

From: Jane Stilling [mailto:r.stilling@charter.net]

Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2015 2:56 PM

To: Grunow, Rich (mailto:rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us)

Subject: Monterey Avenue Skate Park EIR

Dear Mr. Grunow,

- 18-1 I read the Draft EIR and have a couple questions / concerns besides the major issue of noise. I'd like to see an "aerial view" of noise radiating out on a map of the surrounding neighborhood. It is hard to picture where noise may bounce off fences or structures.
- 18-2 During construction, will vehicles or equipment impact the dirt track that circles the baseball diamond? It is used quite a bit by runners and dog-walkers.
- 18-3 The Draft EIR mentions the potentially significant environmental impact to nesting birds. That is a serious concern as habitat disappears and birdlife in general is being threatened. I recall many non-drought winters when the lowland flooded between the school and the District Office building. Gulls and other waterfowl seek refuge from rough weather in the seasonal 'pond.' The skate park activity and increased foot-traffic coming and going would likely disrupt resting birds.

I hope these details will be addressed.

Sincerely,

Jane Stilling
154 Cabrillo Street
Capitola, CA 95010

JAN 06 2016

CITY OF CAPITOLA

Tuesday, January 05, 2016

Dear Mr. Grunow and Members of the Capitola City Council,

We are writing to you in an effort to save our public park from noise abuse that would occur if you allow a skate park of this size to build at Monterey Park.

19-1 Impact 4.3-3 Permanent increase in noise. The draft E.I.R. states a permanent increase of noise of about 5-7 dBA.

The mitigation measures described in the draft E.I.R. along with the fence to stop baseballs from injuring people in the area would significantly increase the total size of the proposed 6000 sq.ft. skate park and would not mitigate all other related noise issues.

The organization, Friends of Monterey Park, have long endorsed a smaller skate park of 2000 sq.ft. strictly designed for young children that would compliment the existing multi-age skate park at Mc Gregor site.

Friends of Monterey Park
Daniel J. Steyer

JAN 06 2016

CITY OF CAPITOLA

Tuesday, January 05, 2016

Dear Mr. Grunow and Capitola City Council,

19-2 I am writing in opposition to the proposed skate park on Monterey Avenue. On page 20, section 4.3 the draft E.I.R. states: “The noise generated by skate park users riding skateboards to the skate park is much less than the noise produced by vehicle traffic along roadways and thus, skateboard noise produced by skaters riding to the skate park along sidewalks would also not measurably increase ambient traffic noise levels along roadways servicing the site”. This study considered only high traffic times, not early A.M. or late P.M. when the streets are quiet, but the noise of skaters would, therefore, be amplified.

19-3 The EIR also didn't take into consideration the skating noise 2nd story bedrooms would be subjected to. As a resident of Monterey Ave. with a 2nd story bedroom window I can hear a skate board five houses away before I ever hear a car.

This is only one example of misdirection about noise in the draft EIR and no past models to reference the impacts to neighbors with regard to a skate park of this size so close to a residential neighborhood.

