

December 4, 2018

TO: LOCSD Board of Directors

FROM: Members of the Parks and Recreation Standing Advisory Committee

On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, we would like to address the Los Osos Community Services District Board of Directors concerning the issue of the requested reimbursement of funding to cover expenditures for the rubber tire mulch project at the Los Osos Community Park.

As your appointed Advisory Committee to "all things Park and Recreation", we were very pleased that you moved unanimously on September 6, 2018 to approve the use of Park and Recreation Reserve Funds for the purchase of the County Recommended Engineered ASTM Certified Virgin Cedar Playground Fall Material, inclusive of sales tax, services to install the material, payment of equipment operator for removal, and payment for disposal.

However, the second part of the motion has left the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee concerned and dismayed due to the language that requested the addition to the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee's Work Plan to find alternative ways of raising funds to "reimburse the District for these expenditures".

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee's purpose it to assist the LOCSD Board of Directors in establishing an understanding of the community needs for Parks and Recreation. The motion that our Committee made recommended that the LOCSD allocate the reserve funds and move forward on this project. This recommendation meets the purpose of our committee. While the project has been well received by the community and exemplifies "togetherness" and an illustration of what we can accomplish if we work together to benefit our community, the idea of reimbursement is unnecessary.

Citizens of Los Osos were previously taxed for a pool that was not built due to a shortfall in funding. The money that was raised through this tax must be used for projects that fall under Parks and Recreation. There is over \$291,656 in this fund and the cost of the playground mulch and other associated costs amounts to roughly 4% of this Parks and Recreation fund. Los Osos has one park – and our committee was able to make it habitable with 4% of a fund that can only be used for parks and recreation.

According to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), funds from the Parks and Recreation fund were appropriately spent according to the Public Resources Code – "acquire, construct, improve, maintain, and operate recreation facilities, including, but not limited to, parks and open space, in the same manner as a recreation and park district formed pursuant to the Recreation and Park District Law, Chapter 4" of the Public Resources Code.

The "value" of the Playground replacement project far exceeds the amount of reserve funds the LOCSD Board allocated for this project. The multitude of benefits that the project has afforded the community have far exceeded any monetary amount we could fundraise to repay. The project has provided:

- Connecting Neighbors
- Building a Reservoir of Collaboration
- Sense of Ownership/Protection from Vandalism
- Community Goodwill
- Volunteers Gained an Increased Sense of Place/Belonging
- Increased Quality of Life
- Increased the Use of Our Park
- Cost Savings
- A safer place for our kids to play

For our committee to now ask the very same community who dedicated their time, energy and supplies to repay all fees associated with completing the project is counterproductive. To ask our community to pay for the costs of the project would be double taxing as they were previously taxed and that money is sitting in a fund exclusively for this type of project.

We appreciate the funding for this project, however, we as a committee have decided not to proceed with fundraising to repay expenses. We have reached a consensus that it would place undue burden on the committee to solicit funds for repayment as well as tarnish the goodwill nature of the project in whole.