
From: Jonathan Krupka <jonathankrupka@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 7:10 AM
To: FVPMP
Subject: FV Park Plan

Hi!

My name is Jonathan Krupka. My wife, son and I live off 19th street near In N Out.

Within the park, I would like to see more trails for hiking and running. Along the trail, more CA native plants similar to back bay.

Having a meeting place / education center for kids and youth programs would also be great.

Reviewing your initial plan, sounds like those are all a focus as of now so great to hear!

Jonathan Krupka | [\(805\) 368-8517](tel:8053688517)

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From: debra marsteller <debmarst@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 5:52 PM
To: FVPMP
Subject: Fairview Park Master plan

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment and help support such a fabulous place in Costa Mesa. We are so lucky for the people who have worked hard to maintain this beautiful treasure. Please keep it wild. I am opposed to any additional man-made structures or development of any kind. We need to limit any activities that interfere with wildlife. I would go so far as making dogs illegal. Most preserves do not allow dogs even on a leash -this needs to be considered, and I am speaking as a dog owner.

Thank you again for your consideration

Debbie Marsteller
2878 Boa Vista Dr.
Costa Mesa, 92626

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From: [Dan Vozenilek](#)
To: [FVPMP](#)
Cc: carol.cormaci@latimes.com; [CITY COUNCIL](#); [CITY CLERK](#)
Subject: Draft Fairview Park Master Plan should NOT be adopted
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 6:35:48 PM

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I urge you not to adopt the Draft Fairview Master Plan as written because it proposes relocating the Harbor Soaring Society fly field and the existing dirt mounds from the west side of Fairview Park to the east side near the Goat Hill Junction model railroad, a change that materially alters long-standing park uses. That relocation appears to convert established, as-built recreational features into new “Model Glider and Train Area” amenities, which raises a serious legal and procedural question about whether Measure AA requires voter approval for this significant change. The Draft Plan’s language about reusing “fill material” to create play mounds in the proposed footprint does not resolve the Measure AA issue and instead creates the appearance of a backdoor alteration of park uses without public consent. Moving these activities into areas identified as sensitive or repurposing existing features without clear, funded mitigation and a public vote risks undermining community trust and sets a troubling precedent. The Council should require meaningful community engagement with the users and neighbors most affected and mandate enforceable mitigation measures for traffic, noise, and ecological impacts. Please protect the integrity of Fairview Park and the public’s right to decide significant changes by withholding adoption until these issues are fully addressed.

Some good points are raised in this blog:

[What Does the Draft Master Plan Mean for the Future of Fairview Park? – Goat Hill Rodeo](#)

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update.

Thank you,

Dan Vozenilek
Costa Mesa, 92627

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From: kari nieblas <knieblas@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 2:18 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL; CITY CLERK; FVPMP
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City staff,

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad—and direct staff to work with CDFW promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly.

I also do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,
Kari

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From: Daiquiri Scherer <daiquirischerer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:16 PM
To: PACS Comments
Cc: CITY CLERK; FVPMP
Subject: I do not support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

City staff and City Council,

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. Specifically, the Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field, Concerts in the Park, bicycle/dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad—and direct staff to work with CDFW promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly.

I also do not support any fencing off of any area of the park. Any revisions should honor the community intent reflected in Measure AA's declarations and protect existing community uses that have occurred for decades.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update.

Thank you,
Daiquiri C. Scherer
Canyon Park, 92627
Sent from my iPhone

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From: Jay Humphrey <jvhumphrey@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:31 PM
To: FVPMP
Cc: DALTON, KELLY M.
Subject: Comments on Draft of the Fairview Park Master Plan
Attachments: Comments on Draft Master Plan 10-26-25.docx

October 26, 2025

City of Costa Mesa

Re: Fairview Park Master Plan Draft 09-29-25

Sirs:

As a long time advocate for Fairview Park to be established as a nature park to preserve and protect the unique habitats, species, and cultural treasures found therein, I have read this draft of the Fairview Master Plan Update 09-29-25 draft and generally find it a solid plan that can work as a “working document” for guidance in future activities and projects. I do have a few comments:

1. If the purpose of the plan is to “reflect current conditions and concepts for the restoring and preserving the park as an environmental resource for study, interpretation, and education as well as a passive recreation” (Pg 7 FVPMP) (also see pg 8-10 and Goals and Objectives PG 12) as further evidence of focus of this plan) then it seems odd that there is no mention of a name change to reflect that community supported vision. All of the guidance in this plan are recommendations, to be handled by appropriate parts of the city personnel. However, to augment the purpose, the public needs visible signs of the intended future of this park to recognize that some activities and behaviors are not compatible with that intent. A simple name change, connoting a nature focus will further the goals of this master plan will help the public actively understand the intent of this plan and help city staff achieve the goals stated in the plan. (Page 12, Goal 04)

Recommendation: Addition of a goal to change the name of Fairview Park to Fairview Nature Park or some other name that reflects the natural resource value of the park.

2. Pg. 11—Sub heading--Manage recreational impacts: Most experts recommend removal of Fly Fields as impacts in current area are significant, impacts in all area may also be significant due to the very nature of the activity and habitats associated with the area to be used. (i.e Burrowing owls seen nesting in the East side of Fairview Park and the grass lands are regular foraging area of many birds, some of which also protected.

3. Pg 18—Sub heading--Museum and field house— building of such would require footings, excavation for plumbing and electricity, etc, not to mention building of structures. Nowhere in this plan is there any discussion of the potential to use other government owned and abutting land for any of the suggested structures. While there are a number of hurdles to pass for such use, if it’s not planned as an option or even a discussion with the relative agencies for future options, we are left with only “in the box” thinking and not necessarily achieving the best results for all our hard work. The golf course is recreational land owned by the city and managed by a contractee. Land within that facility, not currently in direct use for the activities of that facility, and abutting the Park

could be used to minimize any negative impact on cultural and natural resources. (note vernal pool north and west of parking lot for the model trains, etc. and ORA 506) Also, such use of abutting lands outside the confines of Fairview Park would not trigger a public vote per measure AA.

Recommendation: Add such wording to look for alternative abutting sites to provide structures for park use.

4. Pg 19-Sub heading--Opposition and conflicting feedback focused primarily of following items:

First note is re BMX bikes and impacts on cultural and biological resources and should be relocated to other park facilities, Also use the descriptor of “Some” attendees) indicating community support level. In paragraph 2 stated : “Attendees expressed strong desire...”, which indicates community at large wanted model airplane flying to continue: I attended most of the outreach meetings and did not note any “strong” desire for such. Yes, members of the Harbor soaring society strongly wanted to continue, but I did not note the public at large recommending that the model airplane flying should continue, if anything just the opposite.

Recommendation: the wording in paragraph 2 be changed to “Some Attendees expressed a desire to continue...” And an additional statement following that sentence added that includes language consistent with State of California, Natural resources agency—Department of Fish and Wildlife letter of Sept. 25, 2025 PG 5 bottom of paragraph 1 “Mowing, grading, or any other maintenance of the fly field could cause unauthorized take of these species” referring to Burrowing Owls and Crotche’s Bumble Bees.

5. Pg. 21 at the end of sub section—The bluffs area, south to Pacific Ave.— **Recommendation** -- needs addition of comment like above Fish and Wildlife letter of Sept. 25 2025 and other experts re the damage to protected habitat and species.

6. Pg. 27—**Recommendation**—add small discussion about impacts on necessary grants and donations to fulfill this plan from enforcement actions by Federal or State regulatory agencies for non-compliance

7. Pg. 55 4th bullet point, column 1—(Note re item 6 above)—“engage shareholders, users, and the community at large n developing a blueprint to manage the park, which accounts for passive use recreation, environmental restoration and preservation and **funding** considerations for years to come.” Clearly funding and possible lose of funding is a consideration and should be actively addressed in this plan.

8. Pg. 57 sub section—Vernal Pools--**Recommendation** – add “and their Watersheds”

9. Pg. 58—Opportunities-Sub section Trail linkage—no discussion of possible use of already existing paved roadway along side of the flood canal as an option to minimize impacts on sensitive areas in Fairview Park.

Recommendation: Add such information. (see Item 3 above)

10. Pg. 64—Public Use—sub section 3- Bullet point 3

Recommendation: Define Resource Agency(s)

11. Pg. 68—Appears to be no commentary about Placentia Ave. While Placentia Ave. is not part of the park specifically, it is completely encapsulated by Fairview Park and so its environment interfaces with the rest of Farview Park both on the west and east sided of Placentia, depending on the wind direction. Therefore any plants in the planted median will eventually spread to both sides of the park. Currently, the median is planted with a number of non native (to Fairview Park) plants. The

median should only be planted with plants that are consistent with the flora of Fairview Park.

Recommendation: Add language to insure replacement of non-native plants in the median of Placentia Ave contained within the borders of Fairview Park.

12. Pg. 69—sub section Glider Launching Site: Paragraph 2—no definition of "should be provided". All funding for any "facilities" or their maintenance should be completely at the expense of the organization using said facilities. If the city decides to fund such facilities, it should charge reasonable use fees on a per use basis, as it does with swimming pools, picnic structure reservation, etc.

Recommendation: remove paragraph 2 of this sub section entirely.

13. Pg. 79-- **Recommendation:** Include a short section about funding sources for these activities. The public as well as staff need to be aware of any issues to make better expectations of timing, etc.

14. I will leave any specific recommendations to Appendixes A-D to the respective straff, scientific, and regulatory entities and rely on their expertise to add to your guidance. However:

Recommendation: all members of any affected city group (ie. Council, commissions, and committees), read Appendix A in its entirety. You may come to additional insights other than what is presented in the Draft.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update. Should you require further information, I can be reached as below.

Jay Humphrey
1620 Sandalwood St.
Costa Mesa, Ca 92626

jvhumphrey@att.net

714-287-0558

A copy of above is attached

Jay Humphrey
1620 Sandalwood St.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Phone: 714-751-6552
Cell: 714-287-0558

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October 26, 2025

City of Costa Mesa

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Recommendation: all members of any affected city group (ie. Council, commissions, and committees), read Appendix A in its entirety. You may come to additional insights other than what is presented in the Draft.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update. Should you require further information, I can be reached as below.

Jay Humphrey
1620 Sandalwood St.
Costa Mesa, Ca 92626

jvhumphrey@att.net

714-287-0558

From: Wendy Laurie <lauriewendy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 5:45 PM
To: Wendy
Cc: FVPMP; PACS Comments; CITY CLERK; CITY COUNCIL
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City staff,

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad—and direct staff to work with CDFW promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly.

I also do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park.

The best way to ensure that our community continues to value and support Fairview Park is to continue allowing us to access and enjoy it.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,

Wendy Russo

Costa Mesa

949-322-7925

Sent from my iPad

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From: Joe Erickson <jerickson6@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:28 PM
To: PACS Comments
Subject: I do Not support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City staff,

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad—and direct staff to work with CDFW promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly.

I also do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,

Alesia Erickson

495 Walnut Place

Costa Mesa. 92627

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From: charmaine laurie <charmaineofhearts@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:37 AM
To: PACS Comments
Subject: Fairview Master Plan

I do not want any changes to this park. The community loves it and uses it as it is. We do not want any fenced spaces or restrictions to the uses we currently have.

Charmaine Laurie, Mesa Verde resident for 42 years
1658 Oahu Pl, Costa Mesa
949 322 7923

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From: isaac@techwasterecycling.com
To: [FVPMP](#); [PACS Comments](#); [CITY CLERK](#)
Cc: [CITY COUNCIL](#)
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:47:52 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-lag3x0e4.png](#)

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad—and direct staff to work with CDFW promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly. I feel time and money would be better spent adding a beautiful large playground for children to enjoy. Our parks and playgrounds on the Westside are in horrible condition versus the parks and playgrounds on the eastside. Let's put the time, energy and funds where it truly belongs. Not on fencing Fairview Park.

I also do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,

Isaac Villeneuve

865 Senate St

Costa Mesa, CA 92627

714.813.5390

Kind Regards

Isaac Villeneuve

TechWaste Recycling, LLC.

1940 E Occidental St

Santa Ana, CA 92705

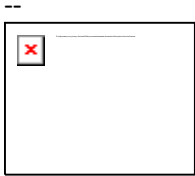
P: 714.813.5390

isaac@techwasterecycling.com

techwasterecycling.com



From: Fairview Park Alliance <info@fairviewparkalliance.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:04 AM
To: PACS Comments
Subject: FPA Comments FPMP Update Item
Attachments: 2005 PACS ruling on fly field.pdf



fairviewparkalliance.org [FB](#) | [IG](#)

Oct. 30, 2025

Dear Parks and Community Services Commissioners,

Please accept Fairview Park Alliance's (FPA) comments regarding the Fairview Park Steering Committee's (FVPSC) recommendations for the Fairview Park Master Plan (FPMP) update Draft and then FPA's comments regarding the update itself.

The FVPSC has worked very hard to get all the facts, listen to community input, and then use reason to guide them. FPA supports all their recommendations whole-heartedly except for one. Looking at the FVPSC 25 recommendations, FPA is very much in support of them. The only recommendation that FPA has reservations about is #23 "Incorporate nature play elements throughout the park and a nature play area within the existing lawn area." FPA thinks recommendation #23 goes beyond FPA mission statement to preserve, protect, and restore Fairview Park and could trigger Measure AA. Fairview Park is a nature park and FPA feels it is redundant to add more "nature elements" to a nature park and could even potentially take away more nature. FPA thinks that recommendation #11 and #21 would allow for educational play in a central interpretive area which would not trigger Measure AA. What we have in mind is something like what Newport Bay Conservancy and OC Parks has with the Muth Interpretive Center in upper Newport Bay.

Next, FPA comments on the FPMP update draft itself.

The update has three Technical Reports. These technical reports really are the meat of the FPMP update since they contain the history, surveys, and reports done for the update. There has been an incredible amount of science based research, investigating, and methods to

produce these reports and recommendations I see that these are referenced in the update as “Appendices” at the end of the update but I think it would be easier for people to reference that information if they were part of the FPMP (like was partially done in the 2008 update).

First comment is:

1. In terms of distribution, I think the FPMP update should have the Technical Reports *as part of it*, in the back starting on page 105. It wouldn't make the FPMP update too big since right now it is 104 pages and adding all the technical reports with their attachments would make it about 500 pages. Which is about how many pages a General Plan has.

We were very impressed with how much background research was done to understand the site from the beginning of time. (Appendix D) The details are very extensive and thorough and show why the site is what it is today biologically and archaeologically. (Appendices B,C,D) The FPMP update draft has a clear outline and goal which abides by regulatory agency requirements and recommendations which should keep the city out of trouble if followed. (FPMP update pg. 11, 12) We appreciate the work it took to provide us an overall view of the cohesion of Fairview Park with Costa Mesa's General Plan: 'Conservation Element', 'Open Space and Recreation Element', and 'Historic and Cultural Resources Element' in a way in which it allows all to fit together and support each other comprehensively.

2. Secondly, FPA does not think gliderplanes should be an activity included in the FPMP update. This high-impact activity wasn't included in the update until Jan. 28, 2025 when city council demanded that gliderplanes be included. So, MIG listed gliderplanes on the east side since moving gliderplanes off of a vernal pool watershed was an obvious thing to do and has been recommended repeatedly by USFW, CDFW, restoration experts, and biologists. But moving gliderplanes to the east side doesn't fix the problem of a high-impact activity degrading habitat. There are sensitive and threatened species on the east side as well that would be negatively impacted by such a move.

In fact, gliderplanes were never allowed to be on a vernal pool watershed according to the staff report in the 2005 PAC's ruling. (see attached) In fact, looking at the map in the 2005 ruling, gliderplanes should have been east of the dirt mounds near the restrooms not where they are now. There is no mention of a vernal pool watershed in the staff report.

Therefore, FPA agrees and support the FVPSC 's recommendation to move gliderplanes out of Fairview Park and we think this high impact activity should not be in the FPMP updated draft. Thousands of dollars, staff time and energy have been spent trying to accommodate this small group of hobbyists that don't serve the community but take away from its only nature park.

FPA thinks it is not up to the city to find a place for gliderplanes to fly. The small group of hobbyists already have other locations within 22 miles with better amenities for flying not only gliderplanes but motorized planes. Overall, we urge you to support FVPSC recommendations.

Thank you for your time,
Kim Hendricks
President – Fairview Park Alliance

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 26, 2005

ITEM NUMBER: 9b

SUBJECT: FAIRVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN - SILENT FLYER LAUNCH/LAND SITE

DATE: DECEMBER 28, 2004

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT/ENGINEERING DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: BART MEJIA, PARKS PROJECT MANAGER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BART MEJIA, PARKS PROJECT MANAGER
(714) 754-5291

RECOMMENDATION

Confirm that improvements to the Silent Flyer Launch/Land Site conform to the intent of the approved Fairview Park Master Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Fairview Park Master Plan (Attachment 1) was originally approved in March 1998, revised in February 2001, and revised again in November 2002. The latest version designates a portion within Area D as a Silent Flyer Launch/Land Site. The location of the site is directly north of the elementary school, and west of the park's restroom facility. The future site will provide a safe recreational facility designed for the launch and landing of model airplanes such as those flown by members of the Harbor Soaring Society Model Glider Club.

ANALYSIS

The Harbor Soaring Society requested in their correspondence dated September 22, 2004 that the City of Costa Mesa assist in the grading of a portion of the area within Fairview Park designated for a landing site and provide irrigation water for the maintenance of said site (Attachment 2).

Staff met with members of the Harbor Soaring Society on Friday December 3, 2004, to examine the current conditions of the proposed launching and landing site. The current conditions of the site consist of a non-irrigated area of park land made up of compacted earth, non-native annual grasses, and small mounds of imported soils. Upon discussion, a conclusion was reached that City Maintenance staff could rough grade the site as per specifications detailed in the Fairview Park Master Plan, and the working drawings prepared by David Evans and Associates, and that the installation of irrigation improvements would be performed by members of the Harbor Soaring Society under the supervision of Maintenance Services staff.

The implementation of this portion of the master plan will have little to no effect on other elements of Fairview Park. The intent is to create a designated area for launching and landing of model airplanes, while maintaining the integrity of the surrounding areas, including vernal pools, bike trails, and passive use turf areas.

The proposed improvements have been submitted to various City departments as described in Section C-2 of Council Policy 500-11 (Attachment 3). Since staff believes that the proposed improvements are consistent with the approved Master Plan, this element would not require City

↑ Council review. Staff, therefore, recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission confirm that the requested improvements are in conformance with the approved Fairview Park Master Plan.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Parks and Recreation Commission may give input or suggestions regarding the proposed improvement projects, and/or deem the improvement projects inconsistent with the approved Fairview Park Master Plan. If deemed inconsistent with the approved Fairview Park Master Plan, the proposed improvement project should be processed as a "substantial amendment to the Fairview Park Master Plan" pursuant to Council Policy 500-11 (Attachment 3).

FISCAL REVIEW

It is estimated that the cost to rent grading equipment and dispose of non-native fills will not exceed \$4,000. Funding for this work is available from existing allocations for Fairview Park improvements.

LEGAL REVIEW

A legal review is not required.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends the Parks and Recreation Commission confirm that the improvements to the Silent Flyer Launch/Land Site conform to the intent of the approved Fairview Park Master Plan.

WILLIAM J. MORRIS
Director of Public Services

ERNESTO MUNOZ
City Engineer

BART MEJIA
Parks Project Manager

Attachments: 1. [Fairview Park Master Plan](#)
 2. [Letter from Harbor Soaring Society](#)
 3. [Council Policy 500-11, Section 2.a.](#)

cc: Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
 Jana Ransom, Recreation Manager
 Kyle Quatman, Administrative Intern
 Harbor Soaring Society



Approved by City Council March 1988
Revised February 2021
Revised again November 2022

DAVID EVANS
and JACQUES LAFONT
1000 University Ave., Suite 100
Berkeley, CA 94702-1500
Tel: 415/848-2000
Fax: 415/848-2001
E-mail: dave@cs.berkeley.edu
jla@cs.berkeley.edu

HARBOR SOARING SOCIETY

Karl V Hawley
296 16 th Place #B
Costa Mesa, Ca. 92627
Phone 949 574 9379

To the Parks and Recreation Commission

Harbor Soaring Society, Would like to make two request.

#1. For water for the glider landing area at Fairview Park,
(See attach map, red # 1)

#2. To have a smooth area, North of the asphalt walkway, about 150 feet by 300 feet
long for a runway for the electric airplanes.
(See attach map, red #2)



Right now the electric airplanes are taking off and landing right over the walkway. I
feel that moving electric flyer to area #2 would make it more compatible with the
user of the walkway. Plus it would give more parking area for the Summer Concerts
in the Park.

Sincerely Karl Hawley

Karl V Hawley
09/22/04

pg. 2 Attach 2



Meeting Minutes

see pg 4 motion *

**CITY OF COSTA MESA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

January 26, 2005

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m., January 26, 2005, at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harris, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Burciaga.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present:

Mark Harris, Chairman
Byron de Arakal, Vice Chairman
Mirna Burciaga, Commissioner
James Fisler, Commissioner
Wendy Leece, Commissioner

Also Present:

William J. Morris, Public Services Director
Jana Ransom, Recreation Manager
Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager

MINUTES

Motion made by Vice Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Leece and carried five to zero to approve the minutes of October 27, 2004 and November 17, 2004.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No Oral Communications.

CONSENT CALENDAR

No Items.

PUBLIC HEARING

No Items.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

**FAIRVIEW PARK – ORANGE
COUNTY MODEL
ENGINEER'S PROJECTS
UPDATE**

Mr. Bart Mejia made a power point presentation and introduced Terry Cummings, an OCME representative, to provide additional information and answer any questions or concerns.

In response to questions from Commissioner Leece, Mr. Mejia stated that the life expectancy of the canopy was approximately ten years but that a five-year life expectancy was more realistic.

Mr. Terry Cummings, Vice President for Facilities of OCME, 3046

Capri Lane, Costa Mesa, stated that the premise of the Club, when it was first established and continues to this day, is to create a first rate facility for public use and, in the process, improve the park. He continued to mention that the trees were planted by people in the Club, who are volunteers, and that they operate on a volunteer basis. The OCME members have put in over 10,000 hours of time over the past few years. Also, a great deal of that time was dedicated to serving the public with train rides and maintaining the park facility.

In response to questions from Commissioner Leece regarding the expense to get a green canopy, Mr. Cummings mentioned that the blue canopy sticks out and that OCME is willing to purchase a better color canopy.

In response to questions from Chairman Harris regarding the use of the canopy when work is being done on the trains in the area, Mr. Cummings stated that, at the moment, they are not working on any major track construction but that, in the future, they would place construction benches under there, on a temporary basis.

