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SUBJECT: Pickleball at Cameron Park Lake

Kamal Dean <kamaldean@sbcglobal.net>

Fri 8/18/2023 7:10 PM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

You don't often get email from kamaldean@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

- Bcc: Cameron Park Pickleball

☐
Fri, Aug 18 at 4:34 PM

☐
I am a participant in the pickleball group at the above location. As a group we have enjoyed playing here for at least five years. We have always been most welcoming and friendly players, always respectful of our neighbors. Although the sound of the pickleball when hit during play is annoying for residents nearby, we are willing to restrict play at times suited for the neighborhood. After all it is a park for our community and not a library. Any enjoyable activity for a group as large as ours is going to be noisy.

We are willing to follow all the rules established by the Park Authority for us to use the courts at times suitable for the neighborhood.

i respectfully request the Cameron Park Authority to issue the permit for our group to play as soon as possible.

Kamal Dean
33 year resident of Cameron Park

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Planning Commission Meeting Aug 24, 2023, Agenda Item 23-1530

Bill Mackay <wmackay@sbcglobal.net>

Sat 8/19/2023 9:43 AM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>; Brandon.Reinhardt@edc.gov <Brandon.Reinhardt@edc.gov>; Kris X. Payne <KPayne@edcgov.us>; LexiBoeger@edcgov.us <LexiBoeger@edcgov.us>; Andy Nevis <Andy.Nevis@edcgov.us>; Daniel Harkin <Daniel.Harkin@edcgov.us>
Cc: BOS-District II <bostwo@edcgov.us>

You don't often get email from wmackay@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Public Comment on 23-1530

Dear Commissioners,

This comment is in reference to the appeal, agenda item 23-1530, Pickleball at Cameron Park Lake.

Let me first say, the term "Pickleball" will not be used in this comment. Instead, the term "Noise Generation" will be used because when all the other ginger bread is set aside, that is the bottom line of this issue.

I have lived at 2973 Oakleaf Dr., approximately 700' from the entrance to Cameron Park Lake since 1977, and my family goes back to El Dorado County from 1849. We will not delve into the many, many planning errors that have been made over the years, we all know what they are and why they happened.

What the Planning Commission has done through the process of an Administrative Permit is to allow a Noise Generation activity that is in non-compliance with County Codes.

The scientific evidence is very clear and overwhelming that excessive, uncontrolled, and untimely Noise Generation is the result of the sport at question. There is a long list of sporting and community activities that provide great social interaction and physical benefit, but there is a time and a place for those activities, NOT in a residential back yard!

The Administrative Approval of a non-compliant Noise Generating activity sets a precedent for future decisions that will have a detrimental affect on the way of life in rural El Dorado County. Now is the time to do the right thing and NOT set a precedent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Mackay

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Public Comment re. PC Meeting Aug 24 Agenda Item #4 23-1530

sean irwin <fisean@sbcglobal.net>

Sun 8/20/2023 11:35 AM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

You don't often get email from fisean@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission,

I am writing this letter opposing the Pickleball courts at Cameron Park Lake.

Today my wife and I were enjoying a quiet Sunday coffee outside and I could not imagine hearing the constant whack of a pickleball hitting a racket for hours on end, day after day, month after month, year after year.

This needs to be considered when these courts are behind numerous neighbors.

I am all about outside activity, meeting people, the fun pickleball can bring for people and the exercise benefits. No one is against that, just please consider another location to make everyone happy in this matter.

Again, just imagine the noise behind your home every single day, please take that into consideration.

Sean and Tracy
El Dorado Hills, CA

Pickleball approval for Cameron Park Lake

JUDI MAUS <judimaus@comcast.net>

Sun 8/20/2023 7:49 PM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>; Brandon Reinhardt <Brandon.Reinhardt@edcgov.us>; Kris X. Payne <KPayne@edcgov.us>; Lexi Boeger <Lexi.Boeger@edcgov.us>; Andy Nevis <Andy.Nevis@edcgov.us>

You don't often get email from judimaus@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Greetings to all of you,

I am writing to share with you my thoughts on reopening the pickleball courts for drop in play at Cameron Park Lake. There is a fairly large group awaiting a decision on whether to reopen the courts. Although pickleball may be annoying to some people near the courts it seems like something could be worked out if everybody cooperates. There is a shortage of pickleball courts in El Dorado County as the sport continues to grow. There are many that benefit from the sport and community of players. I urge you to consider how many people will be impacted by your decision. The courts have been there for more than five years. Now all of a sudden it's a big problem?