Daniel L Steingard

RECEIVED

JAN 06 2016

December 22, 2015

Dear Richard Grunow and Members of Capitola City Council, CITY OF CAPITOLA

- 20-1 **I strongly oppose a skate park at Monterey Park. The EIR draft states that there will be a PERMANENT noise increase of at least 5-7dBA. This translates to a 50% to 75% increase of sound levels. That is unacceptable. Unlike many other sports, skateboarding is a noisy activity, which in a non-residential neighborhood poses no adverse repercussions. But, close to a neighborhood, it can greatly impact and disrupt the serenity of people who live in the nearby vicinity and decrease the quality of many people's lives. And that will be 7 days a week, 365 days a year, from sunrise to sunset.**
- 20-2 **Also despite what the draft EIR predicts, a skate park on Monterey Ave. will most assuredly increase traffic and congestion in an already very busy street. According to California Skateboard Code children under 10 must be supervised while at a skate park. How are those parents going to get there? Most of them will drive. Where are they going to park? There are currently 26 parking spaces in Monterey Park and we already have the traffic congestion of the dropping off and picking up of school children every day, sports practices and games at Monterey Park. So where are all these folks supposed to park? I believe the surrounding neighborhood would lose much of the available street parking near their homes if a skate park goes in at Monterey Ave.**
- 20-3 **The EIR doesn't mention the important fact that Monterey Park is the last green space owned by the city of Capitola Taking the last green space owned by the city of Capitola and turning it into a paved and fenced site would be very heartbreaking and environmentally wrong on so many levels. The last place for many soccer and baseball teams to play the sports they love so dearly. There is a skate park almost finished at McGregor—leave Monterey Park green.
A skate park also creates an opportunity for graffiti and vandalism by kids hanging out while skating and long after the park is officially locked. It would create an increase in maintenance and law enforcement costs—with another skate park so close at McGregor; it doubles those costs and consumes a lot of the city's valuable time and resources.**
- 20-4 **Lastly, I would like you to note that the city council under the Capitola General Plan "Has a duty to preserve the character of**

residential neighborhoods.” A skate park in our front and back yards would not do that. Also under the General Plan in the section concerning Noise Sensitive Use it states, “The city has a duty to keep a location free from the unwanted sounds that could adversely affect the use of land such as residences, schools, or hospitals.” A skate park would be a noise generator and completely contrary to the noise sensitive issues in the neighborhood.

The McGregor Park is already under construction, two skate parks are not necessary in a town of less than 2 square miles, 10,000 people AND with only a small percentage of skateboarders.

Thank you for reading my letter and considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Lisa Steingrube

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Steingrube".

January 8, 2016

Nancy Stucker
2707 Lafayette Street
Soquel, CA 95073

Mr. Richard Grunow
Community Development Director
City of Capitola

Dear Mr. Grunow:

I am writing to respond to the draft EIR on the proposed skate park in Monterey Park. I feel that the report is incomplete in a number of areas. I feel the following adverse environmental effects of a skate park in this location should make the construction of such a park unacceptable to the City of Capitola.

- 21-1
- The noise level that would be generated by the skate park would preclude the peaceful use of the park by all of the citizens who now enjoy this open green space. The disturbing noise of a skate park would interfere with the current uses of Monterey Park. Skate parks create a very high level of noise that is disturbing to anyone who is not using them.
 - The noise level would interfere with the work done by the employees at the Soquel Union School District offices.
 - The noise level would interfere with the work done by students and teachers at New Brighton Middle School. Not only would students in nearby classrooms be affected, but all the students of the school would be exposed to disturbing noise. All have P.E. classes use the fields adjacent to the proposed skate park. Other classes use the fields for hands-on learning activities like humanities class history re-enactments and science experiments. The quality of the educational experience of the students would be diminished. Certainly many of the students attending New Brighton Middle School are Capitola residents who would be negatively affected by a noisy skate park next to their school.
 - The noise level would interfere with the quality of life of the resident caretaker who lives adjacent to the proposed park.

- The noise level would interfere with the quality of life of nearby residents on Monterey Avenue. Skate board noise travels a long way. It is not just the residents who live directly in front of Monterey Park who will be affected.
- 21-2
- A fence around the skate park would be unsightly and ruin the ability of people to enjoy this open green space. Taking away the ability to appreciate amazing sunsets that can sometimes be seen from Monterey Park looking towards the proposed skate park area would be an affront to the environment and to those currently using the park.
- 21-3
- The footprint of the park would encroach on the playing fields and the walking path around the field. The skate park would butt up against part of the path. Again, the extreme increase in noise from the skate park would make use of the path unbearable for most people, and certainly unpleasant for all.
- 21-4
- The proposed skate park is an example of poor urban planning that would result in harmful noise pollution during daylight hours. The negative environmental impact of noise pollution on all stakeholders should be given more emphasis than is currently shown in the EIR.
- 21-5
- It does not make sense to build a skate park in this location. A skate park would destroy the tranquility and beauty of a park that is currently used by people of all ages, from toddlers to seniors. I have enjoyed Monterey Park as a softball player (Capitola/Soquel Recreation league), as a parent sitting on the knoll watching my son's soccer practice, as a parent of two former New Brighton Middle School students who have benefitted from the open green space in ways mentioned above, and as a walker. I see how this area is used during the day by New Brighton students and community members. Both of my sons are skateboarders, but Monterey Park is the wrong place for a skate park because of the negative impact it would have on the environment.