In response to questions from Vice Chairman de Arakal, Mr. Cummings mentioned that they currently have five to six portable shade structures, roughly ten or twelve feet square, which they move around. He also stated that they are not very effective because they are usually too small.

In response to Vice Chairman de Arakal's questions regarding the gates for the loading dock, Mr. Cummings described the requirements needed for the rail. He mentioned that there would be four chain link gates or two pairs, that would be 42" wide and swing open to give access for the trains.

In response to questions from Commissioner Fisler, directed to Mr. Bill Morris, regarding what type of control the City may have over what goes on at the Fairview Park in reference to the Fairview Park Master Plan, Mr. Morris mentioned that there is an agreement between the City and the OCME, which lays out what can and cannot be done out at the site. He stated that City staff are the curators and overseers of the park; however, in the past and in a few cases, there have been a few things that have been put up where the City was not involved. If the Commission approves the master plan, there would be control.

In response to Chairman Harris' question on whether or not the canopy is permanently mounted, Mr. Mejia stated that the City was aware of the canopy being constructed in the area and was fortunate to find out that it was not permanently attached to any structure.

In response to Vice Chairman de Arakal's question, which was directed to Mr. Bill Morris, regarding whether this is the first 10-Year Master Plan that was received from OCME over the course of the agreement between OCME and the City, Mr. Morris stated that there has been none since he took over responsibility for the implementation of the Fairview Park in 1999 and that he is not aware of any other master plan, prior to 1999.

Vice Chairman de Arakal stated that a master plan should be done and brought to the Commission before any type of improvement is done. He feels that these improvements are great, except for the canopy because everywhere else in the City canopies are frowned upon.

Commissioner Leece agreed with changing the color of the canopy from blue to a green one but wondered if maybe a few trees might solve the problem.

Chairman Harris fully supported the request for a canopy but would prefer that the OCME pay for a different color. He believes that trees planted in the area would not provide enough shade for the people who work in the area and that, as the trees mature, the canopy would be less noticeable.

Commissioner Fisler agreed with Chairman Harris' statement and believes that, because it is a work area, the canopy would be appreciated by the people working there.

Commissioner Burciaga also agreed with Chairman Harris' statement but would prefer that the color be changed from blue to a different shade of green.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Leece, seconded by Chairman Harris, and carried four to one, with Vice Chairman de Arakal voting no, to confirm that the following improvements conform to the approved Fairview Park Master Plan: to construct a shade structure with the understanding that the canopy color should be other than blue and to work with staff to select an appropriate color; the Safety Gate at the Loading Dock; the Concrete Walkway Expansion; and the future 10-Year Improvement Projects, subject to detailed approval by the Public Services Department.

A discussion by Vice Chairman de Arakal as to his decision to not support the motion was due to the canopy issue. He does not believe that a canopy would match the intent of the Fairview Park Master Plan.

FAIRVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN – SILENT FLYER LAUNCH/LAND SITE

Mr. Bart Mejia made a power point presentation and introduced Karl Hawley, President of the Harbor Soaring Society, to provide additional information and answer any questions or concerns.

Karl Hawley, 296 16th Place, Apartment B, Costa Mesa, briefly summarized the types of planes that are being flown and the path used by flyers at Fairview Park.

In response to questions by Vice Chairman de Arakal regarding the quantity of electric planes being flown in the park since the closure of Mile Square Park, Mr. Hawley mentioned that there are approximately 60 or more flyers and roughly six to eight of them being flown at one time. Mr. Hawley went on to say that the electric planes fly in a condensed area.

In response to Chairman Harris' questions about the height of electric planes and if there are any federal laws restricting the height, Mr. Hawley stated that the electric planes would normally fly as high as it can be seen and that, currently, there are no federal laws restricting model airplanes from flying below 500 feet. He continued to say that the Harbor Soaring Society has a verbal agreement with the FAA that nobody would fly over 500 feet within a certain distance and, when there is a contest, he does notify the police department about the contest.

In response to questions from Chairman Harris on the growth of the electric planes being flown at Fairview Park, Mr. Hawley admitted that he is unable to answer Chairman Harris' question.

In response to Chairman Harris' question about the proposed irriga-

tion improvement, Mr. Mejia stated that it is proposed that it will tie in to the existing irrigation system and that it is a provision of the Maintenance Services staff.

In response to questions by Chairman Harris, which were directed to Mr. Bill Morris, on whether or not the two groups, Harbor Soaring Society and the Orange County Model Engineers, would be closely monitored by City staff, Mr. Morris shared his concern with anybody going out and moving dirt around on Fairview Park, other than City staff or under contract with the City. Mr. Morris also stated that any type of work being done is very sensitive and that he is under the direction of the Planning Department. He continued to say that, in some cases, the City would require an archeologist on the site to monitor the work being done. Mr. Morris feels comfortable that the responsibility of the City is to maintain control and closely monitor any type of work being done at Fairview Park.

In response to Vice Chairman de Arakal's question on whether the Planning Department needs to work on the grading because of its extent or to have an archeologist on site, Mr. Morris stated that the Planning Department would closely monitor the work being done and they would make the final decision.

MOTION

Motion made by Vice Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Fisler and carried five to zero to confirm that the requested improvements to the Silent Flyer Launch/Land Site conform to the intent of the approved Fairview Park Master Plan.

BICYCLE TRIAL IMPROVEMENTS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF GISLER AVENUE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AVENUE AND SANTA ANA RIVER

Mr. Bart Mejia made a power point presentation.

Chairman Harris stated that this would be a nice improvement and that the improvements could be made to the City in part utilizing grant monies.

In response to Chairman Harris' question on the expected date for the bid advertisement, Mr. Mejia stated that the Transportation Services Department had completed the design of the project and has scheduled to advertise the project sometime next month, which would place the project under construction towards the beginning of the Summer.

Chairman Harris recommended that City staff contact Relief Costa Mesa, to have some trees planted in conjunction with this project. Mr. Mejia reminded the Commission that the plant palette for this section at Gisler has already been approved by this Commission.

MOTION

Motion made by Chairman Harris, seconded by Commissioner Burciaga and carried five to zero to approve the removal of six (6) trees to allow the construction of a proposed bicycle trail and associated drainage improvements along the south side of Gisler Avenue between the Santa Ana River and Washington Avenue, and to contact Relief Costa Mesa about putting some trees into the location as desired by City staff.

RECREATION MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Jana Ransom made the presentation.

Ms. Ransom stated that there were not many field ambassador issues because of the rains at the end of December.

From: Viviana Jelinek <viviana.jelinek@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:35 PM
To: PACS Comments; FVPMP; CITY CLERK; CITY COUNCIL
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan
Attachments: CM- I do not support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan.pdf

Please include my attached letter in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

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October 29, 2025

Dear Costa Mesa Mayor, Council Members, PACS Commissioners, and City Staff,

I do not support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

I am writing to express my strong support for the Harbor Soaring Society (HSS) and their ongoing activities at Fairview Park, as well as to emphasize the importance of maintaining community programs like the beloved concerts in the park. As a homeowner living adjacent to Fairview Park, I deeply value the positive contributions these programs bring to our community and the enriching experiences they offer to families and children in Costa Mesa.

The Harbor Soaring Society has been an integral part of Fairview Park for many years, providing a safe and engaging environment for the flying of remote-control glider airplanes. HSS members demonstrate the utmost respect for the park and its natural surroundings, maintaining a collaborative and cooperative relationship with the City of Costa Mesa. Their efforts extend beyond recreational activities, as they actively contribute to educating our youth through interactive and hands-on learning opportunities. By introducing children to the science, engineering, and artistry involved in model aviation, HSS fosters curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning qualities that benefit the entire community.

HSS has shown a strong commitment to working alongside the city to ensure their activities respect wildlife at Fairview Park. Their dedication to preserving the park's ecological integrity while offering unique educational and recreational opportunities exemplifies their value as stewards of this cherished community resource.

In addition to supporting HSS, I would like to highlight the tremendous value of the concerts in the park hosted at Fairview Park. These events are a cornerstone of our community, bringing together Costa Mesa public agencies, families, friends, and neighbors to share in the joy of live music and fellowship. As a family, we look forward to these concerts every year, as they create a strong sense of community and provide a space for people of all ages to connect and celebrate together. The enjoyment of children playing, the shared smiles among neighbors, and the uplifting music all contribute to the vibrant spirit of Costa Mesa.

Fairview Park is not just a piece of land; it is a hub of learning, recreation, and community building. The flying field used by HSS and the concerts in the park are vital components of what makes this space so special. They provide opportunities for education, entertainment, and connection that are difficult to replicate elsewhere.

Eliminating these activities would not only diminish the cultural and educational richness of our city but also leave a void in the hearts of many residents who cherish these traditions.

I urge the City Council to recognize the invaluable contributions of the Harbor Soaring Society and the concerts in the park to our community. Preserving these activities in Fairview Park will ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the unique and enriching experiences they provide. Let us work together to uphold the values of education, community, and shared joy that make Costa Mesa such a wonderful place to call home.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Viviana Jelinek

Costa Mesa Homeowner and Fairview Park Neighbor

From: Joe Erickson <joe@icmyers.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:25 PM
To: citycouncil@costmesaca.gov; cityclerk@costmesaca.gov; pacscomments@costmesaca.gov; FVPMP
Subject: Comments on the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan
Attachments: Fairview Park 10-29-25 Letter.pdf

Please include my attached letter in the public comments to each of the above parties.

Thank you.

- Joe Erickson

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From: Joe Erickson <joe@icmyers.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:39 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL; cityclerk@costmesaca.gov; pacscomments@costmesaca.gov; FVPMP
Subject: Draft Fairview Park Master Plan
Attachments: Fairview Park 10-29-25 Letter.pdf

I am re-sending this as it bounced back. Please ensure these comments are distributed to all of the above parties.

Thank you.

- Joe Erickson

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Report any suspicious activities to the Information Technology Department.

**JOE ERICKSON
495 WALNUT PLACE
COSTA MESA, CA 92627**

October 29, 2025

Mayor John Stephens, Council Members, PACS Commissioners and City Staff,
City of Costa Mesa
77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

RE: Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Dear Mayor Stephens, Council Members, PACS Commissioners and City Staff,

When I was a young man, I served on the Costa Mesa City Council from July 1991 to December 2020. During that time the 1995 Fairview Park Development Plan and the 1998 Fairview Master Plan were adopted after many hearings and input from our community members.

As it is now, there were strong feelings regarding the future of Fairview Park. Some residents wanted it to be kept in its then current condition, others wanted a "nature park" and another group wanted recreational sports fields to be developed.

In my opinion, one of the outcomes of the public input was the City's purchase and development of the Costa Mesa High farm site into what is now known as the Jack Hammett Sports Complex where heavily used athletic fields now exist. Another outcome was the discovery of the Fairview Park vernal pools.

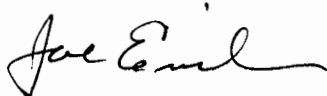
During the hearings, a senior citizen named John Feeney made a comment I will never forget. His comments went something like, "My grandchildren need a place they can play in the dirt. A place they ride bikes and explore. Costa Mesa is built out and children need a place to escape from structured life and get dirty".

I am now a grandfather. I agree with John Feeney. My grandchildren need a place to play and get dirty as all children do. In planning Fairview Park please:

- Don't fence people out. Let them walk, run and bike through the park
- Let concerts and community events take place
- Permit the Soaring Society to remain on the west side of the park
- Never make the volunteers at the Goat Hill Railroad feel unwelcome in Costa Mesa
- Keep the dirt mounds on the west side of the park in place for kids to play and ride bikes

Thank you for your consideration and efforts to support our community.

Sincerely,



JOE ERICKSON

From: Patrick Flynn <patrickrf@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:44 PM
To: PACS Comments; FVPMP; CITY CLERK; CITY COUNCIL
Subject: Protect Fairview Park as a Shared Community Space

Dear City Council Members and Fairview Park Staff,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the direction of the Fairview Park Master Plan Update Draft. Fairview Park has long been a shared space — a place where families, nature enthusiasts, and community members come together to enjoy Costa Mesa’s most unique open space. The current draft, however, shifts heavily toward an exclusionary, fenced “nature preserve” model that would drastically restrict public access and eliminate many beloved activities.

The proposed plan repeatedly emphasizes fencing (mentioned 22 times in the document) and outlines restrictions that would limit access to only the perimeter of the mesa. This would effectively close the small trails many residents use for peaceful walks, fence off the mounds where countless kids learned to ride their bikes, and permanently eliminate the flying field area. These are not “unauthorized” uses — they are long-standing traditions that define the park’s community spirit.

Equally troubling is the ongoing discussion to impose noise thresholds that would jeopardize or end Concerts in the Park at Fairview Park. This event is one of Costa Mesa’s signature community gatherings and should be celebrated, not silenced.

Any update to the Fairview Park Master Plan must honor the intent of Measure AA, which protects the park’s open, shared character. The park should continue to balance conservation with responsible public access — not become an exclusionary space catering to a single interest group or future grant requirements.

I urge the City, the Parks, Arts & Community Services Commission, and the Fairview Park Steering Committee to revise the Master Plan to reflect the community’s longstanding vision:
a park for people and wildlife alike.

Please ensure that the final plan preserves:

- Access to small trails and open recreation areas
- Space for family activities and community events
- The continuation of Concerts in the Park
- Balanced stewardship that respects both nature and public enjoyment
- Keeping the flying field in the current location, where it has been since 1964

Thank you for your attention and for considering the voices of those who love and care for Fairview Park.

Sincerely,
Patrick Flynn
Homeowner, Freedom Homes

From: Michael Moses Nolf <michael.moses.nolf@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:56 PM
To: FVPMP; PACS Comments; CITY CLERK; CITY COUNCIL
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City staff,

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field in its current location, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad—and direct staff to work with resource agencies and HSS, together, and promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly.

I also do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park. An exclusionary Master Plan Update for the purpose of securing future grant funding or satisfying one special interest group, should be avoided.

Fairview Park should stay a shared space that protects wildlife and keeps room for people, families, and community activities.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,

Michael Moses Nolf
West Side Costa Mesa, 92627

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From: Mel Hitchcock <mel@consolidatedlabs.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 3:00 PM
To: PACS Comments
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Mayor, Council Members, PACS Commissioners, and City staff:

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field in its current location, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad—and direct staff to work with resource agencies and HSS, together, and promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly.

I also do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park. An exclusionary Master Plan Update for the purpose of securing future grant funding or satisfying one special interest group, should be avoided.

Fairview Park should stay a shared space that protects wildlife and keeps room for people, families, and community activities.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you, Mel Hitchcock

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From: Andreas Arpiarian <aarpiarian@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 3:03 PM
To: FVPMP; PACS Comments; CITY CLERK; CITY COUNCIL
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City Staff,

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. I respectfully urge major revisions to ensure the community can continue its long-standing and valued uses at Fairview Park.

The Plan should **explicitly preserve** the following:

- The **model glider field**
- **Concerts in the Park**
- **Bicycle and dog-walking trail access**
- The **Goat Hill Junction Railroad**

Additionally, I urge the City to **work promptly with CDFW** on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and in compliance with environmental standards.

I also **oppose any new fencing** that would reduce public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of **Measure AA** and protect the open, shared character that defines Fairview Park.

Please include this comment in the **public record** for the **Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update** and the **October 30, 2025 PACS meeting**.

Thank you for your consideration

Andreas Arpiarian
Costa Mesa Resident

The information contained in this message is privileged and intended only for the recipients named. If the reader is not a representative of the intended recipient, any review, dissemination or copying of this message or the information it contains is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please immediately notify the sender, and delete the original message and attachments.

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From: Art Sheckman <art@elephantventures.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 4:10 PM
To: FVPMP; PACS Comments; CITY CLERK; CITY COUNCIL
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City staff,

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field in its current location, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad—and direct staff to work with resource agencies and HSS, together, and promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly.

Our family makes regular use of the park, and the proposed restrictions will negatively impact our ability to enjoy the shared community space and engage in activities that are open to the public and create unique experiences (namely the model glider field and support for the club)

I also do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park. An exclusionary Master Plan Update for the purpose of securing future grant funding or satisfying one special interest group, should be avoided.

Additional fencing will undercut the communities ability to enjoy the park. I can share that our many walks, runs, bike rides and dog rambles would be negatively impacted.

Fairview Park should stay a shared space that protects wildlife and keeps room for people, families, and community activities.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,

Art Sheckman
Costa Mesa, 92627

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From: Monica Hernandez <hdez-lizzy@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 4:13 PM
To: FVPMP; PACS Comments; CITY CLERK; CITY COUNCIL
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City staff,

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field in its current location, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad—and direct staff to work with resource agencies and HSS, together, and promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly.

I also do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park. An exclusionary Master Plan Update for the purpose of securing future grant funding or satisfying one special interest group, should be avoided.

Fairview Park should stay a shared space that protects wildlife and keeps room for people, families, and community activities.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,
Liz Rios
949-231-7014

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From: Henry Smith III <henry_ccs@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 5:12 PM
To: FVPMP; PACS Comments; CITY CLERK
Cc: CITY COUNCIL
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Mayor, Council-members, PACS Commissioners, and City staff,

Fairview Park should stay a shared space that protects wildlife and keeps room for people, families, and community activities.

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad. Please direct staff to work with CDFW promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly. I believe it is not reasonable to restrict public access based on some CDFW suggestions some wildlife and plants “might” be harmed by public access. **If this access is so harmful, why are the birds and plants still in the park after 60 or more years of this public access?**

I also do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park. **I believe it is possible to work out a compromise allowing continued public access as well as making portions of the park into a preserve.**

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Respectfully,

Henry A. Smith III

Tustin

714-322-6537

Resources:

1. Fairview Park Master Plan Revision Website: <https://www.costamesaca.gov/community/fairview-park/fairview-park-master-plan>
2. Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan
PDF: <https://www.costamesaca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/61230/63895102412490000>
- 3.

From: Jim Erickson <jimwerickson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 5:29 PM
To: PACS Comments; FVPMP; CITY CLERK; CITY COUNCIL
Subject: Comments on the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan
Attachments: Fairview Park Letter Jim Erickson.pdf

Hello,

Please include my attached letter in the public comments of meetings of the PACS Commission, City Council, and in public feedback regarding the Fairview Park Master Plan. Please respond so I am certain this has been done. I am pasting the text of the letter below for reference.

Thank you,
Jim Erickson

Hello Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners and City Staff,

I'm writing to raise my concern over the details of the draft plan for Fairview Park. The draft plan goes too far to close the park off to human interaction with the park, and contradicts Measure AA in the process.

For decades people flew gliders and RC airplanes off the western slope and on the western side of the park. This is an existing use and language indicates it is an approved use in Measure AA. The draft recommendation that the flying area be moved to the east side of the park would require additional infrastructure (grading, concrete, ADA access etc) and this is in conflict with Measure AA.

Of more concern: there is no solid empirical evidence that glider flying causes damage to the park or its natural features.

Especially, there is no evidence glider flying damages the park over and above other approved uses. Which creates a slippery slope for the other approved uses.

Example: we are told that glider flying impacts sensitive species on the west side of the park. Burrowing owls were found on the east side of the park years ago. Yet, we allow extensive mowing, model trains, cycling, walking, and dogs on the east side of the park. Now, we want gliders on the east side of the park too?

OC Parks and CA State Parks don't allow dogs on trails where species of special interest exist. Why is this best practice not recommended...yet...for Fairview Park? Is staff simply choosing a scapegoat (gliders) to get the ball rolling on closing the park to most human interactions?

There are other precedents here: we used to do a community 5K run, and hold the Fish Fry at Fairview Park. Those events have been canceled or re-homed in the last decade. Quite soon, our kids won't be able to ride bicycles on the dirt mounds as they will be fenced off.

Fairview Park is just that: a park. For decades nature has been a celebrated center point while people are still allowed to experience the park in their own way.

Enforcement is necessary against irresponsible users, but picking winners and losers amongst user groups is a violation of Measure AA, which itself defined appropriate use.

Thank you for reading my comments,

Jim Erickson

Costa Mesa resident, mobile phone: 949-274-1817

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Hello Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners and City Staff,

I'm writing to raise my concern over the details of the draft plan for Fairview Park. The draft plan goes too far to close the park off to human interaction with the park, and contradicts Measure AA in the process.

For decades people flew gliders and RC airplanes off the western slope and on the western side of the park. This is an existing use and language indicates it is an approved use in Measure AA. The draft recommendation that the flying area be moved to the east side of the park would require additional infrastructure (grading, concrete, ADA access etc) and this is in conflict with Measure AA.

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Fairview Park is just that: a park. For decades nature has been a celebrated center point while people are still allowed to experience the park in their own way.

Enforcement is necessary against irresponsible users, but picking winners and losers amongst user groups is a violation of Measure AA, which itself defined appropriate use.

Thank you for reading my comments,

Jim Erickson

Costa Mesa resident, mobile phone: 949-274-1817

From: Henry Stockdale <henrykevinstockdale@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:17 PM
To: PACS Comments
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Dear Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, Staff, and City Staff,

As someone who visits Fairview Park often, I do not support the current draft of the Fairview Park Master Plan. I ask if you are to make major changes to allow the community to maintain long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field in its current location, concerts at the park, bicycle and dog walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad, and direct staff to work with resource agencies and HSS together and promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly.

As someone who loves to go to HSS and ride my bike, I also do not support any fencing that reduces public access. Any revision should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park. An exclusionary master plan update for the purpose of securing future grant funding or satisfying one special interest group should be avoided.

Fairview Park should stay a shared space that protects wildlife and keeps room for people, families, and community activities.

Please include this comment in the public record for the draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,

Henry Stockdale

Costa Mesa, CA 92627

949-779-0655

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From: Lisa S. <lisa.snowden73@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:25 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL; CITY CLERK; PACS Comments; FVPMP
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Dear Mayor Stephens, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City staff,

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad—and direct staff to work with CDFW promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly.

I live on the westside and am a long-time user of Fairview Park, mainly for exercising, walking the trails, spending time in nature, and attending Concerts in the Park. I also do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,

Lisa Snowden

Costa Mesa Resident

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From: Sue Garcia <srgarcia1229@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:06 PM
To: FVPMP; PACS Comments; CITY CLERK; CITY COUNCIL
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City staff,

I am a member of the Audubon Society and frequent visitor to Fairview Park. I do NOT support what is happening at Fairview Park or in this draft Master Plan. Take vernal pools 5, 6, and 7 for example. They are hard to look at. Volunteers and City staff walk through it so often, there are trails blazed all over it. We do not need more poorly managed, fenced off, eye sore restoration projects. My grandkids need a place to play outside. How much time and money were spent on this effort? The City should consider possible changes to park management.

