

Dear Planning Commission

I wanted to send my utmost support to the Capitola Skate Park located at Monterey Park. This is a much needed feature for the park and I hope that you will look favorably upon this generous donation to the community of Capitola.

Sincerely,
Pat Megna

Dear Planning Commissioners and City Council,

My daughter and I are residents of Capitola and we support the skate park at Monterey Ave Park.

Regards,

Jeri Parish

The purpose of this email is to show our support for the Planning Commission's approval of the Monterey Skate Park project as modified by Alternative 1 in the Final EIR . We have both reviewed the EIR and the Alternative and believe that this Alternative provides the appropriate mitigation measures.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dennis and Sally Jenks
499 Riverview Drive
Capitola , CA

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask your support for the skatepark on Monterey next to the school.

Not every child in Capitola is water baby, junior guard, surfer or soccer player. Skateboarding is an important sport, which gets children outdoors and aerobically active. It should be encouraged everywhere that is safe and legal. Having two parks, serving two different ages groups and abilities in a town the size of Capitola is appropriate. Having the park for the younger skaters near the largest family residential area and next to the school is ideal. I think some of the anti-skatepark rhetoric is a bit over blown for this type/size park. The fact that the cost will not be born by the city's already stressed budget is just another huge plus to this project.

I will be at the meeting Thursday. It should be a lively one. I hope you look favorably on this project.

Thank you,

Carin Hanna

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

In both the Draft EIR and the Final EIR, there is mention of the possible future removal of the mature eucalyptus and redwood trees north of the proposed 6,811sf public skate park at Monterey Park. Please address this issue.

In a time of global warming, it is insanity to think that removing a grove of eucalyptus that is 80 feet wide x 100 feet long x 115 feet high plus two (2) mature redwoods that are approximately 75 feet tall (the only sources of shade in the park where activities are held) would even be considered. **At POPP we wish for you to address this issue and make a decision to protect the trees at Monterey Park forever and into the future so long as it is reasonably practical.**

On page 4.1-4 of the Draft EIR, bottom paragraph, it is written, in part, "Although the current project proposal does not call for removal of any trees, it is possible that the Planning Commission or City Council could require removal of up to eight mature trees located between the proposed skate park and Monterey Avenue to improve visibility for safety purposes."

Seriously? There was NO attending analysis of the environmental impact of removing the eight (8) mature trees. POPP believes this is a serious issue that must be addressed sooner rather than later---and certainly not after the fact. At POPP, there are over 60 households (and growing) that are opposed to the proposed placement of the 6,811sf skatepark at Monterey Park and we are absolutely opposed to the removal of the mature trees north of the proposed skateboard park in the name of "safety". **There are many visibility issues inherent to the proposed skatepark at Monterey Park---trees or no trees!**

Please do not allow the removal of any mature trees at Monterey Park as part of the intended, or unintended, consequences of building an inappropriately placed skateboard park within Monterey Park.

Respectfully submitted,
POPP is Protecting Our Public Parks

Richard Lippi
Founder & Program Director

Dear Planning Commission Members,

I have reviewed the recent drawings revised 02-23-2016 as produced by Dreamland Skateparks and there are many questions that I wish for the Planning Commission to resolve before this project goes any further in the process.

1. Ref: Drawing SP-2:
The material for the ADA path from the parking lot to the proposed skatepark **is not specified**. The existing path material is a dirt and DG combination that turns to mush during heavy rains or any over-watering of the grassy outfield.
2. Ref: Drawing SP-2:
Construction fencing and a staging area is shown. **Where is the area for work vehicles or construction equipment? What is the ingress and egress plan for construction vehicles? How will pedestrians and park users be protected from traveling or operating equipment?**
3. Ref: Drawing SP-4:
The building 61'-1" north of the skatepark is not a "SCHOOL DIST. BUILDING". **That building is a private residence.**
The TOTAL AREA INSIDE THE SKATE PARK FENCE IS 6,811 SF. That is **811 sf more than the January 26, 2012 City Council would allow.**
Missing from the plan is spectator seating and ADA seating.

Other general comments:

What are the provisions for noise barriers? What material? Where? How will it be maintained? What is the material between the concrete surfaces of the skatepark and the 6 foot iron fence? The proposed iron fence is easily climbable. Consider the curved-top iron fence used at Jose Ave Park.

How will the concrete washout be handled?

Will there be utility-based power to the project or will there be generators? If generators, what type, with what kind of noise suppression equipment?

Will a construction schedule be established? Will there be liquidated damages for contract overruns?

What are the estimated costs of daily maintenance, repairs and renovations for the skatepark in perpetuity?

Will the entrance gate be closed at sunset? Who will open the entrance gate at 8am?

Will the proposed skatepark have a discrete set of rules to be followed since it is located adjacent to New Brighton Middle School, the Soquel Union Elementary School District offices, and inside a noise-sensitive, residential neighborhood?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

CME BUILDING SERVICES

Richard Lippi
CA Lic. B402907

Dear Planning and City Council

As we draw near our meeting this week, we wanted to have at the top of your in boxes - this is email from Board President Judy McGooden clarifying that the School Board as not taken a position on the Skate Park

Thank you, we look forward to the meeting on Thursday.

Marie and Tricia

Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 12:47 PM

Subject: RE: Capitola Skate Park @ Monterey Park

Hello Ms Mortorella,

You are correct in stating that the skate park was not an agendized *action* item, but it was agendized as a *discussion* item for the purpose of allowing the Board to review the EIR.

There were statements made at this meeting by the public and staff and Board that related to operations of the district, specifically:

- Impact on PE programs
- Student and staff security issues
- Impact to the district office bathroom facilities
- Potential noise impacts during school hours

It is the duty of Administration to address any and all operational issues. Letters were sent to reflect the comments and concerns stated at that meeting.

The Board has not taken any action on this item.

