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Comments to County Board of Supervisors Public Hearing, 3/21/17 Re: Cameron Park CSD

1 message

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Glenn Rambach <grambach@aol.com>
To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

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Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

I had hoped to attend the Public Hearing on March 21, 2017 regarding the Cameron Park CSD Special Use Permit revision. My wife Lynn and I live immediately adjacent to the area of Rasmussen Park under consideration in this hearing. Unfortunately a challenging medical problem may keep my us from attending. I am submitting comments (attached) that I hoped to have given at the hearing.

Kind regards,
Glenn Rambach
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Testimony for EDC Supervisors meeting 3-21-2017.pdf
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Comments to El Dorado County Board of Supervisors Public Hearing re. Special Use Permit
Revision S87-0057-R/Cameron Park CSD Rasmussen Park, March 21, 2017

My name is Glenn Rambach.

My wife Lynn and I live at 3550 Mira Loma Dr. Our house and two houses on Monukka Drive appear to be the only houses near any park in Cameron Park whose properties are separated from the impact of new park activities by only the thickness of our fences. Our three houses border the area of Rasmussen Park that is the subject of the special use permit.

I would like to begin with the fact that I've played baseball and softball for well over 60 years, love it and believe it's a very important activity for youth, adults and seniors. I don't know much about bocce ball, But I do know if it was available in Cameron Park I'd probably participate and learn the sport.

When we heard about the bocce ball court and the special use permit for the T-ball field we realize that is the third time that something happened in the park next to our home where we did not hear about it until the project was completed, or in this case well down the road.

The first time was about four years ago when a little league batting cage was installed at Rasmussen Park behind our backyard fence without our knowledge. We live next to baseball fields, and the sound of baseball being played is perfectly fine. But in baseball the sound of a ball hitting an aluminum bat happens about once every 1 to 3 minutes. In a batting cage when they're in use, the ping from the bat happens about once every three seconds, during most of the day on game days. That made it impossible for Lynn and I to enjoy our backyard in the daytime.

When nearby neighbors raised questions about the batting cage with CSD, we were told that the neighborhood was surveyed and everyone was ok with the batting cage. Since we were the closest house and were never surveyed, my wife surveyed all of our neighbors and found that no one heard about the batting cage until it was being erected.

From our backyard, I recorded the sound of the hits off the aluminum bats, and used an aerial photo of the park to show five or six other places for a batting cage that are superior to the initial place. I submitted that to Paul Ryan of CSD, and he understood and the batting cage was moved to one of the suggested locations. There it better served both baseball fields while eliminating the sound problem to the neighborhood.

To me, the batting cage issue is the example that best describes the problem I would like to see changed regarding this special use permit and our parks in general. That change would be for the Cameron Park CSD to always identify and engage the neighbors who can be potentially impacted by any project planned for one of our parks. Had that been done with the batting cage the cost of removing and reinstalling it a second time would have not occurred. I think that is the same situation for the T-ball field. It seems to me if the T-ball field could be re-oriented and moved a small distance to the north, the problem of its negative impact on the neighborhood would disappear.

As immediate neighbors to Rasmussen Park we are happy to be hosts of community soccer,

baseball, softball, jogging, etc., but as immediate neighbors we are also stakeholders and participants in any new activities that are added to the park, since they may impact our lifestyles or home values.

With that in mind, I would like to ask the Cameron Park CSD to always identify potentially impacted neighbors and ask them to be part of any project's planning, design, location and implementation. We want to participate in the planning and siting of the bocce ball lanes if they are indeed approved.

With regard to the T-ball field and or/the bocce ball lanes, there's an additional issue that I think absolutely has to be addressed. For some reason, about four years ago something changed in the area that's in question for the special use permit. Our yard has a retaining wall and fence, the other side of which is this area of the park. After being stable for about 13 years, our retaining wall and fence began to be pushed into our, leaning over a little more each year. Since 2013, large parts of the retaining wall have been broken or destroyed by the park's wet soil forcing it to tilt into our yard. This process is still going on.

After a heavy rain the soil in area of the park remains soaked long after the surface water has flowed away or evaporated. That wet soil has imposed a force on our retaining wall that has tilted and fractured the four by six studs that hold up the wall. The damaged wall and fence need to be replaced, and the conditions that create the water problems need to be fixed.

There also have been numerous other water flow problems I that area impacting the homes on Monukka Drive. The DG running track is destroyed from water flow during heavy rains.

Before anything new happens in that area of the park, I think we have to figure out how we completely manage water so that the park doesn't continue to flow into our backyard, nor other water issues create problems for our neighbors. From what I understand, our neighbor on Monukka has a serious problem where a lot of the water from the park floods into her backyard during rains.

My plea is for Cameron Park CSD to:

1. Engage potentially impacted neighbors as stakeholders and participants early on in the creation, siting and implementation of new parks projects.
2. Before anything is done in this area of the park, figure out what is going on with the surface and groundwater in that area and fix the problem that is damaging private property.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Best regards,
Glenn and Lynn Rambach
March 21, 2017