Fairview Park is a community park. This draft Master Plan will make it more difficult for most of the community to use and enjoy the park in ways that are good for the community. The wildlife is there and so is the community, and we have coexisted together in the park for decades. Please do not let one group of people kick the rest of us out of the park.

Please do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes to the draft Master Plan so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field in its current location, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly.

Please do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park. An exclusionary Master Plan Update for the purpose of securing future grant funding or satisfying one special interest group, should be avoided.

Fairview Park should stay a shared space that protects wildlife and keeps room for people, families, and community activities.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,
Suzanne
Fairview Park Visitor and Supporter

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From: Michelle Henke <michellehenke@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:09 PM
To: PACS Comments
Subject: Opposition to the Fairview Park Master Plan

Good Evening,

I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan.

I live in the Freedom Homes of Westside Costa Mesa. Our family has enjoyed the following at Fairview park over the years. Some of our favorite activities have been:

- Walking and Exploring the trails
- Taking my children to ride bikes on the mounds
- Participating and flying gliders with HSS who have been positive and welcoming community members. They have taught both our children about flying, engineering, and being a good neighbor.
- Riding bikes on trails that connect Canyon, Talbert, and Fairview Park together
- Concerts in the Park
- Lion's Fish Fry
- Run Club
- Flying a kite
- Trains

Fairview Park is a special place because we live in a suburban environment where there are few spaces where people can participate and engage in such activities. This is the key participation and engagement of the citizens. Fairview is not a *preserve*. It was never intended to be utilized *passively*. I understand we need to be good stewards of the area and environmentally conscientious to ensure it is a place for future generations. But, it has been my observation that Fairview park is becoming increasingly regulated and altered.

If this Master Plan were to become a reality I believe that many of the activities my family has enjoyed will be different and even no longer. I do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park.

Please consider this email when moving forward in your decision making. I believe a majority of Costa Mesa citizens share my beliefs, but we have a small group of LOUD citizens and agenda driven city staff that are driving this home over the last couple of years. LISTEN to your community!

Michelle Erickson
971 Union Ave
Costa Mesa 92627

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From: johnrit@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8:14 PM
To: FVPMP; PACS Comments; CITY CLERK
Cc: CITY COUNCIL
Subject: Fairview Master Plan Does Not Reflect the Needs and Wants of CM Residents...

Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City staff,

As a longtime resident of Costa Mesa, I have had the opportunity to submit comments during the 1998, and 2008 FVP Master Plan update process. At the time, I felt those revisions reflected the needs, wants, and best interest of the residents of Costa Mesa. Regrettably, the same cannot be said of this latest incarnation (in my opinion). Those of you who have resided in Costa Mesa for some time, have probably become aware of the lack of civility in council meetings and increasingly strident demands of various "special interest" groups. Unfortunately, the FVP Master Plan has garnered more than its share of controversy. Frankly, I am concerned that a small group of... uncompromising "environment only" proponents are demanding a VERY exclusionary direction for the current MP update. This group has made some outlandish claims that are completely unsupported by unbiased study.

Costa Mesa is not a "cookie cutter" city like Irvine... we are unique, and special... not a city of exclusionary of fences. In my opinion that is the direction we are going in this MP update... More fences and less public access. It's more than my opinion... over the years I have attended many Fairview Park Steering Committee meetings and various other "environmental" related FVP meetings. The participants have explicitly stated their "ultimate goal" of turning the park into a preserve... without compromise. Costa Mesa is a growing city, with increasing population. Now more than ever, Costa Mesa residents need public access to Fairview Park, in a way that is mindful of the environment... as has been done for the past seventy-two years. Therefore, it is my hope that the Council will support a revision to the proposed Master Plan update that directs a "reasoned" balanced approach that favors the current level of public access.

Thank you, John Rittenhouse

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From: Marc McReynolds <marcmcreynolds@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:10 PM
To: FVPMP; PACS Comments; CITY CLERK; CITY COUNCIL
Subject: Why I don't support the draft Fairview Park Master Plan

As a user of the park for several decades, I have seen how it stands up well to sustained public use. The interior trails in particular are narrow, well-defined, hardened ground -- quite "stable" in terms of any ecological impact. This shouldn't be surprising, since the mesa has seen constant foot traffic for some thousands of years. Rome was still an empire when people were walking throughout the mesa, going about their daily business. Heck, kids were playfully running across the mesa even before the start of the Roman Empire... and yet it's still here, with its resilient and evolving ecology. Ongoing long-term bluff erosion is the real concern.

Wetland sections should rightly be protected in light of modern concerns, but denying the public enjoyment of broad swaths of the park to chase after government money, or catering to the whims of extremists with no real understanding of dynamic ecosystems, is not in the overall public interest.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, Marc McReynolds

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From: dnoon6@gmail.com
To: [FVPMP](#); [PACS Comments](#); [CITY CLERK](#)
Cc: [CITY COUNCIL](#)
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 9:52:08 PM

Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City Staff,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan and my concern for what its adoption would mean for the Harbor Soaring Society and the flying field at Fairview Park.

For the past six months, I've been bringing my son, who is diagnosed with Autism and ADHD, to the flying field almost every weekend that it is open. What started as a simple father and son outing has turned into something truly special. He has fallen in love with flying and with the science behind how things soar. The members of the Harbor Soaring Society have gone above and beyond to welcome him, teaching him patience, problem solving, and a love of STEM.

This field has become more than a hobby spot. It's an outdoor classroom that has completely changed my son's relationship with learning. Science and math, which used to be his hardest subjects, are now his favorites. He spends hours building, experimenting, and asking thoughtful questions about aerodynamics and flight. The environment at the field is quiet, safe, and supportive, and it represents the best of what community learning can be.

I've read the report and the references to "Resource Agency recommendations" about noise, but those concerns are greatly overstated. These are model gliders, not gas powered planes. They are quieter than a kite on a breezy day.

Please make significant changes to the Draft Master Plan so that the community can continue long-standing and meaningful uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad. I also do not support any new fencing or barriers that would reduce public access. Any revisions should respect the intent of Measure AA and keep Fairview Park open and shared, as it was meant to be.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dan Noon
949-735-7141
Dnoon6@gmail.com

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From: mikeftre <mikeftre@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 1:23 AM
To: FVPMP
Subject: FW: Fairview Park Master Plan

----- Original message -----

From: mikeftre <mikeftre@gmail.com>
Date: 10/30/25 12:50 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: fvpmp@costamesacs.gov, pacsccomments@costamesaca.gov, citycleek@costamesaca.gov, citycouncil@costamesaca.gov
Subject: Fairview Park Master Plan

Mayor, Council members, PACS Commissioners, and City staff,

Fairview Park should stay a shared space that protects wildlife and keeps room for people, families, and community activities.

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad. Please direct staff to work with CDFW promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly. I believe it is not reasonable to restrict public access based on some CDFW suggestions some wildlife and plants “might” be harmed by public access. **If this access is so harmful, why are the birds and plants thriving in the park after 60 or more years of this public access?**

I also do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park. **I believe it is possible to work out a compromise allowing continued public access as well as making portions of the park into a preserve.**

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Resources:

1. Fairview Park Master Plan Revision Website: <https://www.costamesaca.gov/community/fairview-park/fairview-park-master-plan>
2. Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan
PDF: <https://www.costamesaca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/61230/63895102412490000>

Thank you,
Mike Costello
714-875-7994
mikeftre@gmail.com

From: [Matthew Schweitzer](#)
To: [FVPMP](#); [PACS Comments](#); [CITY CLERK](#); [CITY COUNCIL](#)
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 9:57:27 AM

Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City staff,

I cannot support the current draft of the Fairview Park Master Plan, and urge you to consider revising in a way that does not alter the longstanding uses of the park. The intent of Measure AA is to require significant public support before making any alterations to the use of the park, and attempts to circumvent this by other policy action not only potentially violates the law, it more importantly violates the trust of the community you are hired to serve.

There will always be complaints from various small interest groups about the use of the park, some of which may be more sympathetic to you than others. But in the absence of overwhelming public demand for a change, the best course of action is to maintain the nature of the park the way it has been for decades. This is a community park, and an excellent resource that has been shared by everyone, and it can remain that way. There is plenty room for concerts, trail walkers, bike riders, dogs, model aircraft enthusiasts, nature lovers, and others, in the park, and everyone is aware of the limitations and requirements to share the space among these different activities. The proposed changes in the master plan will intentionally or unintentionally harm some of these groups significantly, which is unacceptable for a park operated for the public benefit. Nothing brought to the public's attention to date justifies the construction of new fences in our community, either physical ones or administrative ones.

Thank you for your consideration,
Matthew Schweitzer

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-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Harker <susanharker@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 4:13 AM

To: CITY CLERK <CITYCLERK@costamesaca.gov>

Subject: Fairview Park Master Plan(FPMP) draft, my thoughts

Dear Park and Community Services Commissioners:

My name is Sue Harker and live at 1930 Monrovia Avenue. I am responding to draft of FPMP, Pubic Use Section, objectives 3 & 4, page 64 and Appendix "Archaeological...." Page 33.

Glider, model planes and drones (planes)are not an activity for continued inclusion in FPMP. Prior to closure of plane area in 2020, I observed downed planes in bush west of take off area resulting in retrieval through unauthorized areas. I observed motorized planes flying over both Fairview and Talbert Parks. On several occasions, motorized planes chased flying birds. The planes group, in my observation, were not good and appropriate stewards of Fairview Park.

Note: Say's Phoebe, winter migrant, lives among bush west of planes area. Redwing blackbirds and especially swallows, spring, summer migrants, hunt in planes area.

I support narrow gauge railroad as it provides visitors an opportunity for east Park overview and probably prevents unauthorized trail walking.

Thank you for letting me respond to the FPMP draft.

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From: Don Wittenberg <drwittenberg@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 11:08 AM
To: FVPMP; CITY CLERK; citycouncil@costamesaca.go; PACS Comments
Subject: FW: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Dear Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City staff,

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long-standing uses at Fairview Park. The Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field in its current location, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad—and direct staff to work with resource agencies and HSS, together, and promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly.

The use of the park to allow for gliders at the current location has negligible impact on the ecology of the park. This is evidenced by the flourishing flora and fauna at the park for the past fifty years that flying of model airplanes has been allowed. The present rules allow only very restricted dates and times for glider flying when weather conditions permit.

I also do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park. An exclusionary Master Plan Update for the purpose of securing future grant funding or satisfying one special interest group, should be avoided.

Fairview Park should stay a shared space that protects wildlife and keeps room for people, families, and community activities.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,

Donald Wittenberg

714 321 3944

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From: [Lana Nguyen](#)
To: [FVPMP](#); [PACS Comments](#); [CITY CLERK](#); [CITY COUNCIL](#)
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 11:26:59 AM

Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City Staff,

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. While I appreciate the City's challenging task of balancing recreational opportunities with the conservation and enhancement of open space, I believe that the existing recreational uses were not adequately evaluated using sound data to support the conclusions and recommendations within the Plan.

The Master Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field in its current location, *Concerts in the Park*, and the *Goat Hill Junction Railroad*.

I would like to see studies and data demonstrating the actual impacts of glider use at its current location under the conditions that have been in place for more than a year. The current draft references differing community opinion regarding glider activity and regulatory recommendations, but does not reference any study or data collected. When issues have arisen in the past, the Harbor Soaring Society has implemented all recommendations from the City and regulatory agencies to minimize impacts to sensitive wildlife, including eliminating motored aircraft, reducing flying days and times, and closely coordinating with City representatives when gliders need to be recovered, among other measures.

The gliding activities should be evaluated based on these current conditions in their current location and analyzed for potential conflicts with wildlife and habitat—while also considering additional mitigation measures that could further reduce any such conflicts. HSS has also indicated that relocating to the east side of Placentia Avenue would be detrimental to glider operations due to different wind conditions and other factors. It would be fiscally irresponsible to spend thousands of City dollars on new infrastructure in a location unsuitable for glider activity, particularly when there are only *perceived* impacts at the current site and activity level.

Any revisions to the Plan should honor the community's intent under Measure AA and preserve the park's open, shared character.

Fairview Park should remain a shared space that protects wildlife while providing room for people, families, and community activities.

Please include this letter in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,
Lana Nguyen
92627 Resident

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From: Dean Peiten <deanp9970@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 11:28 AM
To: PACS Comments
Subject: I DO NOT support the master plan

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Fairview Park Master Plan and any actions that would lead to the closure or restriction of public access to this treasured open space. Fairview Park is one of the last remaining natural areas in our region—a place where generations have come together to appreciate the outdoors, wildlife, and community activities that reflect Costa Mesa's character and values.

One of the park's most unique and enduring features is the Harbor Soaring Society (HSS), a volunteer-run RC glider club that has called Fairview Park home for over 60 years. The club embodies education, innovation, and community engagement, introducing people of all ages to the principles of flight, engineering, and environmental stewardship. Members maintain the field at no cost to the city, host youth outreach events, and contribute to the park's safety and vitality.

Eliminating or displacing the Harbor Soaring Society would not serve the public interest—it would destroy a long-standing educational and recreational asset that aligns perfectly with the city's commitment to open space, STEM education, and civic pride. Fairview Park should remain a place for learning, recreation, and connection—not another victim of overdevelopment.

I urge you to reject the Fairview Park Master Plan as currently proposed and to preserve the Harbor Soaring Society's access to the field at Fairview Park. This club and this park are part of Costa Mesa's living history. Once lost, they cannot be replaced.

Please stand with your community. Protect Fairview Park. Keep the Harbor Soaring Society flying.

Respectfully,

Dean Peiten

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From: k evin <kev380@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 11:35 AM
To: PACS Comments
Cc: Kev
Subject: Fairview Park Keep Access Open For Silent Gliders

Dear Mayor, Council, and PACS members

As a Costa Mesa resident of more than 30 years
I would like for you , to keep Fairview Park open...
For silent gliders, concerts in the park, and kids to be kids,
playing in our wonderful city park, Fairview Park Costa Mesa Ca.

Thank you, for taking the time to include my E-mail In the public record.

Kevin Koch
714-842-7887

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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From: Costa Mesa First <costamesa1st@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 11:52 AM
To: FVPMP; DALTON, KELLY M.
Cc: PETTIS, JEFF; REYNOLDS, ARLIS; CHAVEZ, MANUEL; STEPHENS, JOHN; MARR, ANDREA; GAMEROS, LOREN; BULEY, MIKE; cecilia.garado-daly@costamesaca.gov; GRUNER, BRIAN
Subject: Draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update
Attachments: Ltr to City of CM re Fairview Park Master Plan Update.pdf

Dear Mr. Dalton,

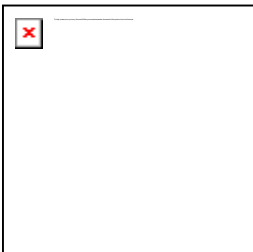
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of Costa Mesa's Draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update (FPMPU). Attached is a letter with our complete comments.

Fairview Park is a unique ecological and cultural resource that must be preserved and managed responsibly. We urge the City to:

- Prioritize restoration and protection of sensitive habitats, including vernal pools, in compliance with CDFW and USFWS guidance.
- Relocate the fly field outside Fairview Park to prevent further habitat degradation and align with legal requirements and expert recommendations.
- Incorporate a Long-Term Management Plan with clear actions and timelines for habitat restoration, enforcement, and public education.
- Address additional concerns: mowing limits, fencing adequacy, noise restrictions (including concerts and drones), and improved enforcement for dogs and off-trail activities.
- Provide missing references, maps, and appendices noted in the FPMPU.

Fairview Park offers a rare opportunity for ecological stewardship. We strongly recommend revising the FPMPU to reflect these priorities, recirculating the draft for public comment, and holding additional public meetings to ensure transparency and community engagement.

Richard Huffman
Cynthia McDonald
Costa Mesa First
PO Box 2282
Costa Mesa, CA 92628
[costamesa1st.com](mailto:costamesa1st@gmail.com)
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Costa Mesa First's mission is to educate Costa Mesans about planning policies in Costa Mesa so they make knowledgeable choices when voting. We encourage residents to choose walkable, bikeable, and inclusive neighborhoods, and the land use and transportation policies and investments needed to make Costa Mesa flourish. Our primary objective is to require Costa Mesa's leaders to put the residents of Costa Mesa first.

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October 30, 2025

VIA EMAIL ONLY –fvpmp@costamesaca.gov

Mr. Kelly Dalton, Fairview Park Administrator
City of Costa Mesa
77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, California 92626

Re: Fairview Park Master Plan Update

Dear Mr. Dalton:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to the City of Costa Mesa's Draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update ("FPMPU").

Fairview Park is a rare and irreplaceable 208-acre parkland and conservation area. It is a cultural and ecological treasure that supports numerous special status plant and wildlife species, including several listed as threatened or endangered under federal and state laws. Fairview Park's riparian habitats, coastal scrub, grasslands, and vernal pools are among the few remaining in Orange County—and are virtually unmatched along California's coast.

It is important that the City restore, preserve, and protect the park as an environmental resource for study, interpretation, and education, as well as passive recreation and low-impact activities that connect the community to the natural environment. "Balancing resource protection and public use, which reflects the vested interests of the community and the City, is the essential purpose of this plan update."¹

¹ Master Plan Update, Executive Summary, Page 7.

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The FPMPU is meant to build upon the original plan and maintain the momentum of recent restoration work which established a strong set of strategies to facilitate the continuing improvement of Fairview Park. Scientific data in the technical reports clearly demonstrate the urgent need for a **Long-Term Management Plan** to safeguard cultural resources and conserve biological resources—especially the essential vernal pool habitat. The FPMPU must be used as the primary tool for informed decision-making and planning to ensure the preservation and enhancement of Fairview Park’s unique ecological features and cultural significance.

Goals and Objectives. In general, the FPMPU supports the goals and objectives adopted by the City Council on January 17, 2023:

- Protect, preserve, and enhance the unique natural and cultural resources of Fairview Park.
- Restore and enhance the park as an environmental resource, and provide interpretive opportunities to educate users of the park’s unique ecology, cultural history, and resources.
- Manage the park as a passive recreational opportunity.
- Engage stakeholders, users, and the community at large in developing a blueprint to manage the park, which accounts for passive use recreation, environmental restoration and preservation, and funding considerations for years to come.

Threats to Sensitive Biological and Cultural Resources. Through the years, there have been threats to the sensitive biological and cultural resources found in the park. The biggest threat comes from the users. As stated on in the FPMPU, “Page 10: Threats to sensitive biological and cultural resources in Fairview Park come from human actions that destroy, degrade, and fragment the park’s natural communities and erode protective soil cover. These threats should be mitigated with a combination of education, management and physical protection measures and actions.”²

² Master Plan Update, Introduction, Page 10.

Protection of Vernal Pools. Applicable laws protecting vernal pool species and their habitat include the California Endangered Species Act and the Federal Endangered Species Act, each of which require conservation of threatened and endangered species, as well as their ecosystems. These Acts prohibit the take of threatened and endangered species except under certain circumstances and only with authorizations from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”) and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”). Under CESA and ESA, a take is defined as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

Prior actions by park users and the City have drawn attention by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW Letter,” dated September 25, 2025, attached as Exhibit A) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS Letter,” dated July 24, 2014, attached as Exhibit B) due to the takes of threatened and endangered species. Both agencies have pointed out the City’s actions and inactions have caused detrimental impacts to Fairview Park that required the City to improve its practices of restoration, protection, and management of the park. In particular, this applies to the fly field currently used by the Harbor Soaring Society.

The Biological Resources Technical Report prepared by Hamilton Biological supports relocation of the fly field, and cites Barry Nerhus of Endemic Environmental Services:

“As an airplane pilot, I have a passion for aviation and the continued growth of the aviation community (even as a tool for conservation). However, I do not think the recreational activities at the fly field is a part of the mission of managing Fairview Park for the natural resources and recovery of endangered species.”

The Fairview Park Steering Committee (“Steering Committee”), a committee that the City Council formed in 2017 after the passage of Measure AA, and whose scope and criteria includes “provide advice to the City Council regarding the implementation of the Fairview Park Master Plan,” made the recommendation is to relocate the fly field outside of Fairview Park:

“6. Relocate the fly field activity currently located within the vernal pool watershed to outside Fairview Park, due to detrimental impacts to sensitive biological resources associated with the activity and required maintenance of the fly field.”

The CDFW Letter states:

“CDFW strongly supports relocation of the model airplane fly field, as its continued operation in the vernal pool complex is in direct conflict with preservation and management of this important park feature. The goals of the Master Plan Update, as stated in the publicly available technical documents, cannot be achieved while private citizens continue take it upon themselves to grade and mow these sensitive habitats to maintain fly field runways on City property. Additionally, while these recreational activities have largely been considered passive, the degradation and improper maintenance of the pools is leading to a long-term reduction in vernal pool function and degradation.”

The CDFW Letter goes on to state:

“Finally, there is scientific evidence to support that the fly field activities lead to harassment of sensitive avian species, including raptors. Behavioral responses to model aircraft disturbances add to the daily energy expenditure of birds.”

Despite the fact that all of Fairview Park contains sensitive habitat and endangered species, the FPMU suggests relocating the flying field to within the park:

“The Master Plan Update recommends moving the current site to another portion of the park to comply with resource agency recommendations. To avoid regular mowing and prevent colonization by ground-dwelling species, a compacted and stabilized decomposed granite paving area should be provided for the relocated launch site. Proposed improvements for the relocation site include an approximately 300-by-50-foot runway (partially surfaced with decomposed granite), pilot stations and pit area, a storage shed, an information kiosk, and installation of a low post-and-cable barrier.”³

³ Master Plan Update, The Master Plan, Page 69.

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This section of the FPMPU contradicts the CDFW's, the expert's, and the Steering Committee's recommendations. The FVPMP must be revised to align with agency guidance and legal requirements.

We note that Harbor Soaring Society is not the only user of the fly field and that others use the field and the vernal pools for unpermitted flying activities. **It is critical that the fly field be relocated to outside of Fairview Park to meet the goals of the City Council and to comply with applicable laws.**

Further, the Steering Committee's recommendations should be added as an Addendum to the FPMPU.

In addition, as the USFWS Letter directs, the City must:

“Include in an update to the Fairview Park Master Plan specific and ongoing management actions that will be implemented to ensure high quality habitat for San Diego fairy shrimp is maintained and that the species is protected.”

The “Other Management Opportunities” section on Page 81 must be revised to include language that complies with this important direction from the USFWS. While we note that Appendix C refers to the need for such a Long-Term Management Plan, no plan or description of such management plan has been included in the FPMPU.