Sincerely,

Nancy Stucker

Monday, January 4, 2016

TO: Mr. Richard Grunow, City of Capitola Development Director
RE: Proposed Skatepark in Monterey Park

- 22-1 I have reviewed the EIR for the proposed Skatepark, and have concerns about the impact of locating this project in an established residential neighborhood. Some of my concerns are subjective:
- The report considers installing a concrete structure surrounded by fencing to have no impact on a scenic vista. How was this determined?
- 22-2
- Apparently one opinion is that the project "will not result in a substantial degradation to the visual character of the surrounding area due to its low-profile appearance and partial screening by berms." This makes no sense, when I review the images indicating park design and suggestions in the CPTED study (which include iron fencing).
- 22-3
- There is the suggestion that there "may be an incremental demand for police services, yet this is not addressed.

Other concerns are specific to sections of the EIR:

- 22-4
- there is potential significant interference with movement of native wildlife species. The only suggested mitigation is modification of construction dates, suggesting that the only negative impact to birds would be during construction. What about after the park is in use? Especially if trees are removed? According to to EIR, "City staff has indicated that up to eight existing trees just north of and outside the development area of the proposed skate park may be removed at the request of the City to improve visibility for public safety purposes."
- 22-5
- Noise is a concern: there is potential significant impact in this area, as there would be substantial increase in ambient noise levels "in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project."
 - There is a recognition that the project "might have adverse physical effect on the environment" – isn't this in itself a significant area of concern for our City?
 - In the initial study, it is noted that there are potential significant impacts "that are individually limited but cumulatively significant.
 - In addition, potential significant issues are noted regarding "environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly"
- 22-6 Overall, the entire document suggests a series of rationalizations for a questionable decision to locate a SECOND Capitola Skatepark in the middle of a residential neighborhood. I urge the City to look closely at the potential damage this would do to a neighborhood for no good reason. The skate park at McGregor is underway, let's get that one finished for people to enjoy and retain Monterey Park as is.

Thank you.



Stephanie Tetter

222 Junipero Court, Capitola
stephanie.tetter@gmail.com

From: Terry Tetter [<mailto:raoulrt@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 1:21 PM

To: Grunow, Rich (rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us)

Subject: Skatepark E.I.R.

Dear Richard,

I have two concerns with the Monterey Park skatepark EIR:

- 23-1 1. The sound barriers are on the North & South ends of the proposed skatepark but not on the East and West sides. This is a problem because of the classrooms near the West side of the proposed skatepark, including the classroom for special education. Middle schoolers in general are easily distracted from classroom activities on the best days, but this goes double for the students with learning disabilities, whose classroom is only 140 feet from to the Western side of the proposed skatepark. Since the park will be open from 8 a.m. until dark, the noise generated by the features (especially the river rock feature which was not included in the original plans and should NOT be added at all) will make it almost impossible for any teaching to happen in that classroom, as well as in nearby classrooms. This may not be a problem for the skateboard manufacturing interests involved, but it is definitely a problem for our students.
- 23-2 2. The E.I.R. did not address the noise that will be generated by amplified music from öboom boxesö as well as the major amplified music and P.A. Announcements at skateboarding events that will be held in the park. Anyone who has been to a skateboarding event will remember the volume of the noise generated by the amplified music and announcements.

