RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 15, 2019
TO: District Manager
From: Director of Planning and Maintenance
Subject: Report on Planning and Development Issues in Oak Park, Including Status of Woolsey Fire and Flood Damage Recovery and the Oak Canyon Community Park Lagoon

Listed below is a brief summary of the planning and development issues in Oak Park:

Conifer Water Tank Site: At its meeting on May 2, 2019, the Board of Directors for the Park District approved a Land Lease Agreement with Los Angeles SMSA Limited Partnership, dba Verizon Wireless, for the installation of a telecommunication array at the Conifer Water Tank Site. At this time, Verizon Wireless has obtained all necessary regulatory and construction permits for the project and preliminary construction activities on the telecommunication array started on August 2, 2019. Staff anticipates that revenue from this telecommunication site may be forthcoming as early as January 2020.

On May 28, 2019, the Park District received notification from AT&T that they will be terminating their Land Lease Agreement with the Park District for their telecommunication array at the Conifer Water Tank Site as of July 31, 2019. According to AT&T representatives, the location no longer meets their design and engineering specifications for area coverage. In addition to the loss of revenue, the Park District will now become responsible for the annual weed abatement services for the site, which AT&T had been obligated to perform under its permit agreement with the County of Ventura.

Churchwood Telecommunication Site: At its meeting on May 2, 2019, the Board of Directors for the Park District also approved an Option and Land Lease Agreement with Los Angeles SMSA, dba Verizon Wireless, for the construction of a wireless telecommunication facility within Park District Open Space located in the southeasterly quadrant of the intersection of Kanan Road and Churchwood Drive. Construction plans for the project have been submitted to the County of Ventura for plan check review. At this time, Verizon Wireless does not have a tentative construction schedule for this project.
Oak Canyon Community Park Bike Path Resurfacing Project: Preliminary plans and specifications for this project have been completed in-house by Park District staff. Currently, this project is on hold pending final Woolsey Fire cleanup and recovery repairs at Oak Canyon Community Park.

Replacement of Oak Canyon Community Park Tot-Lot Play Equipment: Preliminary plans and specifications for this project have been completed in-house by Park District staff. Currently, staff anticipates requesting Board Authorization to Solicit Bids for this project at its regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on September 19, 2019.

Fire Recovery Issues and Items: Listed below is a brief summary of the major issues and items that the Park District’s Planning and Maintenance staff has been working on in regards to the Woolsey Fire recovery in Oak Park.

1. Oak Park Community Center Pond and Archery Range: All fire damage and subsequent flood damage to the Oak Park Community Center pond, archery range, and surrounding hillsides was cleaned up and restored back to full operation by the Park District’s maintenance department on June 13, 2019.

2. Oak Canyon Community Park (OCCP) Caretaker’s Residence: Construction plans for the replacement of the caretaker’s residence have been completed by the Park District’s design and engineering consultants and will be submitted to the County of Ventura’s Building and Safety Department for plan check review in the early part of September 2019.

3. Oak Canyon Community Park Maintenance Building: Park District staff has installed a temporary construction trailer within the confines of the Oak Park Maintenance Yard for use by Park District staff until the Oak Canyon Community Park Maintenance Building can be reconstructed. Plans for the reconstruction of the facility are still pending.

4. Oak Canyon Community Park: The Park District’s maintenance staff has been removing the dead shrubs and trees from the park and open space slope areas as time permits. Repairs to the damaged irrigation system are still ongoing.

5. Oak Canyon Community Park Lagoon Bridge: The Park District has received formal price quotes for the reconstruction of the Oak Canyon Community Park Lagoon Bridge. The lowest bidder for the project was Ardalan Construction in the amount of $18,900. Staff anticipates that construction on this project will start and be completed during the month of September 2019.

6. Oak Canyon Community Park Lagoon Picnic Pavilion: Park District staff is currently in the process of retaining the services of a structural engineer and materials testing laboratory to verify that the existing concrete pilasters and metal column caps can be reused to reconstruct the picnic pavilion. If the pilasters and column caps can be reused, staff will submit the original construction plans on file with the Park District.
to the County’s Building and Safety Department for review and permitting. In the event that the existing concrete pilasters and column caps are deemed unusable, staff will have to demolish and remove the existing pilasters and submit new construction plans for the picnic pavilion in conformance with current seismic and California Building Code standards.

7. **Oak Canyon Community Park Lagoon:** Since the mud and silt accumulation in the lagoon can be attributed to the Woolsey Fire, staff has been in discussions with our insurance carrier, FEMA, and Cal-OES for funding to remove the mud and silt from the bottom of the lagoon and reconstruct the lagoon’s amenities (pumps, docks, landscaping, fountains, etc.). Staff has received notification that FEMA has denied our claim based on its interpretation of the President’s *Emergency Declaration for the Woolsey Fire*. This declaration only allows for funding assistance for items actually destroyed by the Woolsey Fire, and does not cover any subsequent damages incurred as a result of the fire. Funding determinations by the Park District’s insurance carrier and Cal-OES are still pending.