We note that **relocating the fly field to any other part of Fairview Park would require a vote of the people under Measure AA**. The work to establish a new fly field would cause a “significant change,”⁴ as it would involve grading, compaction and importing of soil or decomposed granite, and the addition of buildings, all of which will not be done for restoration or preservation purposes.

Finally, no other public park in Orange County permits the flying of motorized aircraft or the cable-assisted launching of gliders—and for good reason. These activities pose significant safety risks. For example, Aliso Viejo, which allows limited aircraft use, requires operators to pass a proficiency test to ensure they can avoid losing planes in neighboring yards. In stark contrast, Costa Mesa permits glider launches using cables that

⁴ See City of Costa Mesa Code of Ordinances, Title 12, Chapter V, Section 12-87 (Definitions).

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extend into the sensitive vernal pool watershed (see Exhibit C for photo for launch cable and extension into vernal pool/watershed) and allows individuals to enter these protected areas to retrieve lost gliders. This practice not only endangers public safety but also violates the integrity of critical habitats. It is no surprise that both CDFW and USFWS have expressed serious concerns about the City's failure to prevent these harmful activities..

Mowing. On Page 8 of the USFWS Letter, the USFWS directed the City to limit mowing as follows:

“Mowing should be conducted outside the limits of the vernal pool basins to avoid direct impacts to San Diego fairy shrimp. In addition, we recommend that mowing be restricted within approximately 50 feet of the basin area to avoid restored habitat and sensitive plant species surrounding the basin area. The mowing limits should be periodically reevaluated to compensate for changes in the size and location of the basin area and corresponding zone of sensitive plant species. Please coordinate with the Service regarding use of pesticides and herbicides within the vernal pool watersheds to ensure chemicals harmful to San Diego fairy shrimp are avoided.”

Ceasing to mow in areas where sensitive habitat or species are location should be included as part of habitat restoration projects and included as part of any future management plan or the “Other Management Opportunities” on Page 81.

Fencing. On Page 8 of the USFWS Letter, USFWS commented on the City's intent to install cable fencing as follows:

“Cable wire fencing is proposed in the Fairview Park Master Plan to protect the pool basins. If this type of fencing is not adequate to prevent the public from regularly entering the basin areas, additional fencing or a different type of fencing may be required.”

Please include similar language to this in the “Trail Delineation/Fencing” sections.

Noise. While we appreciate the prohibition of the use of motorized aircraft by the Harbor Soaring Society, there are still several noise sources that impact the endangered species in the park. The CDFW Letter states on Page 6:

“The presence of even lower-decibel noise and physical disturbances from fly field can interfere with these cues, potentially delaying or disrupting migration. This disruption could affect the birds’ ability to arrive at their destination on time, impacting their survival and reproductive success (Schummer and Eddleman 2003). It can also interfere with the birds’ flight paths, leading to potential collisions or forced changes in migration patterns. Noise and physical presence of model aircraft also affect the landscape and vegetation used by birds for cover and nesting. This is particularly concerning considering the known grading and mowing activities associated with the fly field maintenance.”

Is the CDFW aware that the City allows amplified music in Fairview Park during the summer Concerts in the Park? Even if it is not aware, it clear that the CDFW does not intend that any intentionally loud noises be allowed in Fairview Park. **The Concerts in the Park must be relocated to a more suitable venue.**

In addition, from time to time a drone is flown over the park. Drones are noisy and disturb avian species. Likewise, the radio-controlled vehicles on the ground. **Please ban drones in Fairview Park and all other City parks.**

Enforcement. As noted on Page 6 of the CDFW Letter, the City must provide for more enforcement and funding for such. The USFWS Letter notes on page 4 that the “[r]estored Complex 4 has multiple paths running through it and shows signs of frequent use by dogs.” Dogs must be on leash and feces must be removed. In addition, off trail bicycle and ebike riding has taken a great toll on the habitat in the park and needs to be more closely monitored. **At least one park ranger should be assigned to be at the park at all times during operating hours.**

Miscellaneous.

- On Page 16 of the FPMPU (“Introduction”), at the bottom of the center column it states, “Source information will be referenced,” but there is no source information provided. Please provide.
- Page 31 of the FPMPU (“Existing Planning Conditions”) should reference the Active Transportation Plan (“ATP”) adopted by the City in June 2018. In addition,

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the Map on that page needs to be replaced with the map on Page 65 of the ATP.

- Reference is made on page 86 of the FPMPU to Appendix E, however, that Appendix has not been provided. Please let us know when you have uploaded it to the City's website.
- Provide the Long-Term Management Plan, or description of said management plan, as referred to in Appendix C. Please include a description of proposed projects and a timeline.

Conclusion.

Fairview Park offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity for ecological stewardship. The City must follow the guidance of USFWS, CDFW, the Steering Committee and technical experts. We urge the City to revise the FPMPU to incorporate these recommendations, to recirculate the draft for public comment, and hold additional public meetings to ensure transparency and community engagement.

Thank you for your attention. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

/s/ *Richard J. Huffman*

Richard J. Huffman Treasurer

/s/ *Cynthia McDonald*

Cynthia McDonald Assistant Treasurer

cc: City of Costa Mesa – Mayor, City Council, Parks and Community Services
Commission, and City Manager

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Attachment A

CDFW Letter



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 South Coast Region
 3883 Ruffin Road
 San Diego, CA 92123
wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



September 25, 2025

Brenda Green
 City Clerk's Office
 77 Fair Drive
 Costa Mesa, CA 92626
brenda.green@costamesaca.gov

Subject: DRAFT FAIRVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE, COSTA MESA, CA

Dear Brenda Green:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has reviewed the technical reports which provide the framework for the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan (Plan) from the City of Costa Mesa (City). Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations to the City Council regarding those activities that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Plan that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW ROLE

CDFW is California's Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines¹ (Fish & Game Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a)). CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (Fish & G. Code, § 1802). Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW is charged by law to provide, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW may also act as a Responsible Agency under CEQA. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381). CDFW expects that it may need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code. As proposed, for example, the Project may be subject to CDFW's lake and streambed alteration

¹ CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

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regulatory authority (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 *et seq.*). Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in “take” as defined by State law² of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish & G. Code, § 2050 *et seq.*) or the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA; Fish & G. Code, §1900 *et seq.*), the City may seek related take authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW also administers the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) program, a California regional habitat conservation planning program (Fish & G. Code, § 2800 *et seq.*). The City is a participating landowner under the Central/Coastal Orange County NCCP/Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

PLAN DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Objective: According to the City’s website, the objective of the Fairview Park Master Plan Update (Update) is to revise the 1998 Fairview Park Master Plan, last updated in 2008. In addition to the goals of aligning the existing Plan with current biological assessments, land uses, and environmental regulations/policies, it will also be used to create priorities and strategies for long-term management, preservation of natural resources, and future park projects. Future projects include, but are not limited to, restoration projects, trail improvements, park amenities, and special events.

Location: Fairview Park is in the City, and its address is 2525 Placentia Avenue. It is bordered by residential areas to the north and east, Talbert Regional Park to the south, and the Santa Ana River to the west. The park itself is bisected by Placentia Avenue, which runs north/south.

Biological Setting: The regional biological significance of Fairview Park cannot be overstated. The Park is the northernmost parcel of a rare, contiguous undeveloped natural open space, which stretches from Fairview Park southward through Talbert Regional Park and terminates at the Randall Preserve. The 208-acre, topographically diverse Park contains a multitude of habitat types and micro-habitats, including one of the last coastal terrace vernal pools complexes in Orange County (USFWS 2007) on its mesa. Vernal pools in Fairview Park also support several plant species that are locally rare (City 2008 and Chung 2010). The artificial ponds in the lowlands provide nesting and foraging habitat for riparian species. Other natural and sensitive habitats include native grasslands, coastal bluff scrub, alluvial scrub, riparian woodlands, and coastal sage scrub. These habitats serve as foraging and reproductive habitat, providing refugia for many sensitive species in an otherwise developed watershed. Approximately 12-acres of the Park is landscaped.

According to the Biological Technical Report (BTR; Hamilton Biological 2025), 222 vascular plants and over 262 wildlife species have been documented in the Park, a remarkable number of flora and fauna for an area with just under 200 acres of habitat.

² “Take” is defined in Section 86 of the Fish and Game Code as “hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.”

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Several listed species have been observed on site or have high or moderate potential to occur on site which include:

Invertebrates

- San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*; Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed endangered),
- Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*; CESA Candidate for Threatened or Endangered Listing; CBB),

Birds

- Coastal California gnatcatcher [*Polioptila californica californica*; ESA- listed threatened; CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC); gnatcatcher],
- Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*; ESA-listed endangered; CESA-listed endangered; vireo),
- White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*; CDFW Fully Protected Species),
- Belding's Savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*; CESA-listed endangered),
- Western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*; SSC; CESA Candidate for Threatened or Endangered Listing),
- Coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegonensis*; SSC),
- Coopers hawk (*Astur cooperii*; SSC),

Plants

- San Diego button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*; California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Rank 1B.1), and,
- Southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *Australis*; California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Rank 1B.1).

Please see Attachment A for a complete list of sensitive species present or with potential to occur at Fairview Park (Hamilton Biological 2025).

Prior CDFW Engagement: CDFW has a long history of engaging with the City on natural resources matters at Fairview Park, most notably vernal pool complex management issues, historic violations, and ongoing impacts to areas subject to Fish and Game Code 1600 *et seq.* Additionally, fulfillment of outstanding mitigation obligations regarding compensatory mitigation obligations at Fairview Park for off-site projects with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), and the Department of Toxic Substances Control continue to languish and remain incomplete (OCTA 2018 and CDFW 2019). Despite repeated engagement with the City on natural resources matters at the Park, our attempts to partner with the City on these outstanding issues are largely ineffective. As outlined below, many of these obligations are incomplete or their status is unknown.

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In 2014, CDFW partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to provide comments on vernal pool restoration after the installation of a path in the Park that was routed within and adjacent to vernal pools occupied by the federally endangered San Diego fairy shrimp (USFWS 2014). Impacts to these pools from the installation of paths and parking areas, improvements to Estancia High School stadium, and the operation of motorized vehicles during the wet season were mitigated through restoration efforts at pools 2, 5, 6, and 7 (Glen Lukos Associates 2015). It is unclear to CDFW and the USFWS (hereafter referred to as the Wildlife Agencies) as to whether the stated mitigation and restoration efforts were achieved in full.

In 2016, CDFW investigated the City's fill of Little Canyon as a possible violation of Fish and Game Code, section 1602, when soil stockpiles from the artificial pond creation were used to fill Little Canyon for purposes of trail creation and realignment. CDFW concluded the unauthorized activities were subject to Fish and Game Code; however, the statute of limitations to issue a Notice of Violation had passed and no action was taken. (City 2015)

In 2018, the City contacted CDFW regarding clearing of vegetation in and around the artificial pond complex during the nesting season for coastal California gnatcatcher. At that time, CDFW communicated that a Routine Maintenance Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) per our Lake and Streambed Alteration program was required to move forward with the clearing. To date the City does not have a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement to authorize the work in those areas (Comment 3).

In 2019, the Wildlife Agencies and OCTA met with the City several times to discuss their outstanding mitigation obligations to OCTA and ACOE (OCTA 2018). These issues remain unresolved (Comment 4).

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CDFW offers the comments and recommendations below to assist the City in reaching the stated goals of the Plan update; namely, aligning the existing Plan with current biological assessments, land uses, and environmental regulations and policies, while adequately identifying and/or mitigating the Plan's significant, or potentially significant, direct and indirect impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources.

1. **Fly field Relocation.** CDFW strongly supports relocation of the model airplane fly field, as its continued operation in the vernal pool complex is in direct conflict with preservation and management of this important park feature. The goals of the Master Plan Update, as stated in the publicly available technical documents, cannot be achieved while private citizens continue take it upon themselves to grade and mow these sensitive habitats to maintain fly field runways on City property. Additionally, while these recreational activities have largely been considered passive, the degradation and improper maintenance of the pools is leading to a long-term reduction in vernal pool function and degradation.

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Not only would relocation of the model airplane fly field reduce habitat degradation and risk of unauthorized take of CESA candidate species, but it would also reduce the regulatory burden for the City. Based on current seasonal survey data, operation and maintenance of the fly field in its current location would likely require a CESA Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for western burrowing owl and Crotch's bumble bee. Western burrowing owl over-winters regularly on the Park's mesa, within proximity of the existing fly field. Mowing, grading, or any other maintenance of the fly field could cause unauthorized take of these species.

On October 15, 2024, the Fish and Game Commission published a Notice of Findings that designates western burrowing owl as a CESA candidate species. If the fly field is not relocated, no avoidance measures are implemented, and regular survey data is not collected, unauthorized take could occur. Furthermore, without Park enforcement, inadvertent attempts to flush western burrowing owl from the site may lead to indirect impacts to the species. Crotch's bumble bee has also been recently observed in Fairview Park (Endemic Environmental Services 2024). The California Fish and Game Commission accepted a petition to list Crotch's bumble bee as threatened or endangered under CESA, determining the listing, "may be warranted" and advancing the species to the candidacy stage of the CESA listing process. At the fly field's current location, its operations and ongoing maintenance will substantially modify habitat and potentially reduce or impair the viability of future populations of bees. The Project may also reduce the number and range of the species without considering the likelihood that special status species on adjacent and nearby natural lands, such as Talbert Regional Park or Randall Preserve, may rely upon the habitat that occurs on the proposed Project site.

Finally, there is scientific evidence to support that the fly field activities lead to harassment of sensitive avian species, including raptors. Behavioral responses to model aircraft disturbances add to the daily energy expenditure of birds. When birds are disturbed, they can react with altered behaviors, such as agitation or flushing. Also, a bird may exhibit no outward signs of distress but experience an elevated heart rate (Ellenberg, Mattern and Seddon 2013), increased oxygen consumption, and change in metabolic rate, thus disrupting the bird's energy budget (Kempf and Hüppop 1998). Even outside breeding season, such disturbances can have a high impact to the individual bird as well as to the population. During the non-breeding season birds need to forage as much as possible to build up fat stores for migration, upcoming breeding activity, or harsh winter conditions (Kempf and Hüppop 1998). Birds that rely on Fairview Park for food and shelter could temporarily abandon these habitats during fly field use, leading to a loss of critical resources during key times, such as during migration or overwintering periods. This disruption can have significant consequences for their overall health, survival, and reproductive success. Depending on a species' breeding cycle, disturbances can have varying results (Ellenberg, Mattern and Seddon 2013). For fly field activities that occur at the beginning of nesting season, birds may choose not to nest in the area at all.

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As southern California's rare coastal open spaces are important stopovers for annual migration, model aircraft disturbances in those areas will affect many birds. Migratory birds rely on specific cues, including environmental factors such as light, temperature, and quiet, to guide their journeys. The presence of even lower-decibel noise and physical disturbances from fly field can interfere with these cues, potentially delaying or disrupting migration. This disruption could affect the birds' ability to arrive at their destination on time, impacting their survival and reproductive success (Schummer and Eddleman 2003). It can also interfere with the birds' flight paths, leading to potential collisions or forced changes in migration patterns. Noise and physical presence of model aircraft also affect the landscape and vegetation used by birds for cover and nesting. This is particularly concerning considering the known grading and mowing activities associated with the fly field maintenance.

2. **Enforcement.** To meet the stated goals of the Master Plan Update, CDFW strongly recommends that the Update include a discussion regarding the necessity for Park enforcement of adopted policy. Park enforcement is necessary to ensure the City complies with Fish and Game Code, as well as conditions as described in any forthcoming CDFW-issued permits (e.g., CESA ITP or LSAA). Without enforcement, continued habitat degradation through off-trail activity is likely, and unauthorized take under CESA is possible. We strongly recommend the City includes line-item funding for this purpose in its annual budget.
3. **Permitting Obligations.** The Fairview Park Master Plan Update should address in specific terms how and when it will meet its prior and ongoing wetland permitting obligations. CDFW has been engaging with the City since 2018, when CDFW was contacted regarding vegetation clearing in the artificial pond complex. Five years later in 2023, the City submitted a notification for routine maintenance in and around the ponds (EPIMS-ORA-38510-R5). On July 3, 2024, CDFW deemed that notification incomplete. To date, the City has not responded to CDFW regarding the outstanding items in our Notification Incomplete letter. It can only be assumed that, despite our efforts to negotiate in good faith with the City regarding wetland permitting obligations, seven years' worth of unauthorized impacts are likely to have occurred to areas subject to Fish and Game Code Section 1602. A Master Plan Update would not be complete without addressing the outstanding Routine Maintenance Agreement notification and any other one-time projects in the Park; this includes how they will be completed, funded, when, and by whom.

Given the City continues to disregard our requests for compliance, CDFW is within our rights to issue a Notice of Violation associated with the ongoing unauthorized impacts. FGC Section 1602 requires an entity to submit a written Lake and Streambed Alteration Notification to CDFW before: 1) substantially diverting or obstructing the natural flow of a river, stream, or lake; 2) substantially changing the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake; 3) using any material from the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake; and/or 4) depositing or disposing of debris, waste, material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into a river, stream, or lake. Hence, any entity who engages in an activity

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subject to FGC Section 1602 without first notifying CDFW violates Section 1602. However, we continue to assert that it is in the best interest of the wetland resources, the City, and CDFW to issue an LSAA to authorize the impacts, if possible.

CDFW is available to meet regarding wetland permitting issues at the City's earliest convenience.

4. **Mitigation Obligations.** It is CDFW's understanding that restoration efforts associated with the Fairview Park Mesa, for which the City applied for a Restoration Management Plan (RMP) under CDFW's Cutting the Green Tape Program, were approved at the City Council meeting held on September 16, 2025. This restoration is aligned with the stated goals of the Master Plan Update and would fulfil the City's outstanding OCTA mitigation obligations. The draft restoration plan and the proposed CEQA addendum, prepared by the City, provide a sufficient level of detail regarding the work which will be authorized by the RMP, such that a contract can be bid in the absence of an issued permit.

In 2010, the City nominated the subject 23-acre Fairview Park Restoration Project (Restoration) for funding consideration to the OCTA. The Wildlife Agencies supported the recommendation for OCTA to fund the Restoration within Fairview Park. This Restoration was planned to be integrated into the OCTA Measure 2 (M2) NCCP/HCP as it has high potential to support similar vegetation communities to mitigate for identified M2 freeway construction activities; restores sensitive species listed under the California Natural Diversity Database; and should result in ecological benefits to the NCCP/HCP Covered Species. Once the Restoration is completed and approved by the Wildlife Agencies, OCTA will be able to use the restored habitat for mitigation as part of the OCTA M2 NCCP/HCP. The City agreed to ensure the long-term conservation of the natural resources at Fairview Park through verification of a conservation easement or other approved conservation instrument.

Below are the outstanding concerns pertaining to the Restoration that we have communicated to the City during meetings and phone calls over the past several years:

- a. Failure to restore the agreed upon habitat restoration acreage and implement a solution to resolve this shortcoming;
- b. Lack of documentation to demonstrate that adjacent mitigation for other projects does not overlap with the Project;
- c. Lack of progress on developing and recording a conservation easement or other approved conservation instrument over the entire project area; and,
- d. Lack of Lake and Streambed Alteration Notification for one-time work and ongoing maintenance of the Fairview Park ponds subject to Fish and Game Code section 1600 *et seq.*

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CDFW is committed to assisting the City in fulfilling its outstanding obligations. We look forward to working with the City to provide a complete RMP application package so that issuance of the RMP can move forward.

CONCLUSION

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the technical documents associated with the Master Plan Update to advise the City of Costa Mesa in identifying and mitigating the Updates' impacts on biological resources. Questions regarding this letter or further coordination should be directed to Jennifer Turner³, Senior Environmental Scientist, Supervisor.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

AD7D070BCB66466...
Glen M. Lubcke
Environmental Program Manager
South Coast Region

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Sensitive Species at Fairview Park

ec: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jennifer Turner, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)
Cindy Hailey, Staff Services Analyst

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Attachment A: Sensitive Species at Fairview Park

Latin name Common name	Fed.	Global/ State	CNPS	Habitat/Regional Status	Potential to Occur in Fairview Park
Plants					
<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i> Chaparral Sand-Verbena	—	G5T2/S2	1B.1	Open sandy soils in alluvial washes, chaparral, and coastal sage scrub. Mainly in Riverside and San Diego Counties. Last extant Orange County population is at Fairview Park.	Possibly Extirpated. Small numbers found in northern lowlands in recent years; not detected in 2023, possibly due to brush clearance in area.
<i>Atriplex coulteri</i> Coulter's Saltbush	—	G3/S1S2	1B.2	Clay soils on bluffs, mesas and open coastal areas. San Luis Obispo County south.	Moderate. Occurs within 5- 10 miles of park.
<i>Atriplex pacifica</i> South Coast Saltscale	—	G4/S2	1B.2	Clay soils on bluffs, mesas and open coastal areas. Santa Barbara County south.	Moderate. Historically occurred within 5-10 miles of park.
<i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i>davidsonii</i> Davidson's Saltscale	—	G5T1/S1	1B.2	Coastal cliff faces and bluffs. Santa Barbara County south to Orange County.	Moderate. Historical records within 5-10 miles of park.
<i>Calystegia sepium</i> ssp. <i>binghamiae</i> Santa Barbara Morning- Glory	—	G5TXQ/SX	1A	Coastal saltmarshes and stream banks. Localized populations in western Central Valley and southern California.	None. Name misapplied erroneously to plants in Orange County.
<i>Camissoniopsis lewisii</i> Lewis's Evening-Primrose	—	G4/S4	3	Sandy or clay soils on bluffs, mesas, and open coastal areas. San Luis Obispo County south.	Present. Scattered small populations along trail margins and other open areas.
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i> Southern Tarplant	—	G3T2/S2	1B.1	Disturbed ground in saltmarshes and coastal sage scrub. Santa Barbara County south.	Present. Occurs along disturbed margins of trails; numbers fluctuate from year to year; more abundant in the park before creation of ponds in the northern lowlands.