Thanks for your attention to this matter

Terry Tetter

222 Junipero ct.

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Terry Tetter
raoulrt@gmail.com

January 7, 2016

Via E-mail Only

rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us

Mr. Richard Grunow, Community Development Director
CITY OF CAPITOLA
420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010

Re: Public Review & Comment on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Proposed Monterey Park Skate Park at 700 Monterey Avenue

Dear Mr. Grunow,

My name is Timothy Wagner and I write on behalf of myself, my father and family, with respect to the Draft EIR for the proposed skate park at Monterey Park. We have lived and owned our house directly adjacent to Monterey Park for the last 46 years. I am deeply concerned about the proposed skate park contemplated to be installed at Monterey Park, which is located in a noise sensitive residential neighborhood.

Currently our neighborhood Monterey Park serves **all members** of our community **no matter their ages** and **of all interests**. Stealing this space for the exclusive use by a few people is outrageous, **especially when a skate park is located less than one mile away at McGregor Park**. No other city has these many skate parks for so tiny a population. The City Council shouldn't put the narrow interests of a few people, whose majority advocates live outside of Capitola, over the Monterey Park and adjacent schools' community interest in protecting our vulnerable children, open community spaces and quality of life.

I am writing this letter to provide comment on the draft EIR released for the proposed Monterey Park skate park.

24-1 **A. Monterey Park Is A Passive Neighborhood Park. The Wishes And Desires of the Neighbors And Adjacent Schools Concerning the Utilization of Their Community Park Should Be Respected!**

As long standing member of our community, and the Monterey Park neighborhood, my family and I can personally testify as to the character and charm of the grassy fields, knolls, trees and open spaces of Monterey Park. The essence of Monterey Park is a tranquil, open, green space where community members of all ages can enjoy open spaces, bird watching and mother-nature's beauty.

Monterey Park was formed in the '90s and was previously an open lot where local children played and neighbors walked their dogs. When this empty lot came up for development, the neighbors accepted the idea of a neighborhood park as long as it was passive---without restrooms and without lighting. With the single exception of one drinking fountain, there are no permanent fixtures in the park. Even the baseball backstop is moveable and not permanently fixed.

The proposal for a skate park would seek to have a massive, multi-featured, concrete, brick and rock skate park installed in Monterey Park that will definitely raise the noise level and intensity of the park – and which the Draft EIR is forced to acknowledge.

The proposed skate park diminishes the quality of life for scores of residents who live, work and go to school in this neighborhood and who enjoy Monterey Park just as it is. In February 2015, almost 95% of the neighbors directly adjacent to Monterey Park were opposed to the 6,000 sf skate park and roughly 80% of neighbors one block away oppose this proposed project.

A 9,000 square foot skate park at Monterey Park was rejected by the City Counsel and Soquel Union Elementary School District in 2012. Now the developers are back with a scaled down 6,000 square foot skate park that does nothing to address the same concerns and objections raised in 2012.

Without a doubt the Monterey Park neighborhood community, local schools and offices have clearly expressed their objection to the proposed skate park – it perfectly fits the definition of a Locally Undesirable Land Use for this small neighborhood park.

24-2 **B. The Proposal For A Skate Park Gives Every Appearance of a Business Venture Impermissibly Utilizing Public Land, And Not Motivated By a Concern For The Children, Or The Monterey Park Community At Large.**

Shockingly, it is rumored that the City is now entertaining the idea of allowing a private enterprise to put in this massive concrete, brick and rock skate park that severely limits the versatility of the park for the exclusive and narrow use of just a few individuals. Should the rumor proved to be true, it would amount to a misuse and misappropriation of Monterey Park. It must also be pointed out that a “gift” of construction funds to build the skate park, by a commercial venture, potentially creates the impression of a business venture impermissibly utilizing public land.

1. Who Are the Proponents of the Skate Park?

The rumor is that local commercial venture(s) are funding all costs associated with the building of the proposed skate park. If true, the City has an obligation to identify and disclose to the public those ventures, their level of involvement and funding.

Further, the City must immediately disclose and seek to avoid all potential conflicts of interest.