Regards, Judy McGooden, Board President

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

Along with a multitude of my neighbors here at Monterey Park, The Friends of Monterey Park, POPP supporters, the President of the Teachers Association, the entire PE staff at New Brighton Middle School and the administrative staff at the Soquel Union Elementary School District I am vehemently opposed to the proposed public skate park targeted for Monterey Park. **If it weren't for the money being thrown at the project by Santa Cruz Skateboards manufacturer Richard Novak this project would never have been considered by the City Council. Only Mr. Novak's intent to finance the proposed skate park construction with private funds keeps it alive. Take away the private funding, and the City will reject this project immediately.**

The skate park at McGregor Park is already 3/4 built. The City already has the liability of maintenance, repairs, periodic renovations, graffiti abatement, police protection and full legal liability exposure for any accidents or injuries to youths ages 10 and 11. **The taxpayers of Capitola don't need MORE liabilities** especially when the proposed second public skate park at Monterey Park is only 1200 yards, or 7 city blocks, from McGregor and there are 7 other skate parks/spots in Santa Cruz County that are available.

It's interesting to hear the supporters of the proposed skatepark at Monterey Park rave on about its virtues, yet they have only donated a few thousand dollars towards the project---hardly enough to complete the concept plans. **The City of Capitola does not NEED a second public skatepark along with the associated costs of maintenance, police protection and liabilities IN PERPETUITY !**

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Lippi

Capitola Planning Commission

Friends of Monterey Park

City of Capitola

March 23 2016

Now that the City of Capitola has moved on in the process and built a skate park on the City owned McGregor site and is designed for all age groups, this may be the time to stand back and see what our community really needs.

In 2011 the neighbors surrounding Monterey Park were asked by the City of Capitola via the Soquel School District to "look at", the possibility of putting a 2000 sq. ft. skating spot at the Monterey Park site for children, (beginners). I was personally asked by a school board trustee to please consider the proposal. We as a community surrounding the park gave the City Council our approval to look at the project. As we started to leave that council chambers, councilman Termini was heard to say, "Now we can look at 4000, maybe 9000 sq.ft. park. We as a community surrounding Monterey Park were never called again for any input regarding the process. The group called, "Friend of Monterey Park", was formed to organize a voice in the process.

Capitola does not need two all ages skate parks. Mr. Novak's very generous donation of 200k from his skate board co. to further promote his corporation on public land does not consider Capitola's rare open space issues.

Monterey Park is a gem in the rough. It's a park being used by the silent majority, parents strolling with children, dog walkers from A.M. to P.M. pick up ball games, organized sports and practices, bicycle riders, and just people looking for a little serenity.

What needs to happen first is community input on permanent bathrooms to be located at the park. We as a community can look at possible changes to Monterey Park. Perhaps a real beginner skate spot such as Fredrick St. where young children can go with parents and learn basic skills skate boarding, razor scooter riding etc. then move on to McGregor and make all the noise they want with the benefit of plenty of exercise without disturbing the serenity of the larger community that wants to us Monterey Park and the people who live around it.

In Friend of Monterey Parks opinion the E.I.R. feel short in the noise section of that report, but however did acknowledge the overall noise level will increase.

Friends of Monterey Park are asking the Planning Commission to recommend the above considerations to the City Council.

Sincerely, Daniel Steingrube

Friends of Monterey Park

The draft E.I.R did not address noise issues from 2nd story bedroom windows facing the proposed park, among other things. I could not get a copy of the final E.I.R. to look it over and the online copy was to hard to navigate. This to the people surrounding the park is a very critical issue and needs to be addressed.

Dan Steingrube

701 Monterey Ave.

Capitola, CA

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to you to restate to you my opposition for the proposed skate park in Monterey Park. From everything I read I'm feeling like this park is already being built and 'in the works'. The last comments I heard was there is a recommendation to move it closer to the street and the school district offices. I know that the planning commission will see also the school districts opposition to this skate park so close to the school and offices.

A skate park in this location does not meet the standards of the Capitola City General Plan that states that the City "Has a duty to preserve the character of residential neighborhoods". This park is one of the last residential green spaces in the City of Capitola is it not? I know we have our beaches and other natural assets but when busy summer days bring tourists swarming to the City and community it is nice to have these quiet spaces preserved.

My letter / comments in response to the EIR are below. Thank you for your consideration. Thank you for your work for our amazing community. I believe the two page document on trees from Palo Alto is attached to the final EIR.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Coulston

300 Plum St. #25

Capitola, CA 95010

831-227-9494

March 29, 2016

Nancy Stucker
2707 Lafayette Street
Soquel, CA 95073

Planning Commission
City of Capitola
Capitola, California

Dear Planning Commission members:

I am writing to comment on the Planning Department staff recommendation to issue permits for the proposed skate park in Monterey Park. I respectfully disagree with a number of points made in the report. I believe the proposed skate park is incompatible with the current uses of the park, neighboring land uses and neighborhood character and would significantly degrade the visual character of Monterey Park.

The following adverse effects of a skate park in this location are some of the reasons that should make the construction of such a park unacceptable to the City of Capitola:

- The noise generated by a skate park would interfere with the current uses of Monterey Park. As a parent who has supervised children at local skate parks, I can attest to the noise level at these parks. Despite the claims of the experts consulted, skate parks create a very high level of noise that is disturbing to anyone nearby who is not actively using the skate park. The noise would not only preclude the peaceful use of the park by all of the citizens who now enjoy this open green space, but it would also interfere with nearby land uses.