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<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i> var. <i>orcuttiana</i> Orcutt's Pincushion	—	G5T1/S1	1B.1	Coastal dunes, bluffs, and mesas. Ventura County south; mostly in San Diego County.	Low. Potentially suitable habitat present, but species not known to occur within 15 miles of the site.
<i>Dudleya multicaulis</i> Many-stemmed Dudleya	—	G2/S2	1B.2	Clay banks, slopes, and sandstone outcrops. Kern County south to northwestern San Diego County.	Moderate. Occurs within 5- 10 miles of the park.
<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>parishii</i> San Diego Button-Celery	E	E	1B.1	Vernal pools. Mainly in San Diego County; the only Orange County population is at Fairview Park.	Present. Found in Ponds 4a, 4b, 4c. Numbers have declined over time; in recent years, plants appear to have been intentionally removed.
<i>Hordeum intercedens</i> Vernal Barley	—	G3G4/S3S4	3.2	Grasslands and vernal pools. Santa Barbara County south; scattered populations in the Central Valley.	Present. Occurs in grasslands and vernal pools; numbers in 2023 greatly reduced from previous years, probably due to increasing competition from non-native species.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i> Mesa Horkelia	—	G4T1/S1	1B.1	Sheltered coastal chaparral. San Luis Obispo County south to northwestern San Diego County.	Low. Occurs within 5- 10 miles, but park lacks coastal chaparral habitat.
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i> Coulter's Goldfields	—	G4T2/S2	1B.1	Alkali soils and vernal pools. San Luis Obispo County south; scattered populations in the Central Valley.	Present. Pools 5 and 6 hold the County's largest population, with 100s to 1000s of plants; smaller numbers occur in a vernal wet half-pipe feature in the central mesa, adjacent to a large, disturbed area.
<i>Lycium californicum</i> California Boxthorn	—	G4/S4	4.2	Scrub habitats, mainly along the coast. Los Angeles County south.	Present. Occurs in coastal bluff scrub on the park's western slope.
<i>Microseris douglasii</i> ssp. <i>platycarpha</i> Small-flowered Microseris	—	G4T4/S4	4.2	Vernal pools and seasonally wet plains. Los Angeles County south; one record from southern Central Valley.	Present. Occurs in vernal pools and grasslands in the park on both sides of Placentia Avenue.

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<i>Myosurus minimus</i> ssp. <i>apus</i> Little Mousetail	—	G5T2Q/ S2	3.1	Alkali soils and vernal pools. Mainly in the Central Valley and western Riverside County; the only Orange County population is at Fairview Park.	Present. Occurs around the margins of Pool 1; very few plants recorded in 2023, apparently due to competition from non-native plants and trampling.
<i>Nama stenocarpa</i> Mud Nama	—	G4G5/ S1S2	2B.2	Vernal pools and seasonally wet plains. Los Angeles County south; one record from southern Central Valley.	Present. Occurs in deepest parts of Pool 1.
<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i> Gambel's Watercress	E	T	1B.1	Freshwater marshes, streams, and drainage areas. San Luis Obispo County south to Orange County.	Low. Potentially suitable habitat present, but no extant populations known in Orange County.
<i>Navarretia prostrata</i> Prostrate Vernal Pool Navarretia	—	G2/S2	1B.2	Seasonally wet alkali soil and vernal pools. Central Valley; coastal slope from Alameda County south; one of two Orange County populations is at Fairview Park.	Present. Occurs around the margins of Pool 1, but fewer plants than expected were recorded in 2023, apparently due to competition from non-native plants and trampling.
<i>Orcuttia californica</i> California Orcutt Grass	E	E	1B.1	Vernal pools. Ventura County south; scattered populations in the Central Valley; the only Orange County population is at Fairview Park.	Present. Found in Pool 4a; several dozen plants emerged in 2023 after exceptional rains.
<i>Pentachaeta aurea</i> ssp. <i>alleni</i> Allen's Daisy	—	G4T1/S1	4.3	Clay grasslands and openings in coastal sage scrub. Known from San Joaquin Hills and Santa Ana Mountains of Orange County.	Low. Occurs within 5-10 miles of the park, but suitable habitat may not be present.
Saltspring Checkerbloom <i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i>	—	G4/S2	2B.2	Alkali springs and marshes. Ventura County south.	Low. Potentially suitable habitat present, but species not known to occur within 15 miles of park.
Invertebrates					
San Diego Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>	E	G2/S1		Vernal pools and other ephemeral wetlands. Orange County south.	Present. Documented in seasonal pools on both sides of Placentia Avenue.

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Riverside Fairy Shrimp <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	E	G1G2/ S2		Vernal pools and other ephemeral wetlands. Ventura County south.	Present. Documented in seasonal pools on west side of Placentia Avenue.
<i>Bombas crotchii</i> Crotch's Bumble Bee	—	C/S1S2	—	Many habitats. California and northwestern Baja California; most records from southern California.	Present. Uses native and non-native flowering habitats in the park (Endemic Environmental Services 2024). Nests in burrows, tufts of vegetation, cavities, rock piles, etc.
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> Monarch	C	G4T1T2 Q/S2	—	Breeds in areas with milkweed from Mendocino County south. In southern California, overwinters mainly in large stands of eucalyptus near the coast.	Present. Occurs as a transient; not known to breed or overwinter in the park.
<i>Panoquina errans</i> Wandering Skipper	—	G4G5/ S2	—	Coastal salt marsh with the required food plant, salt grass (<i>Distichlis spicata</i>). Santa Barbara County south.	Present. James Bailey observed one in the northern lowlands, but scarcity of salt grass in the park may preclude the species from becoming established.
<i>Helminthoglypta traskii traskii</i> Trask Shoulderband	—	G1G2T1 /S2S3	—	Many habitats. Coastal slope from Ventura County south.	High. Likely occurs in the less disturbed parts of the park.
Amphibians					
<i>Spea hammondi</i> Western Spadefoot	PT	SSC	—	Seasonal pools with nearby uplands suitable for aestivation. Shasta County south, excluding deserts.	Low. The species likely occurred at Fairview Park historically, because suitable habitat is present, but no records exist.
Reptiles					
<i>Actinemys pallida</i> Southwestern Pond Turtle	PT	SSC	—	Expansive natural areas that include permanent water and generally lack non-native turtles or exotic predators. Alameda County south, excluding deserts.	Present. One reported in Pond D in the northern lowlands (Endemic Environmental 2021).
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> Coast Horned Lizard	—	SSC	—	Expansive natural areas with sandy openings and native harvester ants. Shasta County south, excluding deserts.	Low. Unlikely to occur due to degradation and fragmentation of habitat, including presence of

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					Argentine ants.
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> Coastal Whiptail	—	SSC	—	Widespread, in various habitats. Coastal slope from Santa Barbara County south.	Present. One reported at base of the park's western slope (Dudek 2003).
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i> Southern California Legless Lizard	—	SSC	—	Various habitats with sandy soil or deep leaf-litter. Coastal slope from Ventura and Kern Counties south.	Moderate. May occur in areas with loose soils.
<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i> California Glossy Snake	—	SSC	—	Widespread, but uncommon, in habitats with loose soil. Coastal slope from Contra Costa County south.	Moderate. May occur in areas with loose soils.
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgultea</i> Coast Patch-nosed Snake	—	SSC	—	Brushy and rocky habitats. Coastal slope from San Luis Obispo County south.	Low. Unlikely to occur due to degradation and fragmentation of habitat.
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> Two-striped Garter Snake	—	SSC	—	Widespread in the region, in and around perennial water.	Moderate. May occur in and around perennial water.
<i>Crotalus ruber</i> Red Diamond Rattlesnake	—	SSC	—	Various rocky habitats. Coastal slope from Los Angeles County south.	Low. Along the coast, not recorded west of the San Joaquin Hills. Records from Seal Beach area reportedly involve released animal(s).
Birds					
<i>Aythya americana</i> Redhead	—	SSC	—	Nests in various freshwater habitats; winters on lakes and bays. Range includes most of North America.	Present. A few have been recorded during winter. Some potential exists for nesting in the northern lowland ponds.
<i>Plegadis chihi</i> White-faced Ibis	—	G5/S3S4	—	Various freshwater habitats. Breeding range includes most of western North America; winters south to Central America.	Present. Up to several dozen non-breeders occur in the park in fall, winter, spring; small numbers have been recorded breeding in the northern lowland ponds.
<i>Sternula antillarum browni</i> California Least Tern	E	E	—	Breeds on sandy beaches, and in similar open coastal habitats, from Solano County south. Winters in western Mexico.	Present. Not expected to nest in the park, but local breeders occasionally forage in ponds in the northern

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					lowlands.
<i>Nannopterum auritum</i> Double-crested Cormorant	—	G5/S2	—	Freshwater and nearshore marine environments across most of North America. Nests in trees and snags near water.	Present. Non-breeders regularly forage in ponds in the northern lowlands. Could nest there as trees around the ponds mature.
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> Least Bittern	—	SSC	—	Resident of freshwater marshes with extensive emergent vegetation across large parts of North and South America.	Present. Small number of records from ponds in the northern lowlands; may nest in tules.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> White-tailed Kite	—	FP	—	Nests in trees within expansive open space areas; more widespread during migration and winter. Forages in rangelands and marshy areas. Range includes large parts of North and South America.	Present. Forages regularly in the park. Could potentially nest in riparian woodlands.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> Golden Eagle	—	FP	—	Extensive open areas across a cosmopolitan range; nests on cliffs and in tall trees away from settlements. In Orange County, occurs mainly in the foothills and mountains.	Low. Transients could occur rarely.
<i>Circus hudsonius</i> Northern Harrier	—	SSC	—	Nests on the ground in expansive open space areas; more widespread during migration and winter. Range includes most of North America.	Present. Small numbers regularly forage in the park's grassland and scrub habitats in fall, winter, and spring. Could possibly nest in the local area.
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> Bald Eagle	—	E	—	Nests in tall trees, usually near water; forages in lakes, rivers, and marine environments. Range includes most of North America.	Present. Occurs rarely as a transient.
<i>Buteo regalis</i> Ferruginous Hawk	—	G4/S3S4	—	Breeds in central North America and winters mainly in expansive rangelands and agricultural areas to the south.	Present. Occurs rarely as a transient.

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<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's Hawk	—	G5/S4	—	Breeds in Canada and western North America and winters from western Mexico to southern South America.	Present. Occurs rarely as a transient.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> Burrowing Owl	—	C/SSC	—	Occurs across large parts of North America; nesting population west of the deserts nearly extirpated. Rare winter visitor in coastal southern California.	Present. Up to three often winter in Fairview Park, using open habitats on either side of Placentia Avenue. Not known to nest in the park.
<i>Asio flammeus</i> Short-eared Owl	—	SSC	—	Extensive open areas across a cosmopolitan range; nests in northern North America. Very rare fall/winter visitor across most of southern California.	Present. Occurs rarely as a transient.
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	E	E	—	Formerly a widespread breeder in southern California but now highly localized in areas of extensive riparian woodlands. Uncommon during migration.	Low (as a breeder). Habitat is marginal; no recent nesting records from Orange County. Occurs regularly, but uncommonly, as a transient.
<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i> Vermilion Flycatcher	—	SSC	—	Open country with trees. Formerly nested in the desert Southwest and into Mexico; now nests sparingly across southern California, including Orange County.	Present. Now apparently resident in small numbers; courtship behavior by a pair on 3/25/25.
<i>Vireo bellii bellii</i> Least Bell's Vireo	E	E	—	Nests uncommonly in riparian scrub and woodlands from Ventura County south; winters in western Mexico.	Present. Small numbers nest in riparian habitats in Fairview Park and elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> Loggerhead Shrike	—	SSC	—	Occurs in open habitats across most of North America; nesting population on coastal slope of southern California nearly extirpated. Rare winter visitor in coastal southern California.	Present. Occurs rarely in fall and winter; does not nest.
<i>Poliioptila californica californica</i> Coastal California Gnatcatcher	T	SSC	—	Resident of coastal sage scrub habitat, favoring shallow slopes and elevations below 1,500 feet; Ventura County south.	Present. Small numbers resident in scrub habitats in Fairview Park and elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River.

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<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i> Cactus Wren, coastal populations	—	SSC	—	Rare and declining resident of cactus scrub habitat on the coastal slope from Ventura County south.	Extirpated. Small numbers formerly resident along the western bluff and elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River have died out in recent years.
<i>Cistothorus palustris clarkae</i> Clark's Marsh Wren	—	SSC	—	Resident of marshes with extensive emergent vegetation; Los Angeles County to San Diego County.	High. A few late spring and summer records of Marsh Wren in the lowland ponds likely refer to <i>C. p. clarkae</i> , the local breeder. Records of Marsh Wren in fall and winter may involve migrant subspecies from elsewhere.
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> Grasshopper Sparrow	—	SSC	—	Nests in expansive grasslands and rangelands across most of North America. In Orange County, breeds mainly in the San Joaquin Hills and Lomas de Santiago; occurs rarely in fall and winter.	Low (as a breeder). Occurs rarely as a transient or winter visitor. Nesting unlikely, but possible, east of Placentia Avenue.
<i>Poocetes gramineus affinis</i> Oregon Vesper Sparrow	—	SSC	—	Breeds in the Pacific Northwest and winters mainly in expansive open areas on the coastal slope of California.	High. Vesper Sparrows of unknown subspecies recorded in the park; <i>P. g. affinis</i> likely to occur occasionally in fall and winter.
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis rostratus</i> Large-billed Savannah Sparrow	—	SSC	—	Breeds in the northern Gulf of California; winters on the coast of southern California.	Present. Occurs rarely in fall and winter.
<i>Icteria virens</i> Yellow-breasted Chat	—	SSC	—	Nests uncommonly and locally in riparian woodlands with dense tangles across most of North America.	Present. Small numbers nest in riparian habitats in Fairview Park and elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River.
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> Tricolored Blackbird	—	T	—	Nests in wetlands near expansive grasslands and rangelands required for foraging, mainly in California. Winters in rangelands and parks.	Low (as a breeder). Occurs rarely as a transient or winter visitor. Nesting unlikely, but possible.

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<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> Yellow-headed Blackbird	—	SSC	—	Nests in wetlands with tall emergent vegetation across much of central and western North America. Winters mainly in Mexico.	Low (as a breeder). Occurs rarely as a transient or winter visitor. Nesting unlikely, but possible.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> Yellow Warbler	—	SSC	—	Nests in woodlands across most of North America. Winters mainly from Mexico to South America.	Present. Small numbers nest in riparian habitats in Fairview Park and elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River.
Mammals					
<i>Microtus californicus stephensi</i> South Coast Marsh Vole	—	SSC	—	Wetland communities and associated grasslands along the coast from southern Ventura County to northern Orange County (Sunset Beach).	None. Fairview Park lies seven miles southeast of the described range of this taxon; voles along the Santa Ana River should be <i>M. C. sanctidiegi</i> (Hall 1981).
<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i> Pacific Pocket Mouse	E	SSC	—	Shrublands, coastal dunes, coastal sage scrub, and river alluvium habitats with loose, sandy soil. Coastal areas from Los Angeles County to San Diego County.	Low. Not recorded in Fairview Park or elsewhere along the Santa Ana River but may have occurred there historically. Very little sandy habitat potentially suitable for this species remains in the northern lowlands.
<i>Sorex ornatus salicornicus</i> Southern California Salt Marsh Shrew	—	SSC	—	Coastal salt marshes, and nearby freshwater wetlands, from Ventura County to Orange County.	Low. Fairview Park lacks the coastal salt marsh habitat with which this species is most closely associated.
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego Desert Woodrat	—	SSC	—	Widespread in scrub habitats, especially those with cactus, but sensitive to habitat fragmentation. Coastal slope from Monterey County south.	Moderate. Suitable cactus scrub occurs in the park, but this species may not be present due to fragmentation of the habitat.
<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i> San Diego Black-tailed Jackrabbit	—	SSC	—	Occurs in various open settings, usually in expansive open space areas, from Santa Barbara County south.	Extirpated. Formerly recorded in the park (Hamilton 1995) and elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River, but no recent observations known.

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<i>Choeronycteris mexicana</i> Mexican Long-tongued Bat	—	SSC	—	Ventura County south to Central America, often in coastal areas. Roosts in caves, crevices, under tree roots, and in man-made structures. Forages on nectar and pollen of agaves.	Low. Fairview Park generally lacks suitable roosting habitat and the agaves associated with this species.
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> Western Mastiff Bat	—	SSC	—	Roosts in crevices in cliffs and in tall buildings; feeds aerially. Widely distributed in California and Desert Southwest.	Low. The species may occasionally fly over the site while foraging, but suitable roosting is absent.
<i>Lasiurus frantzii</i> Western Red Bat	—	SSC	—	Roosts in foliage of many types of trees; feeds over a wide variety of habitats, often close to water in coastal lowlands. Widespread from western North America south to northern South America.	High. Riparian woodlands in the park appear suitable for roosting, and the park contains ample water and suitable foraging habitat.
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i> Western Yellow Bat	—	SSC	—	Roosts primarily or entirely in palms; often forages over water but also grasslands and scrub habitats. Southwestern United States south to Central America.	Moderate. Fairview Park lacks the palm trees most closely associated with this species, but Western Yellow Bats could roost in riparian woodlands and/or forage in the park.
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> Pallid Bat	—	SSC	—	Widespread in western North America, in chaparral and similar habitats. Forages on the ground and in vegetation. Roosts in rock crevices and under tree bark.	Low. Fairview Park lacks extensive rocky areas or oak woodlands that would provide suitable roosting habitat, but Pallid Bats from other areas could potentially forage in the park.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American Badger	—	SSC	—	Occurs in expansive open space areas across most of western and central North America. In Orange County, recent records from the mountains and foothills.	Low. American Badgers have not been recorded at Fairview Park or elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River. It is likely that the natural habitat is too reduced and fragmented to support a population.

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Attachment B

USFWS Letter



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, California 92008



In Reply Refer To:
FWS-OR-13B0443-14TA0229

JUL 24 2014

Mr. Baltazar Mejia
Senior Engineer, Public Services Department
City of Costa Mesa
77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, California 92626

Subject: Restoration, Management, and Protection of Vernal Pools within Fairview Park, City of Costa Mesa, Orange County, California

Dear Mr. Mejia:

This letter has been prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to provide the City of Costa Mesa (City) with information on the actions needed to restore, protect, and manage vernal pool habitat and associated species within the City at Fairview Park, Orange County, California. This information is provided in response to: (1) the installation of a path in Fairview Park that was routed within and adjacent to vernal pools occupied by the federally endangered San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), (2) your written request received September 4, 2013, for our review of restoration alternatives for vernal pools impacted by the installation of the path (LSA 2013), and (3) recommendations provided by Finium Environmental (2013) following removal of the path. Although the City's primary focus is on restoration of vernal pools impacted by the path, this letter includes actions the Service considers necessary to protect all vernal pool habitat and associated species within Fairview Park. This letter addresses future actions the City may take; it does not address or resolve issues relating to past actions, including the path construction, or the "take"¹ of listed species associated with those past actions. This letter does not constitute authorization for future "take" of listed species.

Background

San Diego fairy shrimp were first identified in Fairview Park in 1994 (Michael Brandman Associates 1995), 3 years prior to the Federal listing of the species (62 FR 4933). Seven vernal pool basins (numbered 1 through 7) and a "vernal marsh" were delineated in 1995 (Michael Brandman and Associates 1995) (Figure 1). San Diego fairy shrimp have since been identified in all but Basin 7

¹ Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act and associated regulations prohibit the take of endangered and threatened species without special exemption. Take is defined as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Harm is further defined by the Fish and Wildlife Service to include significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing essential behavior patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

(City 2008, Appendix C, Simovich 2005). Three additional vernal pools were observed in Fairview Park, east of Placentia Avenue in 2002 (Glenn Lukos 2002 in LSA 2007). To our knowledge, no surveys for fairy shrimp have been completed in these pools.

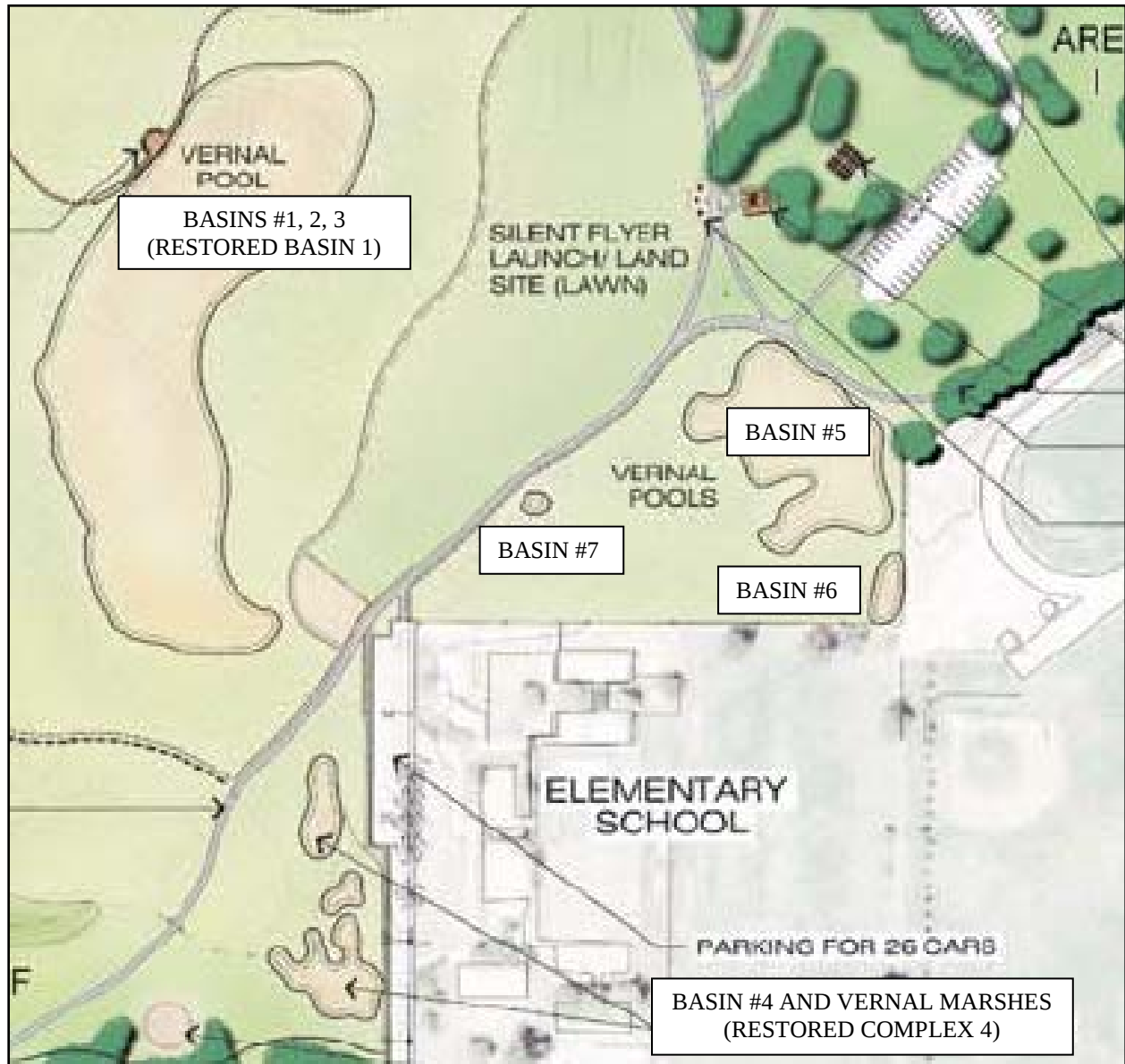


Figure 1. Location of vernal pool basins at Fairview Park.