2. Who Objects To Applicants' Proposed Skate Park?

The opponents of the proposed skate park at Monterey Park are comprised of the following groups:

- (a) The Soquel Union Elementary School District
- (b) Several non-profit community groups, including Friends of Monterey Park and POPP – Protecting Our Public Parks
- (c) The overwhelming majority of Monterey Park community members and residents (95% of residents adjacent to Monterey Park & 80% of residents one block away from Monterey Park.

3. Who Should The City Council Believe Is Actually Representing the Interests of The Children & Monterey Park Community?

The answer is obvious. Those who would propose the building of a skate park do not have all our children's best interest in mind, in proposing this skate park. The Soquel Union Elementary School District clearly represents and cares about the interest of all children in the Monterey Park community where these schools are located, and are concerned with the ability to provide a safe environment for their education and physical activities.

The concerned citizens groups (POPP and Friends of Monterey Park) are members of the community who want to preserve community recreational spaces for the safe use and enjoyment of children and community members of all ages.

The overwhelming majority of Monterey Park residents are against this proposal and are clearly concerned with protecting the use and enjoyment of our beloved Monterey Park for all members of our community, as well as preserving the integrity of the surrounding Monterey Park community that all our children and families call home.

24-3 **C. The Proposed Skate Park Is Not Safe For Our Kids, And Represents A Dangerous Nuisance & Liability For the City**

The proposed 6,000 sf skate park is far from being a safe haven for our children. Skateboarding has been determined by the State of California to be a hazardous recreational activity. This sport is an "activity of choice". It shouldn't be incumbent upon the citizens of a small community of 10,000 residents to provide a venue for every activity of choice, i.e., bowling, archery, target shooting, golf, horseback riding, hockey and so on. Nevertheless, Capitola is already building a skate park less than a mile away at McGregor Park (more on that below).

Additionally, the approximately 6,000 sf skate park does not have enough room for both beginners and advanced skateboarders. The Dreamland Skateparks designer recommends 10,000 sf or more if beginners are to be accommodated. As acknowledged in the EIR, the proposed skate park would be “open to the general public” – so much for the narrative that this is “all about the kids” - it is not safe for them to skateboard in the proposed skate park.

This hazardous recreational activity becomes positively irresponsible and dangerous when vulnerable young children are skateboarding next to grown ups, whether teenagers or older adults, performing dangerous skate boarding “tricks” in the same vicinity, including when such grown ups “wipe out”, potentially taking out a bunch of defenseless children skateboarding in the same vicinity, whether it’s a adult falling on a child or a skate board flying up and hitting a child in the face. The use of a helmet, knee pads and elbow pads do not stop this potentially catastrophic personal injury from happening.

Experts agree that in order for different age groups and experience levels to safely skate board in the same vicinity requires far more square footage than is provided for in this project. The danger to young children outlined above is not only reasonably foreseeable and undesirable; it presents a huge liability problem for the City. When a child is injured because it wasn’t safe for a young child to skateboard with more advanced skateboarders in a skate park that is inadequately sized for such a purpose, who is going to be sued? Clearly, it will be the “deep pocket” of the City.

Furthermore, activity at the baseball field would threaten any bystanders, and some skateboarders, at the skate park. An accident already occurred in the area of the proposed skate park when a woman was struck with a baseball while attending the on site "Community Meeting" of January 24, 2015 for the proposed skate park! Looks like the City is now on notice that this is not at good idea, and is dangerous, plaintiffs attorneys must be sharpening their pencils as we speak for the next time this happens.

Taking away the versatile open spaces and increasing the noise and intensity level of this small neighborhood park is unconscionable. This is wrong and needs to be stopped.

24-4 **D. The Proposed Skate Park Does Not Serve the Interests of the Monterey Park Community & Takes Up Far More Than 3.5% Of Open Space At the Park**

The EIR correctly identifies the City’s objective as developing “recreational opportunities for residents and visitors **of all ages** which are **safe, healthy, and enjoyable.**” (Emphasis in bold added.) Additionally, the City’s objectives include “maintain City parks and open spaces with uses and activities which cater to community needs” as well as “develop park and facility improvements which are compatible with existing, neighboring land uses.” For the reasons above, the proposed skate park does not serve the Monterey Park community needs or meet the City’s objectives.

