenities are open to the public.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of two bullpens, a batting cage, and an electronic scoreboard including design fees, irrigation retrofitting, mobilization, contingencies, and construction is \$94,000. There is currently approximately \$275,000 in Measure R – Recreational Playfields funds.