



County of Santa Cruz

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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BARRY C. SAMUEL, DIRECTOR

April 30, 2001

AGENDA: May 22, 2001

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: MOBILE RECREATION PROGRAM

Dear Members of the Board:

The Parks Department and the Human Resources Agency, have identified the need to provide youth from low income families and youth who live in areas currently not receiving recreation services with a year round program of recreational and homework assistance opportunities. Santa Cruz County Parks either offers or helps to fund programs throughout a large segment of the county. However there are people residing outside of the major population centers, in areas such as Davenport, Ben Lomond, Soquel, Aptos, Live Oak, Corralitos, Loma Prieta and unincorporated areas of Watsonville who are under-served. In addition, due to the size of the local agricultural business, areas in the county which serve as homes for farm workers are also under-served.

The results of innumerable surveys directly related access to recreation services with lower crime rates, improved grades and lower truancy levels. Mobile recreation is a way to bring recreational services to these outlying areas outside of the urban core. These services will also help HRA accomplish TANF program goals of preventing and reducing the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies by providing low-income youth with quality recreational activities.

The Human Resources Agency is fully funding this pilot program. Reimbursement for the program will include purchase of a van, supplies, staff costs for two Recreation Coordinators and a Recreation Leader III. The project cost will be \$13 1,000 over the term of the MOU, ending June 30, 2002. Funding is provided in the budget for FY 2001-2001.

The Parks Department will:

- Purchase supplies, beginning with a van that will serve as the base for all programs.
- Hire and train staff for the Mobile Recreation Team.

The Mission of the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services is to provide safe, well designed and maintained parks and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community

- Offer a year program serving the areas described above by initially targeting specific areas in under-served locations. These locations will include the migrant farm camps, low income housing developments that lack recreation services, and outlying areas of the county that do not have reasonable park or open space opportunities.
- The second phase of the program will include schools within the county, which either meet the above criteria or have a large segment of students who live in areas as described above.
- Introduce, as role models and mentors, recreation staff offering youth in the mobile programs the same positive options that the youth in the parks-based programs experience.
- Involve the community as participants and supporters.

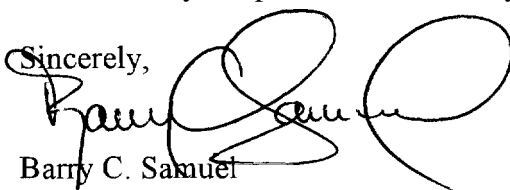
The Human Resources Agency and Parks Department will:

- Designate departmental liaisons to meet no less than quarterly to discuss issues and problems regarding implementation of the mobile van program.
- Work cooperatively to determine the best locations for the mobile programs to provide services.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that Your Board:

1. Approve the Mobile Recreation Program to be operated by Santa Cruz County Parks and funded by the Human Resources Agency with TANF funds ;
2. Authorize Parks to work with General Services to expedite the purchase of a van for the Mobile recreation program ; and
3. Approve the addition of 2.0 F.T.E. Recreation Coordinators, and authorize Personnel to classify the positions to be ready for hire at the beginning of the Fiscal Year 2001-2002.

Sincerely,



Barry C. Samuel
Director

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

cc: CAO, Auditor-Controller, County Counsel, Parks, General Services, HRA Personnel