The City of Capitola has not developed a Strategic Parks and Recreation Plan for Monterey Park so we don't know what elements would constitute the best use of the park. At a January 26, 2012, City Council meeting when the 9,000 sf skate park was debated, the Public Works Director put up a slide showing future consideration for a restroom and tot lot in the northeast corner of the park and picnic tables in the northwest corner of the park.

No structures can be placed in the existing parking lot, baseball infield, outfield, gravel paths, eucalyptus grove and greenery that line the south and east sides of the park. That only leaves the approximately 9,500 sf grassy knoll available for development and the proposed skate park activity would essentially make use of 72% of that land. The remaining 28% would be utilized for spectator viewing (as presumably parents are obligated to supervise their minor children in the skate park) and no provisions for seating were made inside the fence line of the skate park. Thus, the 3.5% figure utilized by the EIR is wrong – it instead takes 100% of available area that can be developed for a limited and exclusive use activity.

The EIR states that use of the skate park would vary through the day and times of the year but given the size of the facility it is estimated that the maximum number of skateboards who could use the facility at once is 25 skateboarders, depending on experience level. Additionally, the EIR provides that based on typical usage of skate parks, there would typically be 5 to 12 skaters using the skate park during busy periods, and during low activity periods, typically 1 – 2 skaters at a time. In contrast Monterey Park is enjoyed by many more than 25 park goers every day – and the current park goers use and enjoyment of Monterey Park does not exclude use by other park goers. In other words, Monterey Park current configuration serves more members of the community than as proposed by those promoting the construction of a skate park.

24-5 **E. The Proposed Skate Park Is Not Necessary And Is Duplicative of the Skate Park Already Being Built Less Than A Mile Away At McGregor Park**

Monterey Park is 1,200 yards from McGregor Park. That is less than one mile away; specifically it is $\frac{3}{4}$ of one mile away. McGregor Park alone will distinguish Capitola as having the highest ratio of skate parks to its City population at a ratio of 1:10,000. No other city provides a skate park for so few. Below is a representation of other City's ratios of skate parks per population:

Scotts Valley is 1:12,000
 Santa Cruz is 1:21,000
 Watsonville is 1:52,000
 San Jose is 1:77,000

The EIR fails to accurately evaluate the cumulative impact of having two skate parks in Capitola, each within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of each other. The proposed skate park in Monterey Park does overlap and is cumulative with the skate park at McGregor Park.

Why would the City approve spending so much of the public resources and annexing so much public space from the general public use for the exclusive use of so few? Who stands to benefit from this unsound and irresponsible use of public resources and land? Something is very wrong here. No other city provides two skate parks within ¾ of a mile of each other for such a small population.

McGregor Park is the perfect location for a skate park. Skateboarders' convenience doesn't come before this City's community needs, Monterey Park neighbors and family's needs and the needs of our schools adjacent to Monterey Park must be promoted and protected from this proposed gross intrusion into their property and privacy rights.

24-6 **F. Traffic Impacts, Noise & Mother-Nature (Nesting Birds)**

Additionally, the EIR fails to appreciate the significant traffic impact the proposed skate park at Monterey Park would have on the neighboring vicinities, instead fobbing it off as something that can be addressed through mitigation measures. The EIR fails to appreciate the fact that street parking WILL be lost (not may be lost) with the potential extension of a Class 2 bicycle lane along Monterey Avenue to increase access to the proposed skate park.

24-7 The EIR establishes that going forward with the proposed skate park would result in permanent increase of noise to human beings living in the area, children trying to learn at the adjacent school and the disturbance to nesting birds.

The EIR fails to adequately address "Areas of Controversy or Concern" in section 2.2. The EIR briefly states that letters of comment and objections were received by one public agency – specifically the Soquel Union Elementary School District, one community group called POPP – Protecting Our Public Parks, and 13 community members. The level of expressed disapproval for this project far exceeds that stated in the EIR.