- The noise level would interfere with the work done by students and teachers at New Brighton Middle School. Students would be exposed to disturbing noise during the school day, not to mention the distraction of a skate park. The walls and windows of nearby portable classrooms will not provide insulation against skate park noise. What's more, the windows of these classrooms must be open on hot days. All P.E. classes use the knoll where the proposed skate park would be located, as well as fields and the track adjacent to the proposed skate park. Other classes use these fields for hands-on learning activities such as humanities class history re-enactments and science experiments. The quality of the educational experience of the students would be diminished if a skate park is placed next to the school. New Brighton Middle School students, many of whom are Capitola residents, would not be well served by the noise and distraction of a skate park or by the loss of the much used eucalyptus grove and large grassy area adjacent to the school.
- The noise level would interfere with the work of the employees at the Soquel Union School District offices, and with the caretaker who lives adjacent to the proposed skate park and whose presence has significantly reduced vandalism at New Brighton School.
- The noise level would interfere with the quality of life of nearby residents on Monterey Avenue. Skate board noise travels a long way and will affect the residents across from and down the street from Monterey Park.
- The elimination of the knoll and eucalyptus trees between New Brighton School and Monterey Park, the construction of a fence around the skate park, and the substitution of cement and bark/wood ground cover for turf would permanently transform the park and impede the ability of people of all ages to enjoy the beauty of this open green space. Monterey Park currently combines and supports many uses, including the fact that it provides a habitat for coastal zone wildlife, while maintaining the

community character of the green space and surrounding area. (See photos below, taken recently of a great egret who was seen feeding at Monterey Park on a number of occasions.)

- 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. It is uncommon, if not unheard of, that a skate park is located within a few feet of a quiet path used by walkers and runners. The noise from the skate park would make use of the path unbearable for people trying to enjoy a quiet walk or run around the Monterey Park field.

A skate park would destroy the tranquility and beauty of a park that is currently used by a broad spectrum of the population, people of all ages and physical abilities, 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 soccer practice, as a parent of two boys who went through New Brighton Middle School and benefitted from this open green space, 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, and I have spoken in favor of a skate park at a Capitola City Council meeting in the past, but NOT in this location. If a wrought iron fence, noise walls, security lighting, and netting must be added to the plan, if the park must be moved closer to school district buildings and homes on Monterey Drive, and if turf must be removed and a beautiful knoll and a beloved eucalyptus grove must be removed to accommodate the proposed park; it becomes increasingly clear that Monterey Park is not an appropriate location.

The McGregor Drive skate park will serve the needs of local skateboarders and it does not interfere with neighboring land uses or neighborhood character. Regarding the claim that the McGregor Drive skate park does not have safe access for pedestrians or bike riders, I would counter that, as skate boarding is an activity that can result in injury, and because people of all ages use a skate park, a parent generally accompanies children who are between the ages of 5 and 14 to a skate

park. Supervising parents will therefore be able to ensure the children's safety on the way to and from a skate park.

Because of the negative impact it would have on community character, current land uses, and the visual character of this beautiful open green space, I urge you to deny the proposed permits for a skate park in Monterey Park.



Sincerely,

Nancy Stucker

It will be ugly.

It will be noisy.

A few, not a lot but enough, of the skateboarders will be angry young men who will make things miserable for everyone around them.

A few, not a lot but a few, of the skateboarders will be there to stare at the middle school girls.

It will be a graffiti target. This could get expensive.

The city already has a skatepark at McGregor under construction which has no neighbors and is perfectly safe for kids if their parents drive them. This is inconvenient for the parents compared to a facility at Monterey Park, but a lot less so than going to Scotts Valley. The issue is parental convenience vs neighborhood degradation.

I like the trees that you are planning to cut down.

There will be skateboard events there that will bring traffic, fill up the neighborhood's parking, and be noisy.

Ask yourself if you'd like a skatepark next to your house, and vote accordingly.

Finally, this project has been a bait and switch on the Monterey Park neighbors. The bait was a 2,000 sq ft kiddie skatepark – which was switched into a 6,000+ sq ft park that will attract older teens and even young adults.

Al Globus

Dear Planning Commission:

It is truly regrettable, that I am being forced to move away from my wonderful neighborhood on Monterey Avenue.

Having a noisy skateboard park across the street is unacceptable. We turned it down several years ago.

Why is the planning commission even considering it?

We are a residential neighborhood with an aging population.

Please vote NO!

Regards,
Cheryl Devlin

Dear Planning Commissioners and City Council,

I'm not only a Capitola Resident but I also support the skate park at Monterey Ave park. It is an amazing opportunity for the community to have a gift provided to them that benefits the children.

Thank you.

Lisa Rupp

Hi all,

I am writing to all of you in support of the proposed skatepark at the Monterey avenue location. As a Capitola resident and parent of kids who skateboard, I want a safe and easily accessible location for all to use.

This proposal is asking for less than 4% usage of the park and feel that this is an acceptable request. Capitola residents have been asking for a permanent and safe location for some time and now one is being proposed.

Please do the right thing and approve this project as all of the required reports and documents have been submitted, reviewed and approved.

Thank you,
John Martorella

Dear Planning Commission:

I am writing in opposition of the proposed skatepark in Monterey Park.

Monterey Park belongs to all residents of Capitola and is a good place to play softball and take a walk around the track. Skateparks are noisy and without active enforcement will be a problem for the surrounding community. There is already 1 skatepark being built at McGregor and a City of our size does not need two. The proposers are a private group and should not be allowed to build on this public space which is surely limited in a City of our size.

Please keep Monterey Park a quiet neighborhood park.

Sincerely,

Lisa Saldana
1132 Callas Lane

To Whom It May Concern,

We are a long time local family that lives on the Westside near Derby Skatepark. Our children have enjoyed having Derby Skatepark near enough to bike to. We have hosted quite a few birthday parties at Derby over the years, it is family friendly and a lot of fun. We appreciate it's neighborhood location, compared to the Santa Cruz Skatepark because we feel safer letting our 12 year old bike to Derby to skateboard. The Santa Cruz Skatepark is near some very busy streets and it would be scary to let him manage to get there without our help. We are happy to report that Derby Skatepark is a great outlet for kids. We hope that you will consider having the Capitola Skatepark in a neighborhood as well, I might be more willing to drive my child over to the Capitola Skatepark if it is in a safe location for kids to come and go as needed. Please keep this in mind when choosing location.

