RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes _ No X )

Resolution approving a County skate park project, location of the facility on the Mariposa Park grounds, and accepting (in concept) responsibility for long-term maintenance of the facility.

This action is being requested by the Mariposa Youth Sports Association (MYSA) (refer to attachment #1). The Parks and Recreation Commission recommended this action during their meeting of October 27 (refer to attachment #2). County Counsel has reviewed the proposal from a liability standpoint and feels that the project does not pose significant additional liability to the County in that our current insurance will cover this type of activity. Furthermore, additional insurance coverage can be obtained, if necessary, at a nominal cost.

Representatives from MYSA and staff will make a presentation and be available to address questions from the Board.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board approved an expenditure of $20,000 for a skate park in the FY 97/98 budget. Since that time, staff has worked with MYSA regarding potential sites and issues of concern such as liability, safety, maintenance, oversight and site development.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
1. No action; the skate park project will not be able to proceed without further Board direction, at this point.
2. Direct staff to work with MYSA on alternative public or privately owned sites.

COSTS: ( ) Not Applicable
A. Budgeted current FY> $20,000
B. Total anticipated Costs> $20,000
C. Required additional funding>
D. Internal transfers>

COSTS: ( ) 4/5th Vote Required
A. Unanticipated revenue>
B. Reserve for contingencies>
C. Source description: >_FY 97/98 Capital Improvement Budget

Balance in Reserve Contingencies, If Approved: $__________

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
List the attachments and number the pages consecutively:
1. MYSA Letter to Board Dated 10-27-97
2. Parks & Rec Commission Minutes

CLERK’S USE ONLY
Res. No.: Ord. No.: 
Vote - Ayes: Noes: 
Absent: Abstained: 
Approved Denied 
Minute Order Attached No Action Necessary
The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office
Date: 
ATTEST: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
By: Deputy

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION:
This item on agenda as:

Recommended
Not Recommended
For Policy Determination
Submitted with Comment
Returned for Further Action

Comment:

C.A.O. Initials:
MARIPosa COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: MIKE EDWARDS, Public Works Director

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION APPROVING A COUNTY SKATE PARK PROJECT, LOCATION OF THE FACILITY ON THE MARIPosa PARK GROUNDS AND ACCEPTING (IN CONCEPT) RESPONSIBILITY FOR LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE OF THE FACILITY

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPosa COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,
ADOPTED THIS Order on November 18, 1997

ACTION AND VOTE:

Rich Begley, Deputy Parks Director, appeared on behalf of Mike Edwards, Public Works Director;
   A) Resolution Approving a County Skate Park Project, Location of the Facility on the Mariposa Park Grounds and Accepting (in Concept) Responsibility for Long-Term Maintenance of the Facility

BOARD ACTION: Discussion was held, and Rich Begley introduced Steve Dahlem/President of the Youth Sports Association, Kathy Delany/Secretary of the Youth Sports Association, and Pelk Richards/Undersheriff, who has been working on this project. Kathy Delany provided input relative to anticipated costs for the project. (M)Reilly, (S)Parker, Res. 97-441 adopted/Ayes: Reilly, Balmain, Stewart, Parker; Excused: Pickard. Kathy Delany presented Skate Park t-shirts to the Board members and thanked the Board for its support of this project.

cc: Jeff Green, County Counsel
    Ken Hawkins, Auditor
    Ed Johnson, Planning Director
    Rich Begley, Parks and Recreation
    File
November 6, 1997

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 784
Mariposa, CA 95338

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for your generous support of the Mariposa skate park project. As you know, the Mariposa Youth Sports Association’s Skate Park Committee has a goal to develop a public, permanent facility that offers a safe and creative environment for skaters of all levels using skateboards or in-line skates.

We would like to propose that the skate park be located at the Mariposa Town Park. A 10,000 square foot site has been identified where the wooden play structure is currently located. We see many advantages to this location.
1. Recreational opportunities at the park would be increased.
2. Development of the skate park at that site could include solutions to problems with the play structure surface and slope drainage.
3. The necessary infrastructure (restrooms, parking, etc.) already exists.

Risk and liability realized due to a skate park in the Mariposa Town Park may be addressed using section 115800 of the California Health & Safety Code, section 831.7 of the California Government Code and AB1296 which was recently signed into law. As is the case with most other public recreation facilities, a skate park does not require monitoring. Signage should require that skaters wear safety equipment and skate at their own risk.

According to recreation staff at the Santa Rosa and Petaluma Skate Parks, maintenance of a concrete skate park is minimal. Santa Rosa reported occasional repairs to chain link fencing around the perimeter of the concrete surface as the only maintenance required over the past four years. Trash collection three times weekly and occasional graffiti management on a building immediately adjacent to the skate park was the only maintenance required in over two years in Petaluma. Addition of a skate park to the county park inventory should have very little impact on the Park & Recreation budget.

The Skate Park Committee intends to continue fund-raising efforts until the necessary funds have been acquired to construct the park. We envision project development beginning with a conceptual design based on youth input and developed by volunteers. County involvement would be necessary for engineering and obtaining building permits. Volunteer labor and donated equipment and supplies will be utilized throughout the project.

We respectfully request the Board of Supervisors to authorize the proposed site and allow the skate park development process to proceed.

Sincerely,

Steve Dahlem
President

Kathy Delaney
Secretary
S.P. Committee Chairperson
Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

October 27, 1997

Members present: Commissioner Noel, District 4
Commissioner Strathearn, District 3
Commissioner Correa, District 1
Commissioner Holden, District 5

Members Excused: Commissioner Hughes
Commissioner Konrath
Commissioner Striplin

Guests: Mike Edwards
        Kathy Delaney
        Jerri Correa

Meeting called to order at 5:03 p.m. with Commissioner Noel acting Chairperson.

Minutes of September 23, 1997 were approved as read. No public input received.

Recreation Planner Begley introduced Kathy Delaney to speak on skatepark issues. Mrs. Delaney gave a chronology of the Skatepark Committee. She spoke of other towns with skate facilities and their view that it can be a possible alternative to other types of activities. Mrs. Delaney fielded questions about liability exposure, a suitable location, and a process to limit skaters from locations where complaints are generated. Discussion followed.

Planner Begley described one possible winning scenario. There is approximately 9,000 square feet available at Mariposa Park on the parking level from the well enclosure to the end of the turf area. The large play apparatus would be more useful if relocated closer to the shelter. It would also be an ideal time to equip the apparatus with an appropriate safety surface. The total project would correct several existing facility problems while improving the park in total.

To address the erosion problem, a redesigned sprinkler system and necessary drainage would provide a new look to the area. The increased usage would have a positive impact on park vandalism as well. Those utilizing the skatepark would have adequate parking and rest rooms. The potential for the entire area will be improved with the lighting district improvements. Commissioners expressed concern about maintenance, liability and safety which were addressed by Mrs. Delaney and staff. It was noted that the location could serve as a deterrent to inappropriate activities that occur nearby.

Motion to present the skatepark concept for Mariposa Park is recommended to the Board of Supervisors. (M) Commissioner Holden (S) Commissioner Strathearn; Unanimous

Commissioners expressed a desire to have the County implement an ordinance prohibiting skating at some specific County facilities and roadways once the project is complete. It was suggestion that a pay phone be added at the rest room building.

Mrs. Delaney was thanked by the Commission and staff and excused.

DISTRICT REPORTS: Planner Begley updated those present, that on advice of the irrigation companies bidding the El Portal Turf Project, the project will be done in the spring of 1998. He also reported on the new porch lights at Midpines Community Hall.