Source: Michael Brandman Associated (1995) and Fairview Master Plan (November 2002 revision). Pool basins relabeled for clarity.

Restoration projects to improve the quality of habitat for San Diego fairy shrimp and sensitive plant species were completed in Fairview Park as mitigation for impacts to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jurisdictional waters of the United States (Michael Brandman Associates 2002; Glenn Lukos Associates 2006). As a result of these projects, Basins 1, 2, and 3 were combined (Restored Basin 1), and Basin 4 and the “vernal marsh” were restored into a vernal pool complex (Restored Complex 4).

In above average rainfall years, it is likely that the watersheds of Restored Basin 1 and Restored Complex 4 are connected across the path that artificially separates the watersheds (Figure 2). It is also likely that Basins 5, 6, and 7 are part of a vernal pool complex with a shared hydrological connection during high rainfall years. Monitoring during previous restoration efforts identified the connection between Basins 5 and 6 (Michael Brandman Associates 2002), and the boundary between the watersheds of Basin 5 and 7 was coincident with a row of logs that have since been removed (Finium Environmental 2013).



Figure 2. Vernal pools in Fairview Park during an above average rainfall year (facing south). Paths bisect the basins in several locations, and the fencing is in the water.

Photo source: <http://www.savefairviewpark.org/documents/fpcac-pack-5-29-13.zip>. Labels added.

Fairview Park supports one of the last coastal terrace vernal pools complexes in Orange County (Service 2007). Conservation and management of the San Diego fairy shrimp and its habitat in Fairview Park and other vernal pool complexes in the Los Angeles Basin-Orange Management Area is one of the criteria identified for recovery of the San Diego fairy shrimp in the Service's Recovery Plan for Vernal Pools of Southern California (Service 1998). Vernal pools in Fairview Park also support several plant species that are locally rare (City 2008; Chung 2010).

In the past, the City has supported restoration of the vernal pools and other sensitive habitat in Fairview Park, and the Fairview Park Master Plan (City 2008) includes a commitment that “the pools and basins [in Fairview Park] are to be retained, restored, and protected.” Specific actions in the plan anticipated to benefit the San Diego fairy shrimp include, but are not limited to: (1) restoration of vernal pool habitat; (2) development of a formalized path system to avoid sensitive areas to the extent feasible; (3) installation of educational signage and observation platforms in the vernal pool restoration area; (4) installation of fencing to protect the vernal pools; and (5) cessation of mowing within the vernal pools or, if necessary, mowing only late in the season after annual forbs and grasses have set seed.

We agree that the general measures identified in the Master Plan are appropriate to maintain the vernal pools. We are concerned, however, that some measures have not been implemented and others have been implemented in ways that may have impacted the San Diego fairy shrimp. More specific details are needed to ensure that the San Diego fairy shrimp and its habitat are protected. Activities that may have impacted or have the potential to impact the San Diego fairy shrimp and its habitat at Fairview Park include the following:

Installation of paths and parking areas: A path was installed in late 2013 that may have resulted in direct and indirect impacts to San Diego fairy shrimp, as described in our letter, dated November 14, 2013 (13B0443-14TA0039). While the path has been removed, grading associated with path installation altered the hydrology of the watershed supporting Basins 5 and 6 so that water may not pond to the extent it did historically (Finium Environmental 2013). As a result, fairy shrimp cysts may not hatch to their historical capacities until changes in topography are corrected (Finium Environmental 2013). The portion of the watershed supporting Basin 7 (including the basin area) has been used as a temporary parking area, and logs were placed in the watershed to delineate the parking boundary. A portion of the watershed of Restored Complex 4 was impacted by the installation of permanent parking along Canyon Drive. Grading for the parking area changed the topography so that water now ponds in the parking area (Figure 2).

Improvements to Estancia High School Stadium: The installation of fencing and a field events area impacted a significant portion of the watershed area supporting Basin 6 and altered the hydrology by re-grading the site. The changes in topography may limit the potential for the City to restore the basin within the boundaries of Fairview Park.

Pedestrians, dogs, and bicycles: While substantial resources have been focused on restoring and protecting Restored Basin 1, the unfenced northern end has informal paths leading directly into the basin and allowing bicycle access. Bicycle tracks and paths encroach within the northern end of the basin. Because the fencing was installed only around the restored basin area, the paths leading to the boardwalk are within the watershed of the basin. In January 2011 (an above average rainfall year), it was apparent that several paths and the fence are located in the basin (Figure 2). Restored Complex 4 has multiple paths running through it and shows signs of frequent use by dogs.

Operation of motorized vehicles during the wet season: In Restored Complex 4, deep tire tracks are evident due to motorized vehicle encroachment when the basins were inundated. The deep tracks may have altered the hydrology of the basins by causing water to pool first in the tracks, potentially concentrating fairy shrimp cysts within smaller portions of each basin.

Installation of landscaping and associated irrigation systems: Ornamental landscaping and turf areas border Basins 5 and 6 to the north, south, and east. Irrigation systems installed to support the landscaping are contributing to conversion of the vegetation communities within the watershed where water is now available throughout the year. The perennial water source is supporting wetland species such as mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), and sedges (*Cyperus* sp.) (Finium Environmental 2013). The conversion of the vernal pool habitat to wetland can result in the permanent loss of habitat for San Diego fairy shrimp.

Mowing and pesticide and herbicide application: We have little information regarding the current timing and location of mowing activities or the application of pesticides and herbicides, but these activities have the potential to impact San Diego fairy shrimp and their habitat. Mowing equipment can crush cysts, spread invasive plant species, and cause ruts if mowing is conducted when the ground is damp. Pesticides and herbicides could potentially harm San Diego fairy shrimp cysts and adults.

Restoration, protection, and management of vernal pools in Fairview Park

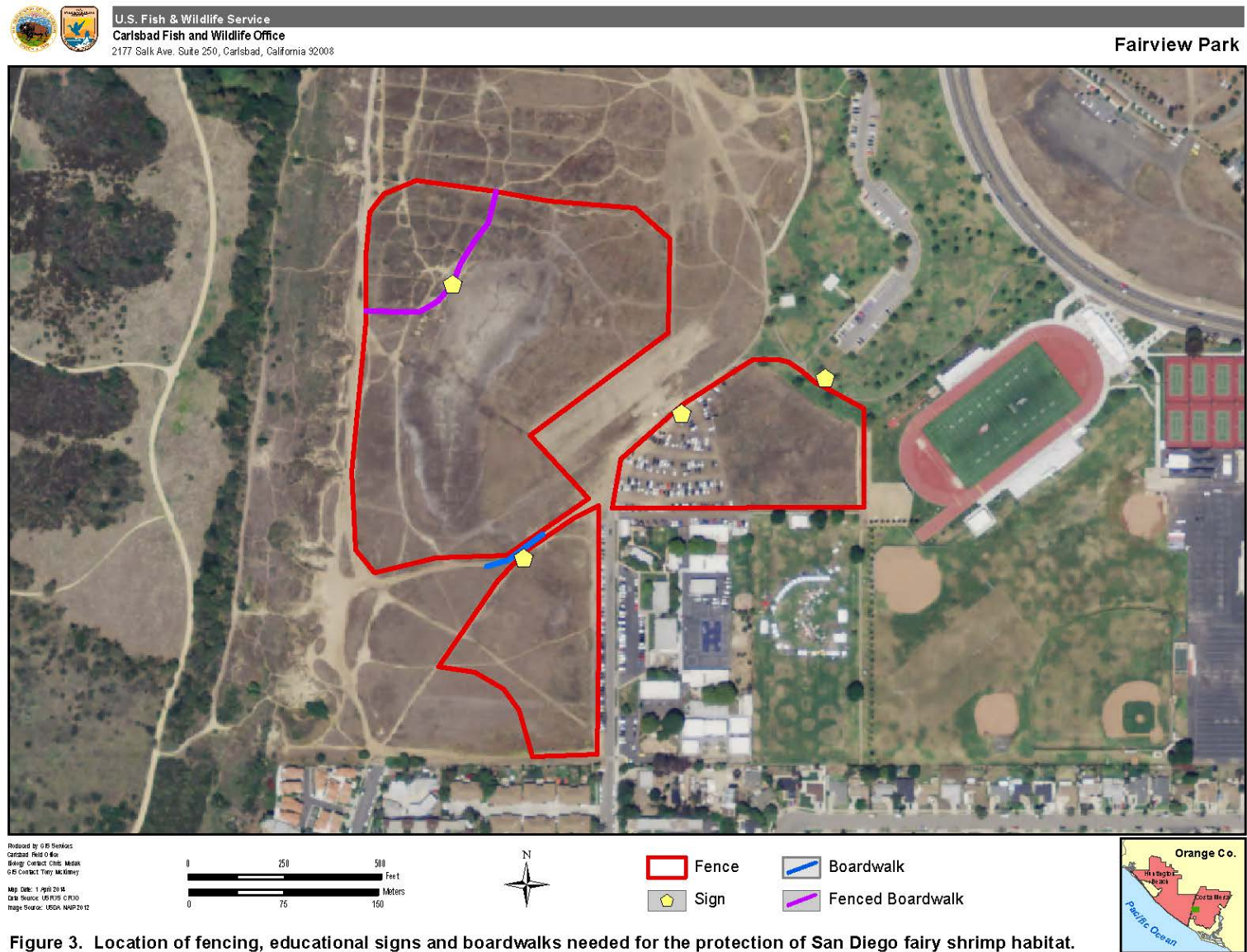
While accommodating public uses within Fairview Park, it is the City's responsibility to ensure that its actions comply with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). In consideration of the degraded condition and management needs of the vernal pool habitat within Fairview Park, implementation by the City of the following measures would help ensure that the San Diego fairy shrimp population within the coastal terrace vernal pools at Fairview Park remains viable. Some of these restoration actions can be implemented immediately without further authorization under the Act, but others have the potential to result in take of listed species for which additional authorization under the Act would be required. To ensure that the City's future actions are appropriately authorized under the Act, we recommend that the City coordinate closely with our office to ensure that any incidental take associated with these actions is appropriately exempted under the Act. As indicated above, this letter does not exempt future take of listed species.

The following measures apply to Restored Basin 1, Restored Complex 4, and the vernal pool complex consisting of Basins 5, 6, and 7.

1. Watershed Restoration – Prepare and implement a restoration plan to address damages to the hydrological function of the vernal pool watersheds. The plan should be prepared by a biologist with a minimum of 5 years of experience restoring vernal pools in southern California and should identify actions that are necessary to restore hydrological function to the vernal pools. The plan should be reviewed and approved by the Service prior to implementation. Measures that should be included in the restoration plan include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Corrections to the watershed topography, as necessary, to ensure the basins will pond for a sufficient duration during an average rainfall year to support the life history of the San Diego fairy shrimp.
 - b. Management of the irrigation systems to prevent runoff from entering the watershed of Basins 5, 6, and 7. The City should coordinate with Newport-Mesa Unified School

District to ensure irrigation supporting landscaping at Estancia High School Stadium does not enter Fairview Park. We are available to assist the City with this coordination, as necessary.

- c. Removal of landscaping, turf, and non-vernal pool associated wetland plants (e.g., mulefat, curly dock) that were supported by irrigation systems in the watersheds and replacement with appropriate native vegetation.
 - d. Removal of non-native plant species (e.g., annual grasslands and mustards) if needed to re-establish hydrological function.
 - e. Restoration of native vegetation around the vernal pool basins and along informal and unauthorized paths, as appropriate (e.g., outside the basin area).
 - f. Removal of trash or other debris from the vernal pool watershed.
2. Permanent Protection – Record a conservation easement over the vernal pool basins and watersheds. Consistent with the Fairview Park Master Plan, the conservation easement should provide for the protection of the San Diego fairy shrimp and its habitat while allowing appropriate public access and enjoyment of the park.
 3. Fencing and Paths – The Service generally recommends fencing a sufficiently large habitat buffer (i.e., at least 100 feet from the outer edge of the watershed in most cases) to reduce encroachment by pedestrians and off-road vehicles, trash accumulation and dumping, and other indirect effects of development (Service 2008). A large buffer is necessary to account for natural changes in the basin dimensions over time in response to varying hydrological conditions and to prevent alterations to the watershed that could impact the duration and extent of ponding. To ensure the watersheds in Fairview Park are protected, the fencing should limit entry to the majority of the watershed area. Pets should be kept on leash in the park to prevent entry into fenced areas. Formal paths that will pass through the watershed of vernal pools should be placed on boardwalks, above the water surface elevation of the basins, to minimize changes in hydrology and the introduction of contaminants into the basins. Suggested locations for fencing are provided for discussion purposes (Figure 3).
 4. Public Education – The Service would like to partner with the City to develop educational materials and signs that can highlight the importance of biological resources in Fairview Park. The preservation of remaining coastal terrace pools in the City of Costa Mesa should be considered a source of pride for the City and its citizens. Educational signs, located along primary access routes (e.g., Figure 3), can help to enhance and contribute to the public's use and enjoyment of the vernal pool area. A "nature path" with stopping points where users can learn more about vernal pools and the plants and animals they support can highlight species that are not readily seen and can maintain a public awareness of the rarity of these biological resources for generations to come.



5. Trash – Provide trash receptacles and pet waste stations in convenient locations to minimize the potential for trash to be discarded in the vernal pool watersheds.
6. Mowing, Weed Control, and Pesticide Use – Mowing should be conducted outside the limits of the vernal pool basins to avoid direct impacts to San Diego fairy shrimp. In addition, we recommend that mowing be restricted within approximately 50 feet of the basin area to avoid restored habitat and sensitive plant species surrounding the basin area. The mowing limits should be periodically reevaluated to compensate for changes in the size and location of the basin area and corresponding zone of sensitive plant species. Please coordinate with the Service regarding use of pesticides and herbicides within the vernal pool watersheds to ensure chemicals harmful to San Diego fairy shrimp are avoided.
7. Employee Education – Provide an on-site education program for current and new employees of the City that will have assigned duties in Fairview Park to review sensitive biological resource areas and the City's responsibilities for management of these areas.
8. Patrol – Include as part of regular patrol duties, inspection of the fencing surrounding the watersheds and reporting of any damage to the fences or signs of encroachment within the fenced boundary.
9. Biological Monitoring – Regular biological monitoring is necessary to determine the efficacy of management measures to preserve and protect the San Diego fairy shrimp. Biological monitoring should include:
 - a. Annual watershed inspection – A biologist who has experience with San Diego fairy shrimp and its habitat should prepare a brief summary of the status of the habitat and a list of any additional management actions needed to protect and/or restore damages to the habitat.
 - b. Surveys for fairy shrimp – The City should conduct periodic surveys once every 5 years when there is sufficient rainfall to document the status of the San Diego fairy shrimp in each of the pools in Fairview Park.
10. Adaptive Management – Review the effectiveness of management actions annually to determine if additional measures are needed to protect San Diego fairy shrimp from harm. Cable wire fencing is proposed in the Fairview Park Master Plan to protect the pool basins. If this type of fencing is not adequate to prevent the public from regularly entering the basin areas, additional fencing or a different type of fencing may be required. If the degradation of the pools has already impacted the viability of the San Diego fairy shrimp, additional inoculation of the pools with cysts may be necessary.

Three additional vernal pool areas, located east of Placentia Avenue, require additional surveys to determine if San Diego fairy shrimp and/or sensitive vernal plant species are present. We recommend the City delineate the watershed of the three pools in the near future and avoid impacts to the watershed areas until protocol surveys (Service 1996) can be completed. Positive survey results may require changes in management actions to address

San Diego fairy shrimp. The City should coordinate adaptive management with the Service prior to implementation.

11. Fairview Park Master Plan Update – Include in an update to the Fairview Park Master Plan specific and ongoing management actions that will be implemented to ensure high quality habitat for San Diego fairy shrimp is maintained and that the species is protected.

These are the measures that are needed to protect San Diego fairy shrimp and their habitat in Fairview Park and are not intended to offset the damage caused by path construction. Issues relating to take that may have been caused by path construction remain under investigation by the Service at this time and will be addressed separately in the future.

We look forward to meeting with the City to further refine the details and timing of restoration, protection, and management actions. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Christine Medak of this office at 760-431-9440, extension 298.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Goebel
Assistant Field Supervisor

cc:

Marilyn Fluharty, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Personal Communication

Chung, J. 2010. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, electronic mail received by C. Medak, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, April 16, 2010.

Attachment C

Launch Cable Photos



Launch Cable



Depressed Ground at End of Cable

From: [Ross Minion](#)
To: [PACS Comments](#); [FVPMP](#); [CITY CLERK](#); [CITY COUNCIL](#)
Subject: Fairview Park Master Plan Update DRAFT
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 11:54:41 AM

I am writing regarding my concerns with Fairview Park Master Plan Update DRAFT.

This updated draft plan removes huge amounts of vital recreation open space from the community. Trails are labeled as unauthorized, bike mounds and the fly field are to be removed and relocated, and fences will be constructed to keep residents out.

Some of the recommendations to dismantle and remove a coveted recreational space that has been utilized and loved for generations come from a letter from The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). That letter references several studies which supposedly support their “ban all use” approach to Fairview Park. For example, the letter references a journal article from 2003 by Schummer and Eddleman: *Effects of Disturbance on Activity and Energy Budgets of Migrating Waterbirds in South-Central Oklahoma*.

The CDFW letter states “The presence of even lower-decibel noise and physical disturbances from fly field can interfere with these cues, potentially delaying or disrupting migration. This disruption could affect the birds’ ability to arrive at their destination on time, impacting their survival and reproductive success (Schummer and Eddleman 2003).

The CDFW letter does not mention that the Schummer and Eddleman article was based on a National Wildlife Refuge that has 16,464 acres. They recorded 240 disturbances in 477.5 hours of observation throughout the 16,464 acres. They found that different species of birds were disturbed (or not) by different activities. The letter from the CDFW fails to mention Schummer and Eddleman’s conclusion, which is to considering the habits of the birds when scheduling seasonal recreation dates.

“Rates of disturbance differed between species and appeared to be correlated to foraging strategies, habitat requirements, and type of disturbance. Therefore, managers of public lands should consider habits and migration chronologies of waterbirds when setting seasonal recreation dates. Modifying recreation policy could reduce rates of disturbance to some waterbirds.”

If the CDFW’s concern about “the presence of even lower-decibel noise and physical disturbances from fly field” is genuinely cause for removal of the Fly Field and all recreational activities in that section of the park, then why have they not recommended the removal of the Waldorf School, which is only 300 feet from the Fly Field, or the Jim

Scott Stadium at Estancia High School at 600 feet away? Surely the cheering from a football game, or baseball game (only another 50 feet further) would also be disruptive.

There are too many issues with the reasoning for removal of recreational space in Fairview Park to address here. Please do not approve this DRAFT plan. It is bad for the City of Costa Mesa.

Ross Minion

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From: [Mat Garcia](#)
To: [PACS Comments: FVMP](#)
Cc: [CITY COUNCIL- CITY CLERK](#)
Subject: HSS does NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025 11:58:56 AM

Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS Commissioners, and City Staff,

The Harbor Soaring Society (HSS) does not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update. The Master Plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field in its current location, *Concerts in the Park*, and the *Goat Hill Junction Railroad*.

Any revisions to the Plan should honor the community's intent under Measure AA and preserve the park's open, shared character. Fairview Park should remain a shared space that protects wildlife while providing room for people, families, and community activities.

Please review below our latest communications with City staff regarding the topic of the flying field. Please include this letter in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,

Mat Garcia
Harbor Soaring Society | President | +1 714-287-5757
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit | mgarcia@1hss.org

October 27, 2025, Email between HSS and City staff

Hi Brian,

Thank you for meeting with the HSS officers on Monday, October 13, 2025. This meeting was requested by City staff.

In attendance was:

1. Brian Gruner (City)
2. Kelly Dalton (City)
3. Joni Whitsitt (HSS)
4. John Rittenhouse (HSS)
5. Mike Costello (HSS)
6. Henry Smith (HSS)
7. Dan Vozenilek (HSS)
8. Mat Garcia (HSS)

The meeting was from 5:00pm to 7:20pm. Thank you for providing pizza and soda.

Here is a summary of the most significant points discussed during the meeting. Please provide any edits or comments.

1. Kelly Dalton and Brian Gruner agreed that HSS "by and large" has followed the rules that HSS has been asked to follow.
2. The City released the Master Plan Update Draft on September 29, 2025.
3. HSS officers explained the challenges (environmental impact, Measure AA, geographical constraints, infrastructure cost) of relocating the flying field to the east side of Fairview Park.
4. City Staff insisted the current location does not work.
5. HSS pointed out that we never discussed mitigation measures that could help keep the flying field in the current location.
6. HSS again offered to pay for a credible / independent biologist's assessment of potential impacts and mitigation measures associated with the flying field at its current location. HSS again asked for names of biologists that the City would find credible.
7. Kelly Dalton and Brian Gruner met with CDFW at Fairview Park in March of 2025.
8. The City received a letter from CDFW recently, but the letter was not shared with HSS at the meeting.

Point 1 is important because it establishes HSS as a rule following organization that has worked hard to earn the trust of the City and the community.

Point 7 is important because it demonstrates staff's continued actions to exclude HSS from meetings with regulatory agencies. HSS has been told by staff not to engage with regulatory agencies and to communicate to them only through City staff. Since 2022, HSS has repeatedly expressed a desire to participate in conversations between the City and regulatory agencies regarding the flying field. While City staff has held numerous meetings, both in-person at the park and online, with both USFWS and CDFW, HSS has not once been invited to participate. Kelly Dalton has publicly advocated for closing the flying field since he authored his report to the City Council in March of 2023. We have all read what Park Administrator Kelly Dalton has inaccurately written to regulatory agencies in order to solicit an opinion supporting closure of the current flying field. At the January 28, 2025, City Council meeting, HSS conveyed again that we are ready to meet with any regulatory agency at any time. The mayor and council supported this. We now know, only two months later, our request was ignored. The HSS members and I do not trust Park Administrator Kelly Dalton to fairly or accurately communicate the flying field operations to anyone, let alone entities as influential as USFWS and CDFW. To date, neither USFWS or CDFW has met with HSS or witnessed a flight day at the flying field since the field re-opened in July of 2023. The technical report which the Master Plan Update Draft is based on was released in March of 2024, one full year before the author, Travis Brooks, met with HSS for the first time (March 1, 2025) outside one of the three public outreach meetings.