Derby is well loved by the Westside parents and neighbors. Thank you.

Sincerely, Sheri Baxter and family

Dear Planning Commission Members,

Regarding the draft EIR for the proposed skatepark in Monterey Avenue Park

I feel the draft EIR is deficient. It does not sufficiently deal with impact of parking, traffic, and noise caused by the proposed development on the area around Monterey Avenue Park.

Skate parks are noisy. These noises are not natural ambient sounds. Skate park noise is jarring and disruptive to children and adults who are in school and in their homes. This proposal is next to residences, a school and a church.

The proposed development will greatly increase traffic in the area surrounding the proposed development -- both vehicular traffic and the skating traffic on both the sidewalks and in the streets. The proximity of the proposed development to the existing skate park at McGregor Park will make this an even greater issue than cannot be measured by observing skate parks in other areas. This needs to be addressed.

An increase in traffic will also cause another increase in noise in the area surrounding the proposed development. The proposed development will negatively impact the neighborhood by creating problems with parking. The city of Capitola is already planning to remove parking along one side of the Monterey Avenue (the side with Monterey Avenue Park). Because of the possible coexistence of two skateboard facilities within 1200 yards of each other, parking will undoubtedly be in short supply. The parking lot at Monterey Avenue Park is quite small. Even now, parking on Monterey Avenue and side streets (Orchid, Junipero, Wesley, Cabrillo, Elinor), is negatively impacted by large events that happen at New Brighton School (such as graduation), and events at St. Joseph's Church. These events are fortunately not frequent. But the proposed development will create a skateboarding mecca in a residential neighborhood and parking will become a serious problem. Please address this.

Neighborhood safety is of course another concern. The proposed development will attract after dark activities. The fence will make a climbing structure irresistible to children/youth who will see it as a challenge to conquer. This will be unsafe for Capitola's children. The proposed skate park is not the "kiddie bowl" originally suggested. The draft EIR mentions that this skatepark proposal will appeal to young adults. That does not make a safe environment for young kids -- either during school hours or after school. I am concerned about teens and young adults congregating. In addition, there will be graffiti, not just on the skating surfaces themselves, but most likely on the fences in the park and on school property. How will the cost of dealing with these issues be dealt with? As a Capitolian, I feel this is important.

I am concerned about how this area will be policed. This will necessitate an additional series of expenses for the city of Capitola the draft EIR does not address. These costs will add up -- and surely mount.

The draft EIR does not address the cumulative nature of these effects.

Increased noise, traffic, and parking problems will accumulate and compound the stress of people in the area impacted by the proposed development, especially considering another skate park is 1200 yards nearby.

Capitola needs to preserve and health and safety of its residential neighborhoods, schools, and parks. This proposed skate park does not do that, and the draft EIR is missing a great many areas of concern.

Yours truly,
Norman Lane
Orchid Avenue
Capitola CA

Dear Council Members and Planning Commission Members,

I am writing to let you know that I very strongly oppose the construction of a skateboarding area, of any size, in Monterey Park.

Let me tell you a bit of why I feel this way. I am a long time resident of Capitola. I am a voter and a property owner. Cliffwood Heights has been home to my extended family from my grandmother and her sister to my children. I mention this because I would like you to know that we have an investment in the future of Capitola - in particular in the Cliffwood Heights area. This is where we have put down roots.

I feel very strongly that a skateboarding area in Monterey Park would not fit in with the character of our neighborhood. My family was attracted to the beauty and tranquility of our neighborhood, including our neighborhood park.

I also feel that using any of space in Monterey Park for skateboarding would be a disservice all the residents of our neighborhood: young and old and in-between.

Skateboarding is a popular sport, but not all children skate. Additionally, although there are girls who skate, there are, in truth, far more boys who use skateboards. What about the little girls in our community who don't skate? They will be among the losers if you allow a skatepark in Monterey Park. Girls need outdoor spaces and parks for their physical and emotional health, perhaps even more so because our culture still encourages boys to be more active than girls - and girls struggle with body image issues far more than boys do.

Just a few days ago, I was speaking with a 9-year-old girl who lives on Kennedy. She said it just doesn't make sense to build a skateboarding place in Monterey Park. I agree with her!

On the other hand, I strongly support the multi-use park at McGregor, and I congratulate the Council on moving forward with this project. McGregor is an appropriate place for a noisy park. I have no doubt that McGregor Park will be an attractive and well-loved park that will appeal to many of the different interests of Capitola residents. I am looking forward to visiting McGregor Park with my family, and I wish to thank the City Council for creating a beautiful and safe park at McGregor.

We know the value of parks and green space. There is no question that green space is essential for physical health and emotional well-being.

Parks are vital components of neighborhoods, which add value to our lives not just as individuals but also as communities. In order to live together in harmony, we need tranquil places to soothe us and nurture us. As our population grows, we need to cherish our neighborhood parks for the respite they provide. In this way, our neighborhood park, Monterey Park, serves people of all ages and all interests.

In thinking about the future of Capitola, I feel very strongly that we need to preserve our neighborhoods parks for our children (our children who have many different interests), for the adults they will become, and for the children they will, in turn, have.

We all need balance in our lives. McGregor Park will provide a variety of recreational opportunities that appeal to families and individuals of varying interests. It will be a large and busy park. It's the ideal location for skateboards, bikes, and off-leash dogs.

Monterey Park should remain a neighborhood park for everyone, to be used gently for the best possible future for the children of Capitola.

I urge you - implore you - to say no the proposal for a skatepark in Monterey Park. Thank you!