Dealing with annoyances is part of life. We don't live in a perfect world where we can please everybody all of the time, but we do the best we can. Nobody wants to deal with the threat of a lawsuit, but sometimes we have to stand up for what is in the best interest of the most people. Thank you for considering all sides before making a final decision.

Judi Maus

Public Comment RE: PC Meeting Aug 24, Agenda item #4 23-1530

Allison Orofino <asorofino@gmail.com>

Sun 8/20/2023 9:06 PM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

You don't often get email from asorofino@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Planning Commission:

We are writing to oppose the approval of the administrative permit ADM23-0014 which authorized 4 tennis courts at Cameron Park Lake (which were not previously permitted) in addition to authorizing the conversion of 1 of those courts into 4 Pickleball courts.

In the reasoning behind approval of this permit, it was noted that tennis and pickleball are similar and approval of one type of court sport, tennis, implies approval of another kind of court sport, pickleball.

In fact pickleball and tennis are dissimilar in many ways that must be considered:

1. Tennis is played with a racket, pickleball with a paddle. This distinction is important: a racket with strings makes considerably less noise on impact than a hard surfaced paddle without strings.
2. Tennis is played with a soft felt covered ball. Pickleball is played with a hard wiffle ball. One a soft sound, one a hard sound.
3. Pickleball courts are significantly smaller. Four pickleball courts sit in the space previously occupied by 1 tennis court. Tennis is played as singles or doubles, 2-4 people in that space. Pickleball is always played as doubles, 16 people in that space.
4. Not only do you have 4-8 X the number of people and voices, you have four times the number of balls AND they are hit with a far greater frequency than a tennis ball. In the same time it takes for one tennis ball to cross the net and be hit back by the opponent, a pickleball could be hit across the net 3-4 times.

These 3 differences--the sum total of the number of people and the number of times a ball is being hit in a given timeframe, along with the sound of the ball being hit--you have exponentially increased the noise level coming from the courts.

Despite the fact that the park is exempt from noise ordinances, careful review of the previously completed noise study shows that pickleball sounds are categorized as an "impulsive sound" that registers above safe and acceptable levels. Noise pollution from impulsive sounds can negatively affect health including stress related illnesses, high blood pressure, hearing loss, and sleep disruption. Bob Unetich, a retired engineer and foremost authority on muffling the game, explains that pickleball sounds are "particularly disruptive due to the high pitch of the hard paddle slamming a plastic ball and the erratic and often frantic rhythm of the smacks. This creates vibrations in a range that can be extremely annoying to humans."

When you are playing pickleball, the sound of the game does not bother you. We know because we have played at those courts many times. Players are typically on the courts for 1-3 hours and then they leave. Those of us living by the courts continue to hear the

noise for 7-8 hours every day. Imagine being subjected IN THE PRIVACY OF YOUR YARD OR HOME to sounds above safe and acceptable levels not just for an hour here and there, but for 8 hours every single day?

We understand that the pickleball community is very large, likely over 100 Cameron Park residents, and the adjacent property owners number less than 10. However, it is unacceptable for the desires of even a large group of active adults to override the health and welfare of adjacent property owners as well as contribute to a significant decline of their property values. All of the affected property owners have lived in their homes well over 15 years, long before the courts were converted to pickleball.

A quick google search would reveal to the commissioners that this issue is not unique to Cameron Park. Communities across the country are closing outdoor pickleball courts due to lawsuits rising from the noise of pickleball courts, most of which are much further removed from residential homes than those in Cameron Park. Cameron Park has other property, and the finances, to relocate these courts elsewhere. We urge you to do the right thing for the community and build courts where they can be enjoyed by all.

Sincerely,
Chuck and Allison Orofino
2873 Royal Park Drive
Cameron Park

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Pickle ball hearing

Tracy Doyle <tracyoilsistas@gmail.com>

Sun 8/20/2023 9:48 PM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

You don't often get email from tracyoilsistas@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners:

I request that you Deny the appeal and uphold the approval of Administrative Permit ADM23-0014, based on the Findings and subject to the Conditions of Approval as approved by the Planning Director.

