

County of Santa Clara

Parks and Recreation Department

298 Garden Hill Drive
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www.parkhere.org



Off-Agenda Memorandum

Date: May 31, 2019

To: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

From: Don Rocha, Director, Parks and Recreation Department 

Subject: **Off Agenda Report on Boundary Fencing at Sanborn County Park**

At the May 16, 2019 Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation (HLUET) Committee meeting, Supervisor Simitian requested that the Parks and Recreation Department (Department) consider installation of boundary fencing to address a concern brought forward by a member of the public, Mr. Steven Sharp, regarding trespassing and the current boundary fencing condition. This informational memorandum is to report on options for boundary fencing between Sanborn County Park and Mr. Sharp's property.

The Department identified a few areas in the vicinity of Mr. Sharp's property where boundary fencing is deficient and is working to address those immediate concerns. Mr. Sharp requested chain link fencing be installed along the shared boundary with the County property. The Department must consider fencing options that balance Mr. Sharp's needs and requests with the Department's operational needs as well as environmental and wildlife sensitivities. The available fencing options are chain link, deer exclusion, and multi-strand wire. Chain link fencing and deer exclusion fencing will restrict passage of wildlife and are more expensive to repair when struck by fallen trees, which is common in this area. In addition to concerns related to wildlife passage in fence design, a large drainage passes through the property of both the County and Mr. Sharp. The installation of the requested chain link, or any other fencing type cannot be accommodated through the drainage due to the steepness as well as it would catch debris and restrict water flow which could result in flooding and/or erosion to both properties which could raise a liability risk. Given these limitations and constraints, the Department recommends installation of multi-strand wildlife friendly wire from the termination of the existing chain link to the top of the drainage bank (with appropriate boundary posting) consistent with Department standards in rural landscapes which will allow for wildlife movement and unrestricted water flow, while also addressing concerns from Mr. Sharp regarding trespassing. Additionally, the Sanborn Master Plan recommends new development away



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from private properties and in locations that are adjacent to and provide access to the park core for visitor circulation. Appropriate boundary fencing and developed, formal access will also help manage public areas within park use areas and away from private properties.

The Department is open to having a discussion with Mr. Sharp to determine a mutually acceptable alternative that addresses the sensitivities discussed above and that meets the Department's fencing practices. The Department has reached out to Mr. Sharp through phone calls regarding boundary fencing but has not yet received a response back. Before installation of fencing can commence the Department will need to complete a property survey to set the property line. If any encroachments are identified those will need to be rectified prior to fence installation.

Cc: Board of Supervisors Chief Board Staff
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer
Tony LoPresti, County Counsel
James Williams, County Counsel
Sylvia Gallegos, Deputy County Executive
Janet Hawks, Deputy Director
Annie Thomson, Acting Deputy Director



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Off-Agenda Memorandum

Date: June 3, 2019

To: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

From: Don Rocha, Director, Parks and Recreation Department 

Subject: **Off Agenda Report on Boundary Fencing at Sanborn County Park**

This is a follow up memorandum to the original Off Agenda Report distributed to the Board on May 31, 2019 regarding boundary fencing at Sanborn County Park. Mr. Steven Sharp brought forward a concern regarding trespassing and the current boundary fencing condition between Sanborn County Park and his adjacent property.

At the time of the May 31st Off Agenda Report, the Parks Department had reached out to Mr. Sharp through multiple phone calls regarding boundary fencing but had not yet received a response back. Since that time the Department has received a call back from Mr. Sharp and staff had a phone conversation with him regarding his concerns about the boundary fencing. During the phone conversation, the Department discussed fencing options that would balance Mr. Sharp's needs and the Department's operational needs as well as environmental and wildlife sensitivities.

Mr. Sharp was amicable to working with the Department on the issue of boundary fencing and appeared to understand the limitations and constraints of the Department with regards to fencing type and location. He is also aware that a mutually acceptable alternative will need to be determined that addresses his concerns and is consistent with the Department's fencing practices. Staff will be working internally to determine the location and fencing type that meets the needs of the Department and will continue outreach with Mr. Sharp to discuss how to approach implementation of a mutually agreeable solution.

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