Sincerely yours,

Helen Bryce

Dear Council Members and Planning Commission Members

I live on Orchid Avenue in Capitola. I am writing because I am not at all in favor of a skateboard park in Monterey Park.

Orchid Avenue is a residential neighborhood. There should not be a skateboard park right next to our homes and backyards. This would cause noise and disturbances of all sorts, graffiti, littering, and so on.

Then there is the issue of the best use of the park itself. Right now, people picnic and play on the grassy knoll. You could put in a picnic table and everyone in the neighborhood would love it. But most people are happy with it as it is. People also sit on the knoll to watch the games in the park. It's a nice place to spread out a blanket. People need that.

It would be a travesty to remove the knoll and put in skateboards, especially since you're building a skateboard park on McGregor. If you want something for the kids, a jungle gym and a picnic table would be great, maybe a little off to the side. Many of us like to walk in the park.

Also, this skateboard plan is for more than 6000 square feet. That's three houses size big. But, in any case, it should not be built, no matter what size, because this is a residential neighborhood. Skateboarding would have a negative impact on the neighborhood.

Please say No to a skateboard park in Monterey Park. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Norman D. Lane

Say No to Another Skatepark
Deryn Harris

Dear City Council and Planning Commission,

I thank you for your support for the skatepark at Monterey Ave. city park. It is going to be a wonderful addition to our city's parks and the surrounding neighborhood is very excited. As I have said in the past the residents in this neighborhood have changed with more families moving into our wonderful community. Just since last spring we have had two new families move onto my street alone. Bringing the number of children on Magellan to 26 ranging in age from infancy to 17 years old. All of these families are excited for this tremendous gift to Capitola.

We thank you for creating a youth oriented space on our limited city parks. For every voice against this park there thirty more voices in favor of this addition.

Thank you,

Liz Toshikian Ettinger

Dear Council Members and Planning Commission Members

I am resending my letter because it appears that my attachments were not included in my previous communication regarding the EIR.

Also, to date, the City of Capitola has not conducted a census of the birds and other wildlife in Monterey Avenue Park. In addition, the city has not done a census of our Monarch population even though protecting our Monarchs is stated as important (in the General Plan), nor publicly demonstrated that it has a plan for protecting the Monarchs.

Also, please note the reasons I have included the New Brighton State Beach General Plan: (1) it describes Escalona Gulch, which the EIR fails to do, (2) it states the importance of maintaining eucalyptus trees.

Because the city has not conducted a survey of Monarch, how can the city assume that no Monarchs will be impacted by removal of trees and/or a skatepark in Monterey Avenue Park? It cannot.

Our Capitola quality of life depends on us being not only protectors of our residential neighborhoods unique features, but also protectors of the natural features, birds, trees (and more) that are within our neighborhoods.

I am writing today to comment on the EIR for the proposed development of a 6000+ square foot skate boarding facility in Monterey Avenue Park.

I have numerous concerns about both the proposed skate park at the Monterey Avenue location and, in particular, about the inadequacy of the EIR.

I would also like to preface my comments by stating that the City of Capitola is in dire need of a Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan process that would create sustainable parks, recreation facilities, and services throughout Capitola. The current EIR for the proposed skate park clearly demonstrates incredible shortcomings in the management of Capitola's extremely limited park space and a lack of overview with best-use practices in mind. The City Staff is, of course, instructed by the City Council. It is the City Council, therefore, that must rise to the occasion and provide direction for a Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan process which would ensure a healthy and livable future in Capitola. This proposed project, by the way, utterly fails in those regards.

Please find attached the New Brighton State Beach General Plan, May 1990 (revised April 1992). I bring this document to your attention for several reasons.

First, it describes Escalona Gulch. The Escalona Gulch Watershed is a 57 acre watershed (according to the New Brighton State Beach General Plan prepared by State of California - The Resources Agency Department of Parks and Recreation, May 1990, revised April 1992). Only 1.4 acres of this watershed are within New Brighton State Beach boundaries; the rest is within the City of Capitola. This watershed encompasses, among other things, Monterey Avenue Park in Capitola (700 Monterey Avenue).

Escalona Gulch itself is a valley described by the US Geographical Survey. The head of Escalona Gulch is at approximately 36-58.988N, 121-56.5158W, which is in the vicinity of Capitola Knolls. Just west of Shorelife Community Church (875 Monterey Avenue), the USGS 2015 topography map places the head of an intermittent stream at approximately 36-58.939N, 121-56.630W. This stream, which I will refer to as Escalona Gulch Stream, flows slightly southwest. It crosses Monterey Avenue and parts of Elinor Avenue and Junipero Court before it traverses Monterey Avenue Park. Residents on Junipero Court identify a "spring" on their property.

Escalona Gulch Stream turns slightly south-east at Park Avenue. It then flows adjacent to the protected area of the endangered Monarch Butterfly site. The walls of Escalona Gulch become steeper in this area. Escalona Gulch Stream is above ground in this area, an important source of water for endangered Monarch Butterflies. Escalona Gulch Stream ends (its mouth) at approximately 36-58.548N, 121-56.581W, where it enters Sequel Cove. Please see attached maps "Escalona Gulch" and "Esc Gulch 2".

Escalona Gulch Stream north of Park Avenue, at this time, appears to me to be, in large part, currently underground, just as is the stream that runs through Noble Gulch. Before the City of Capitola placed a culvert along the Orchid Avenue side of Monterey Avenue Park, surface water was visible within the park boundaries. The water table in Monterey Avenue Park is high, and often the ground is marshy.

As an intermittent stream that runs through a protected Monarch Butterfly habitat, Escalona Gulch Stream deserves attention and discussion. The draft EIR does not address the Escalona Gulch Watershed. It must be remedied.

The Escalona Gulch Watershed is an important component of our water system. And, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), intermittent streams are an important part of groundwater recharge.