Point 8 is important because it demonstrates either assumptions by CDFW or City staff communicating inaccurate information to regulatory agencies. What information was provided to or verbally shared with CDFW by City staff? We are concerned that actions by staff have created unnecessary risk for the City, harm to HSS' reputation, and damage to / loss of a community resource, the flying field. For example, CDFW writes, "*The goals of the Master Plan Update, as stated in the publicly available technical documents, cannot be achieved while private citizens continue take it upon themselves to grade and mow these sensitive habitats to maintain fly field runways on City property.*" To me, this statement does not sound like City staff communicated to CDFW that every time runway maintenance was performed, it was approved by Kelly Dalton. That every time runway maintenance was performed, it was supervised by City staff. That every time runway maintenance was performed, a biological survey was performed ahead of time. It does not sound to me like City staff communicated to CDFW that the flying field has not been graded since 2005, and that this area has been a runway since 1964 and has successfully shared the space with the wildlife in those 6 decades, or that HSS has offered to pay for professionally trained workers to remove the weeds.

Please let me know what conclusions you or Kelly felt are noteworthy following our meeting.

For your reference, HSS has started tracking off-runway landings. Please let me know if any of the information below is disputed by the observers.

Flight Day	City Observer	Off Runway Landings	Landing Location	Notes
10/18/2025	Bequi	1	Approx. 15' off the runway opposite the pits.	
10/11/2025	Bequi	2	First within 20', second within 10' off the runway opposite the pits.	Bequi's first day as an observer. Newly hired at the City three weeks ago.
9/20/2025	Diana	1	Landed short 10ft on final approach to the runway, center-right.	

Lastly, I will note that comments, both from staff and others, at the Fairview Park Steering Committee Meeting on October 15, 2025 were quite concerning and reinforced our

understanding that staff does not actually believe that the east side flying field location is feasible.

Thank you,
Mat

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From: Jennifer Tanaka <jletanaka@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 12:00 PM
To: PACS Comments
Subject: Comments re Draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update
Attachments: Fairview_Park_Letter_CDFWdocx.pdf

Hello:

I have reviewed the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update (the “Draft FPMP Update”) and wanted to send in some questions separate from my role as a board member of CMABS. I would appreciate if the Staff or the Commissioners could address the following:

- Has the city attorney or other city staff analyzed the Draft FPMP Update to determine what aspects, if any, would require a vote of the people under Measure AA to implement?
- If aspects of the Draft FPMP Update would require a Measure AA vote, how soon would that vote be held, and how would it be financed?
- Have stakeholders from the Goat Hill Junction Railroad been informed of the Draft FPMP Update’s suggestion to move both the Harbor Soaring Society fly field and the “improper fill” dirt mounds from the west side to the east side of the park? If so, what was that organization’s feedback?
- Why did the Fairview Park Steering Committee not provide specific feedback on this draft, as only its recommendations from earlier this year appear to be appended to the staff report? I understand they have met since the Draft FPMP Update was published.
- why has the PACS Commission been asked to “base” its “recommendations” on the FPSC recommendations, even though the two bodies are distinct in terms of personnel, mission, scope, powers and expertise?
- Does the Draft FPMP Update incorporate answers the compliance issues raised by the letter provided by California Fish & Wildlife to the city in September 2025 (attached)? If it does not, why not, given that the Draft FPMP Update was released to the public in early October? And why was this letter not included in the materials made available to the PACS Commission, even though it was disclosed to the FPSC?
- Has the city received specific guidance on the Draft FPMP Update from *US* Fish & Wildlife? If not, is it possible that the ongoing federal government shutdown is delaying its feedback?
- If USFW’s feedback has been delayed, what is the justification for sending the Draft FPMP Update to the PACS Commission and the City Council, given that so much of the Draft FPMP Update relies on “resource agency recommendations”?

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter. Fairview Park is the anchor of the Costa Mesa park ecosystem and it is absolutely critical that it is planned with that role in mind.

Sincerely,
Jenn Tanaka
Costa Mesa resident

<https://www.costamesaca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/61407/638961460789170000>

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Sent from my iPhone



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 South Coast Region
 3883 Ruffin Road
 San Diego, CA 92123
wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



September 25, 2025

Brenda Green
 City Clerk's Office
 77 Fair Drive
 Costa Mesa, CA 92626
brenda.green@costamesaca.gov

Subject: DRAFT FAIRVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE, COSTA MESA, CA

Dear Brenda Green:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has reviewed the technical reports which provide the framework for the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan (Plan) from the City of Costa Mesa (City). Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations to the City Council regarding those activities that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Plan that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW ROLE

CDFW is California's Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines¹ (Fish & Game Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a)). CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (Fish & G. Code, § 1802). Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW is charged by law to provide, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW may also act as a Responsible Agency under CEQA. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381). CDFW expects that it may need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code. As proposed, for example, the Project may be subject to CDFW's lake and streambed alteration

¹ CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

Brenda Green
September 25, 2025
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regulatory authority (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 *et seq.*). Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in “take” as defined by State law² of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish & G. Code, § 2050 *et seq.*) or the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA; Fish & G. Code, §1900 *et seq.*), the City may seek related take authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW also administers the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) program, a California regional habitat conservation planning program (Fish & G. Code, § 2800 *et seq.*). The City is a participating landowner under the Central/Coastal Orange County NCCP/Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

PLAN DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Objective: According to the City’s website, the objective of the Fairview Park Master Plan Update (Update) is to revise the 1998 Fairview Park Master Plan, last updated in 2008. In addition to the goals of aligning the existing Plan with current biological assessments, land uses, and environmental regulations/policies, it will also be used to create priorities and strategies for long-term management, preservation of natural resources, and future park projects. Future projects include, but are not limited to, restoration projects, trail improvements, park amenities, and special events.

Location: Fairview Park is in the City, and its address is 2525 Placentia Avenue. It is bordered by residential areas to the north and east, Talbert Regional Park to the south, and the Santa Ana River to the west. The park itself is bisected by Placentia Avenue, which runs north/south.

Biological Setting: The regional biological significance of Fairview Park cannot be overstated. The Park is the northernmost parcel of a rare, contiguous undeveloped natural open space, which stretches from Fairview Park southward through Talbert Regional Park and terminates at the Randall Preserve. The 208-acre, topographically diverse Park contains a multitude of habitat types and micro-habitats, including one of the last coastal terrace vernal pools complexes in Orange County (USFWS 2007) on its mesa. Vernal pools in Fairview Park also support several plant species that are locally rare (City 2008 and Chung 2010). The artificial ponds in the lowlands provide nesting and foraging habitat for riparian species. Other natural and sensitive habitats include native grasslands, coastal bluff scrub, alluvial scrub, riparian woodlands, and coastal sage scrub. These habitats serve as foraging and reproductive habitat, providing refugia for many sensitive species in an otherwise developed watershed. Approximately 12-acres of the Park is landscaped.

According to the Biological Technical Report (BTR; Hamilton Biological 2025), 222 vascular plants and over 262 wildlife species have been documented in the Park, a remarkable number of flora and fauna for an area with just under 200 acres of habitat.

² “Take” is defined in Section 86 of the Fish and Game Code as “hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.”

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Several listed species have been observed on site or have high or moderate potential to occur on site which include:

Invertebrates

- San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*; Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed endangered),
- Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*; CESA Candidate for Threatened or Endangered Listing; CBB),

Birds

- Coastal California gnatcatcher [*Polioptila californica californica*; ESA- listed threatened; CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC); gnatcatcher],
- Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*; ESA-listed endangered; CESA-listed endangered; vireo),
- White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*; CDFW Fully Protected Species),
- Belding's Savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*; CESA-listed endangered),
- Western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*; SSC; CESA Candidate for Threatened or Endangered Listing),
- Coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegonensis*; SSC),
- Coopers hawk (*Astur cooperii*; SSC),

Plants

- San Diego button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*; California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Rank 1B.1), and,
- Southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *Australis*; California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Rank 1B.1).

Please see Attachment A for a complete list of sensitive species present or with potential to occur at Fairview Park (Hamilton Biological 2025).

Prior CDFW Engagement: CDFW has a long history of engaging with the City on natural resources matters at Fairview Park, most notably vernal pool complex management issues, historic violations, and ongoing impacts to areas subject to Fish and Game Code 1600 *et seq.* Additionally, fulfillment of outstanding mitigation obligations regarding compensatory mitigation obligations at Fairview Park for off-site projects with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), and the Department of Toxic Substances Control continue to languish and remain incomplete (OCTA 2018 and CDFW 2019). Despite repeated engagement with the City on natural resources matters at the Park, our attempts to partner with the City on these outstanding issues are largely ineffective. As outlined below, many of these obligations are incomplete or their status is unknown.

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In 2014, CDFW partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to provide comments on vernal pool restoration after the installation of a path in the Park that was routed within and adjacent to vernal pools occupied by the federally endangered San Diego fairy shrimp (USFWS 2014). Impacts to these pools from the installation of paths and parking areas, improvements to Estancia High School stadium, and the operation of motorized vehicles during the wet season were mitigated through restoration efforts at pools 2, 5, 6, and 7 (Glen Lukos Associates 2015). It is unclear to CDFW and the USFWS (hereafter referred to as the Wildlife Agencies) as to whether the stated mitigation and restoration efforts were achieved in full.

In 2016, CDFW investigated the City's fill of Little Canyon as a possible violation of Fish and Game Code, section 1602, when soil stockpiles from the artificial pond creation were used to fill Little Canyon for purposes of trail creation and realignment. CDFW concluded the unauthorized activities were subject to Fish and Game Code; however, the statute of limitations to issue a Notice of Violation had passed and no action was taken. (City 2015)

In 2018, the City contacted CDFW regarding clearing of vegetation in and around the artificial pond complex during the nesting season for coastal California gnatcatcher. At that time, CDFW communicated that a Routine Maintenance Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) per our Lake and Streambed Alteration program was required to move forward with the clearing. To date the City does not have a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement to authorize the work in those areas (Comment 3).

In 2019, the Wildlife Agencies and OCTA met with the City several times to discuss their outstanding mitigation obligations to OCTA and ACOE (OCTA 2018). These issues remain unresolved (Comment 4).

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CDFW offers the comments and recommendations below to assist the City in reaching the stated goals of the Plan update; namely, aligning the existing Plan with current biological assessments, land uses, and environmental regulations and policies, while adequately identifying and/or mitigating the Plan's significant, or potentially significant, direct and indirect impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources.

1. **Fly field Relocation.** CDFW strongly supports relocation of the model airplane fly field, as its continued operation in the vernal pool complex is in direct conflict with preservation and management of this important park feature. The goals of the Master Plan Update, as stated in the publicly available technical documents, cannot be achieved while private citizens continue take it upon themselves to grade and mow these sensitive habitats to maintain fly field runways on City property. Additionally, while these recreational activities have largely been considered passive, the degradation and improper maintenance of the pools is leading to a long-term reduction in vernal pool function and degradation.

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Not only would relocation of the model airplane fly field reduce habitat degradation and risk of unauthorized take of CESA candidate species, but it would also reduce the regulatory burden for the City. Based on current seasonal survey data, operation and maintenance of the fly field in its current location would likely require a CESA Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for western burrowing owl and Crotch's bumble bee. Western burrowing owl over-winters regularly on the Park's mesa, within proximity of the existing fly field. Mowing, grading, or any other maintenance of the fly field could cause unauthorized take of these species.

On October 15, 2024, the Fish and Game Commission published a Notice of Findings that designates western burrowing owl as a CESA candidate species. If the fly field is not relocated, no avoidance measures are implemented, and regular survey data is not collected, unauthorized take could occur. Furthermore, without Park enforcement, inadvertent attempts to flush western burrowing owl from the site may lead to indirect impacts to the species. Crotch's bumble bee has also been recently observed in Fairview Park (Endemic Environmental Services 2024). The California Fish and Game Commission accepted a petition to list Crotch's bumble bee as threatened or endangered under CESA, determining the listing, "may be warranted" and advancing the species to the candidacy stage of the CESA listing process. At the fly field's current location, its operations and ongoing maintenance will substantially modify habitat and potentially reduce or impair the viability of future populations of bees. The Project may also reduce the number and range of the species without considering the likelihood that special status species on adjacent and nearby natural lands, such as Talbert Regional Park or Randall Preserve, may rely upon the habitat that occurs on the proposed Project site.

Finally, there is scientific evidence to support that the fly field activities lead to harassment of sensitive avian species, including raptors. Behavioral responses to model aircraft disturbances add to the daily energy expenditure of birds. When birds are disturbed, they can react with altered behaviors, such as agitation or flushing. Also, a bird may exhibit no outward signs of distress but experience an elevated heart rate (Ellenberg, Mattern and Seddon 2013), increased oxygen consumption, and change in metabolic rate, thus disrupting the bird's energy budget (Kempf and Hüppop 1998). Even outside breeding season, such disturbances can have a high impact to the individual bird as well as to the population. During the non-breeding season birds need to forage as much as possible to build up fat stores for migration, upcoming breeding activity, or harsh winter conditions (Kempf and Hüppop 1998). Birds that rely on Fairview Park for food and shelter could temporarily abandon these habitats during fly field use, leading to a loss of critical resources during key times, such as during migration or overwintering periods. This disruption can have significant consequences for their overall health, survival, and reproductive success. Depending on a species' breeding cycle, disturbances can have varying results (Ellenberg, Mattern and Seddon 2013). For fly field activities that occur at the beginning of nesting season, birds may choose not to nest in the area at all.

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As southern California's rare coastal open spaces are important stopovers for annual migration, model aircraft disturbances in those areas will affect many birds. Migratory birds rely on specific cues, including environmental factors such as light, temperature, and quiet, to guide their journeys. The presence of even lower-decibel noise and physical disturbances from fly field can interfere with these cues, potentially delaying or disrupting migration. This disruption could affect the birds' ability to arrive at their destination on time, impacting their survival and reproductive success (Schummer and Eddleman 2003). It can also interfere with the birds' flight paths, leading to potential collisions or forced changes in migration patterns. Noise and physical presence of model aircraft also affect the landscape and vegetation used by birds for cover and nesting. This is particularly concerning considering the known grading and mowing activities associated with the fly field maintenance.

2. **Enforcement.** To meet the stated goals of the Master Plan Update, CDFW strongly recommends that the Update include a discussion regarding the necessity for Park enforcement of adopted policy. Park enforcement is necessary to ensure the City complies with Fish and Game Code, as well as conditions as described in any forthcoming CDFW-issued permits (e.g., CESA ITP or LSAA). Without enforcement, continued habitat degradation through off-trail activity is likely, and unauthorized take under CESA is possible. We strongly recommend the City includes line-item funding for this purpose in its annual budget.
3. **Permitting Obligations.** The Fairview Park Master Plan Update should address in specific terms how and when it will meet its prior and ongoing wetland permitting obligations. CDFW has been engaging with the City since 2018, when CDFW was contacted regarding vegetation clearing in the artificial pond complex. Five years later in 2023, the City submitted a notification for routine maintenance in and around the ponds (EPIMS-ORA-38510-R5). On July 3, 2024, CDFW deemed that notification incomplete. To date, the City has not responded to CDFW regarding the outstanding items in our Notification Incomplete letter. It can only be assumed that, despite our efforts to negotiate in good faith with the City regarding wetland permitting obligations, seven years' worth of unauthorized impacts are likely to have occurred to areas subject to Fish and Game Code Section 1602. A Master Plan Update would not be complete without addressing the outstanding Routine Maintenance Agreement notification and any other one-time projects in the Park; this includes how they will be completed, funded, when, and by whom.

Given the City continues to disregard our requests for compliance, CDFW is within our rights to issue a Notice of Violation associated with the ongoing unauthorized impacts. FGC Section 1602 requires an entity to submit a written Lake and Streambed Alteration Notification to CDFW before: 1) substantially diverting or obstructing the natural flow of a river, stream, or lake; 2) substantially changing the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake; 3) using any material from the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake; and/or 4) depositing or disposing of debris, waste, material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into a river, stream, or lake. Hence, any entity who engages in an activity

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subject to FGC Section 1602 without first notifying CDFW violates Section 1602. However, we continue to assert that it is in the best interest of the wetland resources, the City, and CDFW to issue an LSAA to authorize the impacts, if possible.

CDFW is available to meet regarding wetland permitting issues at the City's earliest convenience.

4. **Mitigation Obligations.** It is CDFW's understanding that restoration efforts associated with the Fairview Park Mesa, for which the City applied for a Restoration Management Plan (RMP) under CDFW's Cutting the Green Tape Program, were approved at the City Council meeting held on September 16, 2025. This restoration is aligned with the stated goals of the Master Plan Update and would fulfil the City's outstanding OCTA mitigation obligations. The draft restoration plan and the proposed CEQA addendum, prepared by the City, provide a sufficient level of detail regarding the work which will be authorized by the RMP, such that a contract can be bid in the absence of an issued permit.

In 2010, the City nominated the subject 23-acre Fairview Park Restoration Project (Restoration) for funding consideration to the OCTA. The Wildlife Agencies supported the recommendation for OCTA to fund the Restoration within Fairview Park. This Restoration was planned to be integrated into the OCTA Measure 2 (M2) NCCP/HCP as it has high potential to support similar vegetation communities to mitigate for identified M2 freeway construction activities; restores sensitive species listed under the California Natural Diversity Database; and should result in ecological benefits to the NCCP/HCP Covered Species. Once the Restoration is completed and approved by the Wildlife Agencies, OCTA will be able to use the restored habitat for mitigation as part of the OCTA M2 NCCP/HCP. The City agreed to ensure the long-term conservation of the natural resources at Fairview Park through verification of a conservation easement or other approved conservation instrument.

Below are the outstanding concerns pertaining to the Restoration that we have communicated to the City during meetings and phone calls over the past several years:

- a. Failure to restore the agreed upon habitat restoration acreage and implement a solution to resolve this shortcoming;
- b. Lack of documentation to demonstrate that adjacent mitigation for other projects does not overlap with the Project;
- c. Lack of progress on developing and recording a conservation easement or other approved conservation instrument over the entire project area; and,
- d. Lack of Lake and Streambed Alteration Notification for one-time work and ongoing maintenance of the Fairview Park ponds subject to Fish and Game Code section 1600 *et seq.*

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CDFW is committed to assisting the City in fulfilling its outstanding obligations. We look forward to working with the City to provide a complete RMP application package so that issuance of the RMP can move forward.

CONCLUSION

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the technical documents associated with the Master Plan Update to advise the City of Costa Mesa in identifying and mitigating the Updates' impacts on biological resources. Questions regarding this letter or further coordination should be directed to Jennifer Turner³, Senior Environmental Scientist, Supervisor.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

AD7D070BCB66466...
Glen M. Lubcke
Environmental Program Manager
South Coast Region

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Sensitive Species at Fairview Park

ec: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jennifer Turner, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)
Cindy Hailey, Staff Services Analyst

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Attachment A: Sensitive Species at Fairview Park

Latin name Common name	Fed.	Global/ State	CNPS	Habitat/Regional Status	Potential to Occur in Fairview Park
Plants					
<i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i> Chaparral Sand-Verbena	—	G5T2/S2	1B.1	Open sandy soils in alluvial washes, chaparral, and coastal sage scrub. Mainly in Riverside and San Diego Counties. Last extant Orange County population is at Fairview Park.	Possibly Extirpated. Small numbers found in northern lowlands in recent years; not detected in 2023, possibly due to brush clearance in area.
<i>Atriplex coulteri</i> Coulter's Saltbush	—	G3/S1S2	1B.2	Clay soils on bluffs, mesas and open coastal areas. San Luis Obispo County south.	Moderate. Occurs within 5- 10 miles of park.
<i>Atriplex pacifica</i> South Coast Saltscale	—	G4/S2	1B.2	Clay soils on bluffs, mesas and open coastal areas. Santa Barbara County south.	Moderate. Historically occurred within 5-10 miles of park.
<i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i>davidsonii</i> Davidson's Saltscale	—	G5T1/S1	1B.2	Coastal cliff faces and bluffs. Santa Barbara County south to Orange County.	Moderate. Historical records within 5-10 miles of park.
<i>Calystegia sepium</i> ssp. <i>binghamiae</i> Santa Barbara Morning- Glory	—	G5TXQ/SX	1A	Coastal saltmarshes and stream banks. Localized populations in western Central Valley and southern California.	None. Name misapplied erroneously to plants in Orange County.
<i>Camissoniopsis lewisii</i> Lewis's Evening-Primrose	—	G4/S4	3	Sandy or clay soils on bluffs, mesas, and open coastal areas. San Luis Obispo County south.	Present. Scattered small populations along trail margins and other open areas.
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i> Southern Tarplant	—	G3T2/S2	1B.1	Disturbed ground in saltmarshes and coastal sage scrub. Santa Barbara County south.	Present. Occurs along disturbed margins of trails; numbers fluctuate from year to year; more abundant in the park before creation of ponds in the northern lowlands.

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<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i> var. <i>orcuttiana</i> Orcutt's Pincushion	—	G5T1/S1	1B.1	Coastal dunes, bluffs, and mesas. Ventura County south; mostly in San Diego County.	Low. Potentially suitable habitat present, but species not known to occur within 15 miles of the site.
<i>Dudleya multicaulis</i> Many-stemmed Dudleya	—	G2/S2	1B.2	Clay banks, slopes, and sandstone outcrops. Kern County south to northwestern San Diego County.	Moderate. Occurs within 5- 10 miles of the park.
<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>parishii</i> San Diego Button-Celery	E	E	1B.1	Vernal pools. Mainly in San Diego County; the only Orange County population is at Fairview Park.	Present. Found in Ponds 4a, 4b, 4c. Numbers have declined over time; in recent years, plants appear to have been intentionally removed.
<i>Hordeum intercedens</i> Vernal Barley	—	G3G4/S3S4	3.2	Grasslands and vernal pools. Santa Barbara County south; scattered populations in the Central Valley.	Present. Occurs in grasslands and vernal pools; numbers in 2023 greatly reduced from previous years, probably due to increasing competition from non-native species.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i> Mesa Horkelia	—	G4T1/S1	1B.1	Sheltered coastal chaparral. San Luis Obispo County south to northwestern San Diego County.	Low. Occurs within 5- 10 miles, but park lacks coastal chaparral habitat.
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i> Coulter's Goldfields	—	G4T2/S2	1B.1	Alkali soils and vernal pools. San Luis Obispo County south; scattered populations in the Central Valley.	Present. Pools 5 and 6 hold the County's largest population, with 100s to 1000s of plants; smaller numbers occur in a vernal wet half-pipe feature in the central mesa, adjacent to a large, disturbed area.
<i>Lycium californicum</i> California Boxthorn	—	G4/S4	4.2	Scrub habitats, mainly along the coast. Los Angeles County south.	Present. Occurs in coastal bluff scrub on the park's western slope.
<i>Microseris douglasii</i> ssp. <i>platycarpha</i> Small-flowered Microseris	—	G4T4/S4	4.2	Vernal pools and seasonally wet plains. Los Angeles County south; one record from southern Central Valley.	Present. Occurs in vernal pools and grasslands in the park on both sides of Placentia Avenue.