8. **Oak Canyon Community Park Dog Park:** Currently, the Oak Canyon Community Park Dog Park is open and accessible by foot traffic and vehicles displaying proper handicapped placards. The reconstruction of the Dog Park’s pedestrian bridge crossing Medca Creek was completed in-house by Park District building maintenance staff on July 10, 2019.

9. **Eagle View Park Pre-Teen Playground Replacement:** At its meeting on June 20, 2019, the Board of Directors for the Park District awarded a contract to Unlimited Engineering Contracting, Inc. to replace the playground destroyed by the Woolsey Fire. The site improvements and infrastructure work on this project started on August 12, 2019. The arrival of the new play equipment from the manufacturer is tentatively scheduled for the week of August 26, 2019. Staff anticipates that this project will be completed by September 13, 2019.

10. **Eagle View Park Bridge Reconstruction:** The reconstruction of the Eagle View Park Bridge was completed in-house by the Park District’s building maintenance staff on August 6, 2019.

11. **Valley View Park Slope Reconstruction:** The Oak Park maintenance staff has been removing the dead shrubs and trees from the parking lot planters and outfield slopes. Repairs to the damaged irrigation system are still ongoing. A new drought tolerant planting plan for the fire damaged areas of the park is being designed in-house by the Park District’s Landscape Designer.

12. **Oak Park Erosion and Sediment Control for Fire Damaged Open Space Areas:** During this year’s inclement weather season, the Park District has encumbered over 4500 manhours providing erosion and sediment control measures in Oak Park (1500 hours by the Oak Park Maintenance crew and 3000 hours from supplemental staff members from Simi Valley). Critical areas included the storm drain inlet adjacent to
Hollytree Drive, the trail and trailhead along Oak Hills Drive, the Oak Park Community Center, and the protection of various private residences abutting Park District Open Space throughout the community of Oak Park.

13. **General Fire Damage Clean-Up and Recovery:** The Oak Park maintenance staff, supplemented by Simi Valley personnel and contract service vendors, has completed the following fire damage clean-up and recovery in Oak Park:

   a. Multiple domestic water and irrigation mainline repairs were completed in-house by Park District staff to enable the reopening of Oak Canyon Community Park, the Children’s Splash Pad and the Dog Park.

   b. A new water line was installed by the Oak Park maintenance staff to the Oak Canyon Park lagoon to provide supplemental water to maintain the pond’s water elevation and protect the existing wildlife habitat until a determination is made on the lagoon’s reconstruction.

   c. All of the fire damaged irrigation within Eagle View Park and along Bromley Drive was reconstructed in-house by Park Maintenance staff.

   d. The fire damaged trees and vegetation along Bromley Drive’s right-of-way adjacent to Eagle View Park and Oak Canyon Community Park was removed through contract services on August 8, 2019.

   e. The fire damaged trees and vegetation on the north side of Kanan Road between Cresthill Drive and Deerhill Road was removed through contract services.

   f. The burnt/dead trees along the Valley View Park slope were removed through contract services.

   g. The Oak Park Community Center pond was cleaned and put back into operation by the Park District’s maintenance staff on June 20, 2019.

   h. Portions of the open space trail system, including the Oak Hills Drive trailhead, were regraded to eliminate inclement weather erosion and silt accumulation.

14. **Oak Park – Woolsey Fire Cleanup Day:** On April 28, 2019, the community of Oak Park and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District held a Woolsey Fire cleanup day to help remove fire damaged brush and vegetation from Oak Canyon Community Park, Eagle View Park, and surrounding open space areas. In addition, the community volunteers assisted in the planting of the Eagle View Park slope along Bromley Drive. Staff estimates that approximately 250 community volunteers attended the event, including Oak Park Recreation and Park Planning Committee Chair John Watts and Committee Members Carolyn Cass-Barton and James Ebert. Chair Elaine Freeman and Director Mark Johnson were also in attendance from Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District’s Board of Directors.
15. **Oak Park Lagoon – Turtle Rescue and Relocation**: Under the direction and coordination of Oak Park Recreation and Park Planning Committee Member Janice Smets, two volunteer community turtle rescue and relocation events were held on July 27, 2019 and August 4, 2019. The first rescue and relocation event safely relocated thirty-two (32) Red-Slider Turtles to their new home at a turtle rescue center, and the second event safely relocated three (3) turtles. Director Dennert attended and actively participated in the second turtle rescue and relocation event.

Wayne Nakaoka  
Director of Planning and Maintenance