I am concerned that removal of the permeable ground in Monterey Avenue Park will damage the groundwater supply. I am also concerned that the project will compromise the quality of the groundwater. I am concerned that use of the skateboard facility will have long term negative impacts on the watershed.

Negative impacts on the water in Monterey Avenue Park would also negatively impact local wildlife, particularly the salamanders and frogs living in the park. In addition, damage to Escalona Gulch Stream could be disastrous to endangered Monarch Butterflies at the Escalona Gulch Butterfly habitat.

How will you determine the possible impacts of the proposed development on groundwater in the Escalona Gulch Watershed, on Escalona Gulch Stream itself, and on the wildlife (particularly endangered Monarch Butterflies), served by Escalona Gulch Stream? I believe there needs to be a comprehensive study of the water table in Monterey Avenue Park and the Escalona Gulch Watershed.

The New Brighton State Beach General Plan, May 1990 (revised April 1992) is useful in pointing out other shortcomings of the EIR of the proposed skate park at the Monterey Avenue Park. The New Brighton State Beach General

Plan, May 1990 (revised April 1992) mentions many of the plant and animal species that inhabit New Brighton State Beach.

The draft EIR in questions mentions no plants or animals living in Monterey Avenue Park and does not address disruption to their habitat.

This is a glaring omission.

Many birds - from tiny hummingbirds to large falcons - reside in Monterey Avenue Park, along with a vast array of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. These plants and animals are important to our ecosystem. They are also important to the enjoyment of Monterey Avenue Park, and they must be given appropriate consideration.

Monterey Avenue Park a designated birding site. Numerous types of birds live in and visit Monterey Avenue Park, from tiny hummingbirds to hawks and falcons. Recent studies show that noise causes an overall decline in species richness. Noise has very detrimental effects on wildlife, including disrupting breeding and feeding. Birds who eat insects or small mammals, such as endangered peregrine falcons, red shouldered hawks, and red tailed hawks, are more sensitive to noise than birds who eat seeds and plants (since birds use acoustic cues when they're hunting), but all birds are at risk. The EIR fails to take these issues into consideration. Please consult with our local famous bird expert UCSC Professor Emeritus Dr. Todd Newberry.

I am very concerned to read the EIR makes mention of the possibility of removing the eucalyptus grove and the mature redwoods. This is an utterly horrible idea. This is a terrible idea. Removing the trees would not actually improve visibility because the skating features are below ground.

Again, I'd like to refer you to the New Brighton State Beach General Plan, May 1990 (revised April 1992). This plan mentions that eucalyptus trees are non-native, yet understands the trees' importance to wildlife and the environment -- opting to not remove eucalyptus trees.

The eucalyptus grove and the mature redwoods are extremely important to the wildlife in Monterey Avenue Park, particularly the birds that need to hunt from heights, such as endangered peregrine falcons, red shouldered hawks, and red tailed hawks. These trees are also important feature of the scenic scape of Monterey Avenue Park. In addition to making Monterey Avenue Park visually attractive, they provide shade, cooling, homes for wildlife, and a popular gathering place in Monterey Avenue Park.

The trees are an important feature of Monterey Avenue Park, for people. They are clearly important to the students at New Brighton Middle School and the children who live in the neighborhood. We know that the grove is a place where children gather and socialize, families take photos, especially at graduation, and children do a little climbing. We know that the Special Ed students on the NBMS campus especially enjoy the grove as a safe and beautiful location during the school day. These trees are very beloved by residents and visitors alike. Clearly, people who live in the vicinity of the trees were not consulted in the compiling of the EIR.

Monterey Avenue Park is a very important green space in a city that already has a shortage of green space. Study after study after study demonstrates that having access to natural features -- especially TREES & grass -- improves learning, self-esteem, and sociability.

Students who can see and visit trees are calmer, better able to concentrate, and make more appropriate choices. I have attached one recent study: "Exposure to nature linked to stronger communities and reduced crime (December 2015)."

We also know that the trees provide shade and cooling for the school district office.

I believe that the cumulative effects of the proposed development are obvious. Noise from multiple sources (skating, people, boom boxes, announcements, traffic) will exponentially increase the damage caused by noise to both people and wildlife.

Increased noise, traffic, and parking problems will accumulate and compound the stress of people in the area impacted by the proposed development, especially considering another skate park is 1200 yards nearby.

The dangers to the wildlife in the park are also disturbing -- and the potential impacts on at least two endangered species (peregrines and Monarchs) cannot be ignored).

The Escalona Gulch Watershed is also at risk. Damage to the watershed could have far-reaching consequences.

Decreased quality of life, and poorer health, for everyone living, going to school, and working (such as school staff / teachers) in neighborhood is the obvious outcome of the proposed development.

Thank you very much for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely Yours,
Helen Bryce
Capitola CA

(referenced documents not reproduced)

Dear Capitola Planning Commissioners and City Council,

My wife and I have been residents of Capitola for 12+ years and we are also Cliffwood Heights resident's. Unfortunately, we can't make the meeting Thursday night but we wanted to express our support for the proposed skate park at Monterey Ave Park. Having a skate park within a park is an ideal location for the children and families in our community especially with all the new younger families moving into this neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Richard and Marilyn Latorraca

Cliffwood Heights Residents

Dear Capitola Planning Commission Members,

I'd like to draw your attention to two documents I have attached:

- 1) "Nature Play and Learning Places: Creating and Managing Places where Children Interact with Nature" as it relates to the uses of Monterey Avenue neighborhood park;
- 2) An aerial photo of Monterey Avenue neighborhood park which shows the size and location of the eucalyptus trees and demonstrates their importance.

Thank you very much.

Helen Bryce

(referenced documents not reproduced)

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work in bringing this wonderful idea for our smaller children to the forefront. Some people seem to think this unnecessary, but I disagree. Our little ones need positive outlets for their energy and this would be sending them on the correct path. Children who are physically active grow up to be less likely to end up with the drug and gang influences that are prevalent now.

