



County of El Dorado Parks and Recreation Commission

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November 14, 2007

Chairperson Helen Baumann
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

COPY SENT TO BOARD MEMBERS
FOR THEIR INFORMATION
DATE 11/26/07

Dear Chairperson Baumann:

Your Parks and Recreation Commission is strongly opposed to the proposed reorganization of the General Services Department that was presented to the Board on October 4, 2007. Our opposition is based on the following reasons:

- The Park and Recreation Element of the 2004 General Plan creates major new workloads that are not being addressed. These promises, coupled with the needs of an expanding population, require an organization that can meet your expectations. The current Park and Recreation organization, which is staffed with excellent employees, is currently staffed below the 1999 level and can not be expected to meet all the needs. The proposed reorganization exasperates the ability to accomplish work because it does not recognize the complexities of recreation activities and the need for close coordination; instead, the reorganization spreads related work to various county departments.
- The Park and Recreation Division is currently managing 17 CIP Projects. (Refer to our 7/20/07 letter to you). The ability to deliver these projects in a timely manner would be severely hindered by the reorganization (with only one staff member assigned to park projects). There is work being done in every District, but those areas that do not enjoy the benefit of having Community Service Districts (CSD'S) have been given the most attention. The work activities match the work prescribed in the General Plan. The General Plan calls for Parks and Recreation to facilitate more CSD's but staffing shortages have prevented efforts in this activity.

- The proposed reorganization does not designate a point of contact for all park and recreation activities. To avoid public confusion, it is essential a position be designated that is responsible and accountable for recreation activities.
- Funding for park CIP projects will be depleted by 2008. The proposed reorganization does not account for a position to pursue grant funding.
- As evidenced by the recent economic development study, people are moving to El Dorado County to enjoy recreational opportunities. A healthy park division is necessary to keep up with the demand.

It is irrelevant to us which department houses the parks and recreation division, but because of some overlapping activities there is strong merit for the organization being with the Department of Transportation. However structured, **it is critical the lines of accountability/responsibility are clear and that the parks and recreation funding match the expectations of the Board.** We also feel it is critical to leave the core functions of the park and recreation division together as a unit. Both a department manager and a parks project coordinator/grant writer are necessary components to the functional structure of the division. We have determined that the parks project coordinator position can be restored without the need for additional general fund dollars (see attached organizational chart) and urge you to take action to restore the position.

We want to represent you in the best possible manner and continue to ask for a joint workshop focusing on the County's park and recreation program. During this workshop we would also like to discuss organization of the division, implementation of the General Plan, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and long term funding strategies for the division. We would also like to provide you with updates on all of the current CIP projects.

Sincerely,



Steve Yonker, Chairman

CC: Laura Gill, Chief Administrative Officer

George Sanders, Deputy Director of General Services

Jordan Postlewait, Manager of Airports, Parks and Grounds

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EL DORADO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

