



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 25, 2009

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Steven Bocian, Assistant City Manager
Susan Andrade-Wax, Director of Parks and Community Services

Subject: August 27, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Concerning Staples Ranch Neighborhood Park – Dog Exercise Area

The Parks and Recreation Commission received an August 27, 2009 agenda report (Item 5A) recommending approval of the Staples Ranch neighborhood park master plan. Since the issuance of this report, Commissioner Kummer contacted staff regarding the status of the proposed dog exercise area referenced in the Staples Ranch Community Park Master Plan. This memorandum clarifies the status of that park element.

The Staples Ranch Community Park Master Plan includes potential amenities to be considered for the Staples Ranch neighborhood park, including:

- Pedestrian plaza with benches
- A dog exercise area, with separate areas for small and large dogs
- Two lighted tennis courts with benches
- A public restroom
- Appropriate landscaping to provide shade, delineate the various uses and create a park setting
- Picnic area with one shade structure

As noted in the recommended neighborhood park master plan, all of these elements have been included except for the dog exercise area.

In conducting the planning for the neighborhood park, staff evaluated all of the uses identified above. However, as part of that process, it quickly became apparent that there were a number of obstacles/concerns regarding the inclusion of the dog exercise area. They include:

- The inclusion of the restroom, which was not included in the Staples Ranch Community Park Master Plan graphic design presented to the Commission previously, limited available space at the western portion of the park;
- The limited amount of parking (eight spaces), and no significant alternative parking area, which is inadequate for both the tennis court and dog exercise area;
- The close proximity of the dog exercise area to the tennis courts, and public plaza;

- The fact that the size of the entire park, and the non storm water detention area, has been adjusted to accommodate the required sizing of the storm water detention area, and other aspects of the Staples Ranch development, limits overall space for the dog exercise area. (In general, the overall park size is slightly less, and the storm water detention area is slightly larger then presented during the Staples Ranch Community Park Master Plan process.);
- Concerns regarding the potential incompatibility between the environmental requirement that the storm water detention basin be maintained for treated storm water that will be released to the Arroyo Mocho and significant dog exercise usage.

As a result of the above, staff determined that the neighborhood park would not provide the type of space needed to accommodate an off-leash dog exercise area as originally planned. Staff regrets that this information was not outlined in the agenda report but anticipated discussing the matter at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on August 27. Staff will address any additional questions regarding the draft neighborhood park master plan and uses at the August 27 meeting.