The City Council Members need listen to the members of this community who voted them into office and respect our wishes. Do not approve the proposed skate park at Monterey Park. A similar 9,000 sq. proposal was already rejected two years ago. This proposal is not in this general interest of this community or its children.

There is already a skate park going forward at McGregor Park. Capitola doesn't need two skate parks, whereas the members of our community need the open, tranquil and green spaces provided at our beloved Monterey Park.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY R. WAGNER
On behalf of the Wagner Family Trust

-cc: Via E-Mail Only

All members of the City Council, citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us

Jamie Goldstein, City Manager, jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us

Larry Laurent, Assistant to the City Manager, llorent@ci.capitola.ca.us

Katie Cattan, Senior Planner, kcattan@ci.capitola.ca.us

Ryan Safty, Assistant Planner, rsafty@ci.capitola.ca.us

Steve Jesberg, Public Works Director, sjesberg@ci.capitola.ca.us

Danielle Uharriet, Environmental Projects Manager, duharriet@ci.capitola.ca.us

Soquel Union Elementary School District

President, Judy McGooden, jmcgooden@suesd.org

Vice President, Tory Del Favero, tdelfavero@suesd.org

Trustee, Amanda Jackson Miller, ajacksonmiller@suesd.org

Trustee, Phil Rodriguez, prodriguez@suesd.org

Trustee, Sandra Wallace, swallace@suesd.org

Superintendent, Henry Castanaida, hjcastaniada@suesd.org

Richard Lippi, Program Director & Founder of POPP, Popp@greatoptions.net

January 8, 2015

Marilyn Warter
218 Junipero Court
Capitola, CA 95010

Dear Mr. Grunow:

Re: Response to EIR for Skatepark at Monterey Avenue Parks

I do not feel that the EIR adequately addresses the impact of a second skatepark in Capitola.

- 25-1 1) NOISE: According to the EIR the skatepark will permanently increase noise in the neighborhood. The mitigation options for adding a sound wall will further increase the size of the park which according to the staked area is already larger than 6,000 square feet. Moving the park near the parking lot area will increase the noise for homes on Junipero Court as well as the homes on Monterey Avenue. Furthermore, the noise study did not adequately address the noise impact on the school side of the park.
- 25-2 2) SAFETY: According to the EIR this park will appeal to beginners through young adults. Young adults at a skatepark will be mostly young men from 18 to 24. This is not appropriate next to a middle school. Why do you think middle schools are completely separate from high schools? Furthermore the size of the park and the advance level make it much more dangerous for beginners because there is not enough room for advanced skaters to avoid beginners. Keep in mind that the City will have no control over who uses this skatepark.
- 25-3 3) BATHROOMS: There are no bathrooms at Monterey Park because it was never intended for a high level of use for residences outside the immediate neighborhood. Port-a-potties will be unsightly and diminish the aesthetics of the neighborhood as well as the park. Capitola should do better.
- 25-4 3) IMPACT: I see that the City recently painted over the graffiti at McGregor skatepark again. This will be an on-going problem at Monterey Park as well and it will spread beyond the skatepark to the fences, sidewalks, streets and probably the homes around the skatepark. Since the City seems to have trouble maintaining the pavement on Monterey Avenue I don't see how we can afford to maintain two skatepark and all the sidewalks around them.
- 25-5 SOLUTIONS: I believe a second skatepark in Capitola is not needed. However, I also believe it would be appropriate to have a real *beginner* skatepark of about 2,000 to 3,000 square feet at this location with no advanced or noisy elements. This is what was originally proposed to the neighbors and most of us were not opposed.

At the council meeting in 2012 the proponents were instructed to come back with a design that was 6,000 SF or less with fewer elements. They actually came back with a design that has more elements that will be very noisy.

Finally if this thing does get built I suggest the developers be *required* to install and maintain a permanent video surveillance system that will play live on a website that can be accessed by the public at any time. Simpkins swim center has one on their website that shows the lanes of the pool. It would be very helpful for safety as well as in keeping down crime and graffiti.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn Warter