Thank you to the Novak family (a lifelong hardworking family) and yes, I know this firsthand as I grew up with them, for once again contributing to the community.

Sincerely,
Diana Jo Peters

There is a rumor that the proposed skatepark is to be moved north and the trees cut down. The purpose is, presumably, to get it further from the homes to the south and reduce the noise.

This would violate the council's instructions. Specifically, not to cut down the trees. The proposed park is already larger than the council instructed (6,000 sq ft max, the current plan is nearly 7,000 up to the fence).

There is another way. Reduce the size of the park. That could get it out from under the trees and further from homes.

Please note: I do not support any skatepark in this location. However, if we must have an ugly, noisy mess a few hundred yards from another skatepark (McGreggor) it should at least adhere to the instructions the city council gave.

Al Globus

P.O.P.P. is Protecting Our Public Parks



March 29, 2016

Planning Commission
City of Capitola
420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010

RECEIVED
MAR 29 2016
CITY OF CAPITOLA

Reference: Proposed 6,811sf Public Skate Park at Monterey Avenue Park

Subject: **Additional Concerns** in Opposition to the Referenced Project

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

The proposed 6,811sf public skatepark at Monterey Ave Park is contrary to the directives given the Applicants by the Capitola City Council on January 26, 2012, and we respectfully request that the application for this project be denied in its entirety.

Additional concerns are as follows:

1. It wasn't until March 18, 2016, that we learned of six (6) more physical changes in the proposed project. **These six (6) physical changes were not addressed** with respect to environmental impact in the Final EIR.
2. **There was insufficient time for an average person to digest the new changes in the proposed project, along with the new information in the Final EIR to make an informed response.** We feel that setting the Planning Commission hearing for March 31, 2016, was a huge disservice to the multitude of individuals objecting to this project.
3. Noise monitoring of the affected receptors in the area of Monterey Park was improperly set up. **ST-1 and LT-2 monitoring devices were placed next to backyards with large, barking dogs.** According to the Final EIR, page 4-5, "...care was taken to avoid locations that could be subject to unusual or extraneous noise (e.g., barking dogs)." Because "higher ambient noise levels would result in a reduced noise impact from the proposed skate park." **We object to this monitoring and request responsible, representative samples of Monterey Park noise levels be taken to accurately gauge the ambient noise levels of the Park, especially during off-peak times of the year.**
4. We ask that the Planning Commission be the voice of reason and preserve the character of this noise-sensitive neighborhood by denying this application.
5. The Applicants testified to the City Council on February 11, 2016, that skateparks operate at a noise level of **65dB**. The Draft EIR came out with figures of 70dBA. At <http://www.spausa.org/noise-skateparks.html> we see that 80dB is the high output of a concrete, in-ground park. According to BLK Consultants, Ltd. who analyzed an existing concrete park at Mt. Pleasant Skateboard Park in Vancouver, B.C., Canada the output of impact noise is **85dB**! We believe that the 70dBA information submitted in the EIR is woefully understated and any receptor that experiences more than 70 dBA after the proposed skatepark is in operation should pursue relief from the City of Capitola.



In re: **Additional concerns** of the proposed Monterey Avenue Skate Park

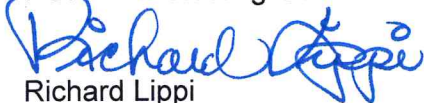
6. The removal of mature trees has not been analyzed for its environmental effect. The existing mature shade trees provide needed shade for the entire park. **Removing any mature trees would be a crime to humanity and the environment.** Those mature trees are not only habitats but they “scrub” the air of CO2 and expel life giving oxygen. New, substitute trees would be a little value for the first 30 years.
7. We must be stewards of our environment. We are already dealing with a crisis of global warming. Our fresh water sources are being depleted. **Adding MORE NOISE to our environment is a dangerously unhealthy proposal especially in a noise-sensitive neighborhood like Monterey Park.** The residents surrounding Monterey Park have a right to free use and quiet enjoyment of their homes. A skatepark in their midst interrupts that right.
8. **Many communities have made the mistake of installing a skateboard park in an inappropriate area and have subsequently paid to remove them completely.** Monterey Park is an inappropriate area for a multi-featured skatepark and the City of Capitola should expect opposition to the skatepark at Monterey Park until it is removed. We suggest that the Planning Commission **consider this added expense if not denying this application.**
9. Staff has recommended two (2) Rules and Regulations signs be placed at the skatepark. We favor the 50-foot spacing suggested by MacAdam Protection Strategies (a total of 6 signs) along with the verbiage in their report. The verbiage in the City of Capitola skateboard park ordinance is woefully inadequate and puts the City of Capitola at greater risk of liability.
10. POPP supports MacAdam Protection Strategies suggestion of installing video cameras at the skatepark.
11. The Staff report for the March 31, 2016 meeting suggests violators may be issued an infraction and fined for violations of Municipal Code Section 12.54. The fines or penalties should be stated.

The subject of NOISE and noise perception is an important aspect of the environmental impact of the proposed skatepark. We ask that this subject matter be re-analyzed and thoroughly discussed with the individuals whose quality of life would be threatened by the introduction of a permanent, immovable, multi-featured public skatepark at Monterey Park and get their input on this proposal. In the interim, **we ask that the Applicants project be denied as it is an inappropriate facility for this location.**

Thank you for reviewing these concerns. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

POPP---Protecting Our Public Parks



Richard Lippi
Founder & Program Director

ATTN: PLANNING COMMISSION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

POPP is Protecting Our Public Parks

05-29-16

[POPP Home Page](#)[Park Layouts](#)[Neighborhoods with Problematic Skateparks](#)**About Derby and Jose Ave Skateparks in Santa Cruz, CA**

MAR 29 2016

CITY OF CAPITOLA

[Derby Skatepark](#) (actually the Skate Spot at Sgt. Derby Park) is a 4,000sf concrete facility built in the mid-70's. It is generally hidden from view off of public streets, but can be seen from private properties surrounding the park. This Skate Spot is over 900 feet away from the former Pacific Collegiate School. This was a Wormhoudt Inc. design and developed by Santa Cruz County.