(Supervisory District 2)

Best regards,

Tracy Doyle
Cameron Park
District 2

—
Tracy Doyle
Young Living Essential Oils
Silver
IG: tracy_young_doyle
FB: Tracy Doyle
530-313-5147
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Pickle Ball at the Lake

Comfrey Lim <comfreylim@gmail.com>

Sun 8/20/2023 10:00 PM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

You don't often get email from comfreylim@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners:

I request that you Deny the appeal and uphold the approval of Administrative Permit ADM23-0014, based on the Findings and subject to the Conditions of Approval as approved by the Planning Director.

(Supervisory District 2)

Best Regards,

Comfrey Lim

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Pickeball at Cameron Park Lake

John Wheeler <johnwheeler5293@gmail.com>

Mon 8/21/2023 9:22 AM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

You don't often get email from johnwheeler5293@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

First of all, thank you for your service to the people of El Dorado County. We need and appreciate our many public servants, and we know that it is often a thankless and difficult job, to be the target of complaints and demands from many diverse points of view. It is often extremely difficult to see clearly how to best serve the community as a whole, not just the loudest or most annoying voice.

My general message is simple: we need pickleball in this community. I am recently retired, and I have been extremely impressed with all the benefits of pickleball. I am sure you have already considered many of these: fun and joy; community - people getting together, sometimes meeting new friends; cross - age connections, young people and old playing together; exercise and fresh air.

I learned to enjoy many of these things just last fall in the Cameron Park Lake pickleball community. What a wonderful group of people! Please restore the freedom to play pickleball there. And better yet, build and provide more places to play. This game is not going to be a passing fad. It has too many benefits.

Thanks for your consideration.

John Wheeler

530 409 7672

5782 Hollyberry Lane, Placerville

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Public comment re PC meeting Aug 24 agenda item #4 23-1530

Susan Parrish <memenana.parrish@gmail.com>

Mon 8/21/2023 10:03 AM

To:Aurora M. Osbual <Aurora.Osbual@edcgov.us>

You don't often get email from memenana.parrish@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

My name is Susan Parrish. I am at 2914 Royal Park dr. in Cameron Park

I am writing in regards to "Public comment re Pc meeting Aug 24 agenda item #4 23-1530."
I would like to oppose the pickle ball activity at Cameron park lake. The noise between the activity and the swearing in too much. Friends comment when they are in my yard. I worry about my property value.It doesn't seem fair to me when it can easily be moved. I happen to like the sport, but will never play there. I have seen so many other courts in cities that are not in the way of home owners.I am also disappointed that I didn't receive any mail on this subject since I live across from the court.
Thank you for your time.

Susan Parrish
2914 Royal Park Dr. CP.

Public Comment: Planning Commission item 23-1530

Robert Williams <bobw1800@gmail.com>

Mon 8/21/2023 10:24 AM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

Public Commit Item 23-1530

The Planning Commission is urged to table the approval of the decision on this matter until adequate noise and objective nuisance studies have been completed. The Commission should consider the nature of complaints and litigation in numerous California communities like Berkeley, Newport Beach, Monterey County, and many other governmental bodies.

The health and social benefits associated with pickleball and tennis must be recognized. Many of us are enthusiastic participants in both of these activities. However, there are distinct differences between tennis and pickleball operations that are well documented. For example, pickleball balls and rackets result in noticeably loud percussion. The social nature of pickleball involves joyful and audible verbal expressions. The growing number of pickleball players also adds to the need for adequate parking. That said, pickleball is fun, healthy, and embraced by a broad spectrum of the populace,

However, sports court location and rules should also consider residential and business neighbors' quality of life within earshot. Zoning and noise ordinances should balance property owners' rights and participants' recreational needs. An analysis of these policies appears to be a prudent step.

Cameron Park CSD and County officials are commended for bringing this matter before a public hearing. In contrast, the El Dorado Hills CSD operates Heritage Park without securing required permits and in gross violation of codes and the Carson Creek Specific Plan, resulting in litigation.

Respectfully,

Robert Williams, resident
Heritage Village, El Dorado Hills, CA

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Use Permit - Cameron Park Pickleball Courts

Lisa Schindler <losd25@gmail.com>

Mon 8/21/2023 12:04 PM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

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Dear Planning Commission,

Please kindly consider this request for the permit approval that would reinstate the use of the Cameron Park Lake's pickleball courts.

This is an important amenity for the Cameron Park area. Sadly, the closure of the courts earlier this year, disbanded the close-knit pickleball community who relied on access to foster their: love of the sport, physical activity and camaraderie. Players have scattered and are putting pressure on the limited number of public courts in the surrounding area (with that, certain ancillary economic benefits have been driven out the county).

The concerns of those opposing the permit have been heard and not disregarded. As such, compromises to minimize the sound impact - limit playtime to certain hours and days - have been offered.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America. What was once a sport associated with seniors, is now attracting players of all ages, with the youth group showing the largest/fastest growth. The game provides excellent exercise, friendship, sportsmanship and is accessible to all socioeconomic groups. All are valuable benefits for the well-being of our youth and community, in general.

With the hope of a favorable decision to approve the permit, I thank you for your time and consideration .

Regards,

Lisa Schindler

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Pickle ball courts

laurel storrs <storrs2@pacbell.net>

Mon 8/21/2023 12:26 PM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

[You don't often get email from storrs2@pacbell.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Good afternoon,

I am a nearby neighbor to the cameron park lake area. My property is nearest to the tennis court side. I would like to join in with those folks complaining about noise produced at the pickle ball courts. I literally can hear ball/players from my deck a block away. I can't imagine the impact it has on homeowners that abut the courts.

I have heard games start as soon as the gates open until dusk. I would say the decibel level must be higher than should be permitted in a residential neighborhood. Now some will come back with the argument that concerts and our Fourth of July celebration are much louder. Yes I would agree but csd has put parameters on start and stop times. I'd imagine no more than 6 of these occur in a year if that.

Another common rebuttal from players is that homeowners knew they purchased a house by the lake with tennis courts. Yes I'm sure they did but you cannot compare the sound of a tennis ball to that of the pings of pickle balls.

It's been interesting to follow the impact this fun, energetic game which I very much enjoy seeing people playing becoming a nationwide disturbance in housing communities. The same noise, traffic complaints are being stated.

I'd like to see our supervisors and board members or whoever has the decision making to find another venue for this game.

Thank you, Laurel Storrs
Sent from my iPhone

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Pickleball at Cameron Park Lake

danita schwemer <danitaschwemer@gmail.com>

Mon 8/21/2023 2:18 PM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

You don't often get email from danitaschwemer@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing to share my experience with pickle ball and why I want to see it continue at Cameron Park Lake.

My husband and I just started playing back in October. Like many people, I had heard of pickle ball but always responded with "what the heck is pickleball?". A couple of friends invited us to a Sunday pickleball gathering at the lake, having us arrive 30 minutes early so they could go over the game with us. That was all it took for us to be hooked. Unlike many people, I had never played any racquet sports because I never had the athletic ability to play. Now at the age of 64, I am enjoying a sport for the very first time.

What makes pickleball unique is that it is easy to learn and then you just keep playing to improve. What makes the Cameron Park pickleball community unique is that they are willing to play with newbies like I was and are incredibly encouraging. As I was learning the game, experienced players would ask if I wanted some pointers. I always responded with a willingness to learn what I was doing wrong and what I needed to improve. This is an ongoing process as I still have a long way to go!

Pickleball is more than a sport, it's a social outlet. As I watch others play, I mentally go over all the names because I want to know them all. You don't play with strangers, you always introduce yourself to your partner and opponents. Good shots are praised no matter whose point it is. This is beyond good sportsmanship. It's a positive experience for everyone involved no matter the age or skill level.

I believe pickleball is too positive an experience to let die out in Cameron Park. I know the players are willing to compromise on hours that we can play in order to be considerate to houses close to the lake. Completely eliminating pickle ball would be a real shame. I don't think Cameron Park can really be a "special place to live" without it!

Sincerely,
Danita Schwemer
4008 Ito Court,
Cameron Park