[Jose Ave Skatepark](#) (actually the Skate Spot at the Jose Ave Park) is a 4,000sf facility built circa 2000. This Skate Spot is located at the end of a cul-de-sac and is surrounded by multi-residential and some single family homes (somewhat similar to the proposed public skatepark site at Monterey Ave Park). This was a Wormhoudt Inc. design and developed by Santa Cruz County.

DERBY PARK INFO FROM THE INTERNET:

11-29-2013 video on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJonskPcuSs> -run time 1:47

10-18-2014 <http://www.yelp.com/biz/derby-park-santa-cruz>

"Solid historic skate park on the West Side of Santa Cruz, ostensibly one of the very first. Unfortunately, Santa Cruz skaters are haters to anyone else. A friend who recently moved in to the immediate neighborhood was blocked at the entrance by a SC skater who told him "Locals only." This may be the only skate spot in the world that discriminates in that way. Most skaters worldwide are friendly and welcoming to newcomers. Their loss."

06-21-2012 <http://www.yelp.com/biz/derby-park-santa-cruz>

"Unfortunately unless you are part of the uber-cool SC, veteran skaters you are not always welcome at [Derby] park. I was there yesterday with my 8yr old grandson and his admittedly modest skate boarding skills were laughed at and ridiculed by the big boys. I guesst they were born to skate and didn't need to practice."

Two (2) of our POPP volunteers took to the streets in Santa Cruz to find out what the neighbors of these well-established skate spots think of having that facility in their neighborhood. The POPP survey of eleven (11) questions was distributed to ten (10) of the closest residences at Derby Park and twenty (20) of the closest residences at Jose Ave Park. Twelve (12) surveys were returned---or a 40% return. The sentiment was mixed. Below are the comments that concern the supporters of POPP.

FROM THE DERBY PARK RESIDENTS:**What have been the most significant drawbacks of the skateboarding facility?**

"loud, partying at night, not enough patrol" "noise at night" "a couple of broken arms" "some after hours use - occasionally too much noise" "traffic, occasional graffiti, trash"

Are there any activities at the skateboarding facility that concern you?

"scary looking crowd" "gang activity"

Have you heard profane, obscene, or offensive language coming from the skateboarding facility?

"yes" "yes" "Hear it all over town" "yes" "yes, usually as people are getting in cars"

What would you like to see happen to the skateboarding facility at Derby Park?

"move somewhere else less family oriented/residential" "better patrols" "I think it should be well maintained" "Keep it in perfect condition for use by skateboarders" "Remain but increased management at night" "I really can't say that it impacts our lives except for occasional traffic, noise, etc."

FROM THE JOSE AVE PARK RESIDENTS:**What have been the most significant drawbacks of the skateboarding facility?**

"Sometimes when I don't feel well, the noise" "Noise and use of sidewalk, danger to pedestrians" "noise - traffic - fire danger from continual fireworks"

Are there any activities at the skateboarding facility that concern you?

"The offensive language we have heard could be compared with that occasionally heard coming from a golf course" "No, but the playground & park beside the skateboard facility concerns me" "teen [teaching] vapor to little kids" "Yes, the commercial fireworks for 2 weeks over 4th of July. I thought I was in Vietnam combat again."

What would you like to see happen to the skateboarding facility at Jose Ave Park?

"It should be eliminated along with closing Jose Ave Park. If I had known about the activities at this park I would not have purchased this house." "signage to not use sidewalk"

Note: There were also positive comments received within the POPP survey. This was not a scientific survey and POPP is merely displaying the concerned citizen side of these skate spots. This was a study into the perception of these two (2) skate spots and may not reflect the character of other skate spots, skate parks or skateboarders in general.

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Send email and feedback to popp@greatoptions.net

<http://www.greatoptions.net/POPP/mcgregor>



Protecting Our Public Parks - to optimize the park experience for everyone without threatening the quality of life for anyone.

Your contributions will help us continue this work. Please support our efforts by sending your donation to:

Saint Joseph's Catholic Community



Father Wayne Dawson, Pastor
435 Monterey Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010
www.stjoscap.org
stjosephs@stjoscap.org

(831) 475-8211
Fax (831) 475-2601

March 30, 2016

Planning Commission, City of Capitola
420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010

RECEIVED

MAR 31 2016

CITY OF CAPITOLA

Re: Monterey Avenue Skate Park, #15-068, APN: 036-151-01

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am the Pastor for St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 435 Monterey Avenue, Capitola. It is my understanding that the Planning Commission will be making a decision shortly concerning the construction of a 6,000 square-foot skate park at Monterey Park. As you know, this Park is in close proximity to our Church.

Over the past few years, skate boarding on our Church grounds has been problematic. Even though we have posted signs prohibiting such activity, it remains a problem. In addition to trespassing, we have experienced destruction of property, verbal abuse when requesting skate boarders to leave, and liability exposure should someone get injured. Skate boarding has created safety concerns for our elderly parishioners and has resulted in a poor use of tax payer's money due to calling the police who could otherwise be dealing with more serious issues.

It is obvious that such a park will attract more skate boarders to this area. I am very concerned that this will result in an increase of such activity on our Church grounds. Unless the Planning Commission can guarantee that those using such a park will not enter onto our property, I am opposed to this project.

Thank you for your consideration in this regard.

Very truly yours,

Fr. Wayne Dawson
Pastor

*St. Joseph's Catholic Community is a loving and nurturing family of faith, a place where the power of God's love transforms individuals, families and communities.
All for one and one for all*