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<i>Myosurus minimus</i> ssp. <i>apus</i> Little Mousetail	—	G5T2Q/ S2	3.1	Alkali soils and vernal pools. Mainly in the Central Valley and western Riverside County; the only Orange County population is at Fairview Park.	Present. Occurs around the margins of Pool 1; very few plants recorded in 2023, apparently due to competition from non-native plants and trampling.
<i>Nama stenocarpa</i> Mud Nama	—	G4G5/ S1S2	2B.2	Vernal pools and seasonally wet plains. Los Angeles County south; one record from southern Central Valley.	Present. Occurs in deepest parts of Pool 1.
<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i> Gambel's Watercress	E	T	1B.1	Freshwater marshes, streams, and drainage areas. San Luis Obispo County south to Orange County.	Low. Potentially suitable habitat present, but no extant populations known in Orange County.
<i>Navarretia prostrata</i> Prostrate Vernal Pool Navarretia	—	G2/S2	1B.2	Seasonally wet alkali soil and vernal pools. Central Valley; coastal slope from Alameda County south; one of two Orange County populations is at Fairview Park.	Present. Occurs around the margins of Pool 1, but fewer plants than expected were recorded in 2023, apparently due to competition from non-native plants and trampling.
<i>Orcuttia californica</i> California Orcutt Grass	E	E	1B.1	Vernal pools. Ventura County south; scattered populations in the Central Valley; the only Orange County population is at Fairview Park.	Present. Found in Pool 4a; several dozen plants emerged in 2023 after exceptional rains.
<i>Pentachaeta aurea</i> ssp. <i>alleni</i> Allen's Daisy	—	G4T1/S1	4.3	Clay grasslands and openings in coastal sage scrub. Known from San Joaquin Hills and Santa Ana Mountains of Orange County.	Low. Occurs within 5-10 miles of the park, but suitable habitat may not be present.
Saltspring Checkerbloom <i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i>	—	G4/S2	2B.2	Alkali springs and marshes. Ventura County south.	Low. Potentially suitable habitat present, but species not known to occur within 15 miles of park.
Invertebrates					
San Diego Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>	E	G2/S1		Vernal pools and other ephemeral wetlands. Orange County south.	Present. Documented in seasonal pools on both sides of Placentia Avenue.

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Riverside Fairy Shrimp <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	E	G1G2/ S2		Vernal pools and other ephemeral wetlands. Ventura County south.	Present. Documented in seasonal pools on west side of Placentia Avenue.
<i>Bombas crotchii</i> Crotch's Bumble Bee	—	C/S1S2	—	Many habitats. California and northwestern Baja California; most records from southern California.	Present. Uses native and non-native flowering habitats in the park (Endemic Environmental Services 2024). Nests in burrows, tufts of vegetation, cavities, rock piles, etc.
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> Monarch	C	G4T1T2 Q/S2	—	Breeds in areas with milkweed from Mendocino County south. In southern California, overwinters mainly in large stands of eucalyptus near the coast.	Present. Occurs as a transient; not known to breed or overwinter in the park.
<i>Panoquina errans</i> Wandering Skipper	—	G4G5/ S2	—	Coastal salt marsh with the required food plant, salt grass (<i>Distichlis spicata</i>). Santa Barbara County south.	Present. James Bailey observed one in the northern lowlands, but scarcity of salt grass in the park may preclude the species from becoming established.
<i>Helminthoglypta traskii traskii</i> Trask Shoulderband	—	G1G2T1 /S2S3	—	Many habitats. Coastal slope from Ventura County south.	High. Likely occurs in the less disturbed parts of the park.
Amphibians					
<i>Spea hammondi</i> Western Spadefoot	PT	SSC	—	Seasonal pools with nearby uplands suitable for aestivation. Shasta County south, excluding deserts.	Low. The species likely occurred at Fairview Park historically, because suitable habitat is present, but no records exist.
Reptiles					
<i>Actinemys pallida</i> Southwestern Pond Turtle	PT	SSC	—	Expansive natural areas that include permanent water and generally lack non-native turtles or exotic predators. Alameda County south, excluding deserts.	Present. One reported in Pond D in the northern lowlands (Endemic Environmental 2021).
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> Coast Horned Lizard	—	SSC	—	Expansive natural areas with sandy openings and native harvester ants. Shasta County south, excluding deserts.	Low. Unlikely to occur due to degradation and fragmentation of habitat, including presence of

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					Argentine ants.
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> Coastal Whiptail	—	SSC	—	Widespread, in various habitats. Coastal slope from Santa Barbara County south.	Present. One reported at base of the park's western slope (Dudek 2003).
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i> Southern California Legless Lizard	—	SSC	—	Various habitats with sandy soil or deep leaf-litter. Coastal slope from Ventura and Kern Counties south.	Moderate. May occur in areas with loose soils.
<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i> California Glossy Snake	—	SSC	—	Widespread, but uncommon, in habitats with loose soil. Coastal slope from Contra Costa County south.	Moderate. May occur in areas with loose soils.
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgultea</i> Coast Patch-nosed Snake	—	SSC	—	Brushy and rocky habitats. Coastal slope from San Luis Obispo County south.	Low. Unlikely to occur due to degradation and fragmentation of habitat.
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> Two-striped Garter Snake	—	SSC	—	Widespread in the region, in and around perennial water.	Moderate. May occur in and around perennial water.
<i>Crotalus ruber</i> Red Diamond Rattlesnake	—	SSC	—	Various rocky habitats. Coastal slope from Los Angeles County south.	Low. Along the coast, not recorded west of the San Joaquin Hills. Records from Seal Beach area reportedly involve released animal(s).
Birds					
<i>Aythya americana</i> Redhead	—	SSC	—	Nests in various freshwater habitats; winters on lakes and bays. Range includes most of North America.	Present. A few have been recorded during winter. Some potential exists for nesting in the northern lowland ponds.
<i>Plegadis chihi</i> White-faced Ibis	—	G5/S3S4	—	Various freshwater habitats. Breeding range includes most of western North America; winters south to Central America.	Present. Up to several dozen non-breeders occur in the park in fall, winter, spring; small numbers have been recorded breeding in the northern lowland ponds.
<i>Sternula antillarum browni</i> California Least Tern	E	E	—	Breeds on sandy beaches, and in similar open coastal habitats, from Solano County south. Winters in western Mexico.	Present. Not expected to nest in the park, but local breeders occasionally forage in ponds in the northern

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					lowlands.
<i>Nannopterum auritum</i> Double-crested Cormorant	—	G5/S2	—	Freshwater and nearshore marine environments across most of North America. Nests in trees and snags near water.	Present. Non-breeders regularly forage in ponds in the northern lowlands. Could nest there as trees around the ponds mature.
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> Least Bittern	—	SSC	—	Resident of freshwater marshes with extensive emergent vegetation across large parts of North and South America.	Present. Small number of records from ponds in the northern lowlands; may nest in tules.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> White-tailed Kite	—	FP	—	Nests in trees within expansive open space areas; more widespread during migration and winter. Forages in rangelands and marshy areas. Range includes large parts of North and South America.	Present. Forages regularly in the park. Could potentially nest in riparian woodlands.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> Golden Eagle	—	FP	—	Extensive open areas across a cosmopolitan range; nests on cliffs and in tall trees away from settlements. In Orange County, occurs mainly in the foothills and mountains.	Low. Transients could occur rarely.
<i>Circus hudsonius</i> Northern Harrier	—	SSC	—	Nests on the ground in expansive open space areas; more widespread during migration and winter. Range includes most of North America.	Present. Small numbers regularly forage in the park's grassland and scrub habitats in fall, winter, and spring. Could possibly nest in the local area.
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> Bald Eagle	—	E	—	Nests in tall trees, usually near water; forages in lakes, rivers, and marine environments. Range includes most of North America.	Present. Occurs rarely as a transient.
<i>Buteo regalis</i> Ferruginous Hawk	—	G4/S3S4	—	Breeds in central North America and winters mainly in expansive rangelands and agricultural areas to the south.	Present. Occurs rarely as a transient.

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<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's Hawk	—	G5/S4	—	Breeds in Canada and western North America and winters from western Mexico to southern South America.	Present. Occurs rarely as a transient.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> Burrowing Owl	—	C/SSC	—	Occurs across large parts of North America; nesting population west of the deserts nearly extirpated. Rare winter visitor in coastal southern California.	Present. Up to three often winter in Fairview Park, using open habitats on either side of Placentia Avenue. Not known to nest in the park.
<i>Asio flammeus</i> Short-eared Owl	—	SSC	—	Extensive open areas across a cosmopolitan range; nests in northern North America. Very rare fall/winter visitor across most of southern California.	Present. Occurs rarely as a transient.
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	E	E	—	Formerly a widespread breeder in southern California but now highly localized in areas of extensive riparian woodlands. Uncommon during migration.	Low (as a breeder). Habitat is marginal; no recent nesting records from Orange County. Occurs regularly, but uncommonly, as a transient.
<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i> Vermilion Flycatcher	—	SSC	—	Open country with trees. Formerly nested in the desert Southwest and into Mexico; now nests sparingly across southern California, including Orange County.	Present. Now apparently resident in small numbers; courtship behavior by a pair on 3/25/25.
<i>Vireo bellii bellii</i> Least Bell's Vireo	E	E	—	Nests uncommonly in riparian scrub and woodlands from Ventura County south; winters in western Mexico.	Present. Small numbers nest in riparian habitats in Fairview Park and elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> Loggerhead Shrike	—	SSC	—	Occurs in open habitats across most of North America; nesting population on coastal slope of southern California nearly extirpated. Rare winter visitor in coastal southern California.	Present. Occurs rarely in fall and winter; does not nest.
<i>Poliioptila californica californica</i> Coastal California Gnatcatcher	T	SSC	—	Resident of coastal sage scrub habitat, favoring shallow slopes and elevations below 1,500 feet; Ventura County south.	Present. Small numbers resident in scrub habitats in Fairview Park and elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River.

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<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i> Cactus Wren, coastal populations	—	SSC	—	Rare and declining resident of cactus scrub habitat on the coastal slope from Ventura County south.	Extirpated. Small numbers formerly resident along the western bluff and elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River have died out in recent years.
<i>Cistothorus palustris clarkae</i> Clark's Marsh Wren	—	SSC	—	Resident of marshes with extensive emergent vegetation; Los Angeles County to San Diego County.	High. A few late spring and summer records of Marsh Wren in the lowland ponds likely refer to <i>C. p. clarkae</i> , the local breeder. Records of Marsh Wren in fall and winter may involve migrant subspecies from elsewhere.
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> Grasshopper Sparrow	—	SSC	—	Nests in expansive grasslands and rangelands across most of North America. In Orange County, breeds mainly in the San Joaquin Hills and Lomas de Santiago; occurs rarely in fall and winter.	Low (as a breeder). Occurs rarely as a transient or winter visitor. Nesting unlikely, but possible, east of Placentia Avenue.
<i>Poocetes gramineus affinis</i> Oregon Vesper Sparrow	—	SSC	—	Breeds in the Pacific Northwest and winters mainly in expansive open areas on the coastal slope of California.	High. Vesper Sparrows of unknown subspecies recorded in the park; <i>P. g. affinis</i> likely to occur occasionally in fall and winter.
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis rostratus</i> Large-billed Savannah Sparrow	—	SSC	—	Breeds in the northern Gulf of California; winters on the coast of southern California.	Present. Occurs rarely in fall and winter.
<i>Icteria virens</i> Yellow-breasted Chat	—	SSC	—	Nests uncommonly and locally in riparian woodlands with dense tangles across most of North America.	Present. Small numbers nest in riparian habitats in Fairview Park and elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River.
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> Tricolored Blackbird	—	T	—	Nests in wetlands near expansive grasslands and rangelands required for foraging, mainly in California. Winters in rangelands and parks.	Low (as a breeder). Occurs rarely as a transient or winter visitor. Nesting unlikely, but possible.

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<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> Yellow-headed Blackbird	—	SSC	—	Nests in wetlands with tall emergent vegetation across much of central and western North America. Winters mainly in Mexico.	Low (as a breeder). Occurs rarely as a transient or winter visitor. Nesting unlikely, but possible.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> Yellow Warbler	—	SSC	—	Nests in woodlands across most of North America. Winters mainly from Mexico to South America.	Present. Small numbers nest in riparian habitats in Fairview Park and elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River.
Mammals					
<i>Microtus californicus stephensi</i> South Coast Marsh Vole	—	SSC	—	Wetland communities and associated grasslands along the coast from southern Ventura County to northern Orange County (Sunset Beach).	None. Fairview Park lies seven miles southeast of the described range of this taxon; voles along the Santa Ana River should be <i>M. C. sanctidiegi</i> (Hall 1981).
<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i> Pacific Pocket Mouse	E	SSC	—	Shrublands, coastal dunes, coastal sage scrub, and river alluvium habitats with loose, sandy soil. Coastal areas from Los Angeles County to San Diego County.	Low. Not recorded in Fairview Park or elsewhere along the Santa Ana River but may have occurred there historically. Very little sandy habitat potentially suitable for this species remains in the northern lowlands.
<i>Sorex ornatus salicornicus</i> Southern California Salt Marsh Shrew	—	SSC	—	Coastal salt marshes, and nearby freshwater wetlands, from Ventura County to Orange County.	Low. Fairview Park lacks the coastal salt marsh habitat with which this species is most closely associated.
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego Desert Woodrat	—	SSC	—	Widespread in scrub habitats, especially those with cactus, but sensitive to habitat fragmentation. Coastal slope from Monterey County south.	Moderate. Suitable cactus scrub occurs in the park, but this species may not be present due to fragmentation of the habitat.
<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i> San Diego Black-tailed Jackrabbit	—	SSC	—	Occurs in various open settings, usually in expansive open space areas, from Santa Barbara County south.	Extirpated. Formerly recorded in the park (Hamilton 1995) and elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River, but no recent observations known.

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<i>Choeronycteris mexicana</i> Mexican Long-tongued Bat	—	SSC	—	Ventura County south to Central America, often in coastal areas. Roosts in caves, crevices, under tree roots, and in man-made structures. Forages on nectar and pollen of agaves.	Low. Fairview Park generally lacks suitable roosting habitat and the agaves associated with this species.
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> Western Mastiff Bat	—	SSC	—	Roosts in crevices in cliffs and in tall buildings; feeds aerially. Widely distributed in California and Desert Southwest.	Low. The species may occasionally fly over the site while foraging, but suitable roosting is absent.
<i>Lasiurus frantzii</i> Western Red Bat	—	SSC	—	Roosts in foliage of many types of trees; feeds over a wide variety of habitats, often close to water in coastal lowlands. Widespread from western North America south to northern South America.	High. Riparian woodlands in the park appear suitable for roosting, and the park contains ample water and suitable foraging habitat.
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i> Western Yellow Bat	—	SSC	—	Roosts primarily or entirely in palms; often forages over water but also grasslands and scrub habitats. Southwestern United States south to Central America.	Moderate. Fairview Park lacks the palm trees most closely associated with this species, but Western Yellow Bats could roost in riparian woodlands and/or forage in the park.
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> Pallid Bat	—	SSC	—	Widespread in western North America, in chaparral and similar habitats. Forages on the ground and in vegetation. Roosts in rock crevices and under tree bark.	Low. Fairview Park lacks extensive rocky areas or oak woodlands that would provide suitable roosting habitat, but Pallid Bats from other areas could potentially forage in the park.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American Badger	—	SSC	—	Occurs in expansive open space areas across most of western and central North America. In Orange County, recent records from the mountains and foothills.	Low. American Badgers have not been recorded at Fairview Park or elsewhere along the lower Santa Ana River. It is likely that the natural habitat is too reduced and fragmented to support a population.

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From: mark jelinek <mark_jelinek@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 12:02 PM
To: FVPMP
Cc: PACS Comments; cityclerck@costamesaca.gov; CITY COUNCIL
Subject: I do NOT support the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan

Dear Mayor, Councilmembers, PACS, Commissioners and City staff,

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan. Please make major changes so the community can continue long standing uses at Fairview Park. The plan should explicitly preserve the model glider field, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, and the Goat Hill Junction Railroad- and direct staff to work with CDFW promptly on a mitigation approach that allows these uses to continue safely and compliantly.

I also do not support any new fencing that reduces public access. Any revisions should honor the community intent of Measure AA and protect the existing open, shared character of the park.

Please include this comment in the public record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Master Plan Update and the October 2025 PACS meeting.

Thank you,
Mark Jelinek
Westside Costa Mesa, 92627
(949) 413-5122

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From: Leann Johnson <leann.johnson84@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 12:04 PM
To: PACS Comments
Subject: LIES REGARDING FAIRVIEW PARK

Dear Commissioners,

Please see my comments for tingham's meeting.

Rebuttal to Public Comment Regarding the Fairview Park Master Plan Update Draft

The online claims made regarding the Fairview Park Master Plan Update Draft contain several inaccuracies and mischaracterizations that should be clarified for the public record.

1. The Draft Plan Does Not Eliminate Existing Community Uses

The draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update does **not propose to eliminate or permanently restrict** existing community uses such as walking trails, open play areas, model trains, model aircraft, dog-walking, or community events. The plan continues to recognize the park's shared use philosophy—balancing habitat restoration and recreational enjoyment. The notion that the update seeks to create a “fenced nature preserve” that excludes people is outright **FALSE!**

2. No Council or Staff Action Is Proposing Closure or Relocation of the Flying Field

Contrary to the claim, there is **NO** proposal before the City to close the Harbor Soaring Society's flying field. The draft plan only references potential future considerations for compatibility among park uses but does not authorize closing it.

3. Fencing References Are Misinterpreted

Mentions of fencing in the draft plan refer primarily to habitat protection zones, safety delineation, and grant compliance requirements—not to closing off the entire mesa or restricting public access to its perimeter. Interpretations suggesting otherwise are **misleading!**

4. The Steering Committee Discussion Does Not Reflect a Policy Decision

Comments made at the Fairview Park Steering Committee are advisory and do not represent adopted policy or official City direction. To my knowledge there is no adopted plan to remove community events such as Concerts in the Park or to impose noise restrictions that would displace them.

5. The Draft Plan Is Still Under Review

The Fairview Park Master Plan Update Draft is in the community feedback stage. Input is still being collected, that's my understanding of these meetings. Nothing is final until council adopts a plan is my understanding.

Summary

In summary, the Fairview Park Master Plan Update Draft does not eliminate community activities, close trails, or convert the park into an exclusionary preserve.

Additional Comment:

Why can't the model gliders fly somewhere else in the City????????????????? We have plenty of wonderful park space throughout the whole city. Tewinkle and Estancia Park have plenty of space for them.

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From: David Martinez <david@cmabs.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 12:46 PM
To: PACS Comments
Cc: GRUNER, BRIAN; SETHURAMAN, RAJA; THOMAS, BRETT ATENCIO; MARTIN, PAUL; DALTON, KELLY M.
Subject: Comments on Draft Fairview Park Master Plan
Attachments: Fairview Park Master Plan Comments.pdf

Dear PACS Commission,

Please find attached comments on the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan from the Costa Mesa Alliance for Better Streets Board.

Thank you,
David Martinez
Board Member

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30 October 2025

Parks and Community Services Commission
77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, California



Dear Members of the Parks and Community Services Commission,

On behalf of the Costa Mesa Alliance for Better Streets (CMABS), we write to share our comments and concerns on the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan.

Our primary concerns come from the Trails Plan (page 75), which severely limits where bicycles would be allowed in the park. As proposed, bicyclists would only be allowed to ride on the designated “Multi-Purpose Trails.” This proposal would prohibit bicyclists from enjoying blufftop views on the western edge of the park. It would prohibit riding along the southern edge of the wetland area, necessitating a large detour if going from Talbert Park to Placentia. This proposal would also cut off the Canary Drive entrance by not being connected to any trail a bicyclist would be allowed to use, even though the stairs at Canary Drive include a bike runnel along the side.

To address these concerns, we recommend the Trails Plan allow bicyclists to ride on “Primary Pedestrian Trails.” Since the Talbert Park Master Plan allows bike riders on unpaved trails, allowing the same in Fairview Park would diminish confusion between jurisdictions and allow bicyclists to continue enjoying the trails they enjoy today. Additionally, the Commission could consider establishing a 10 MPH speed limit on the Primary Pedestrian Trails to address any speed concerns.

The draft plan also does not conform to the Circulation Element of the General Plan (page 31). That element plans for a Class I bike trail along the Fairview Channel and a Class I connection to the Canary Drive entrance, both in the eastern part of the park. To address this, we recommend converting the trail on the easternmost edge of the park to a Multi-Purpose Trail up to the Fairview Channel bridge, then continuing a planned Multi-Purpose Trail along the Fairview Channel to Placentia, to connect to the crosswalk and the existing trail to the west. Additionally, a trail connecting the Canary Drive entrance and one between the currently proposed Multi-Purpose trail on the eastern side and the Fairview Channel bridge should be upgraded to a Primary Pedestrian Trail to allow bicycle traffic and connectivity through the park.

We look forward to the Commission’s discussion tonight and appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,
Board of Directors
Costa Mesa Alliance for Better Streets (CMABS)

From: airseamach@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 1:03 PM
To: FVPMP
Cc: PACS Comments; CITY CLERK; CITY COUNCIL
Subject: Fairview Park Planned Changes

City of Costa Mesa and Parks and Recreation

Sometimes what you have in a park by design or by spontaneous transformation, is good the way it is. You must ask what you intend to gain. Will the park after planned changes serve a larger community or is this just spending money to make changes.

I attend this park a half dozen or more times a year to meet with Orange County students involved in Science Olympiad. One of the teams from Irvine, Sierra Vista MS, won the National Championship for Science Olympiad 2025. Other school students have benefited from attending the Harbor Area Soaring Club, located in the Fairview Park.

While attending the park I have noticed a happy crowd of park patrons. Many walking the dirt trails and enjoying the company of others. I must ask, what more could the city ask for? Your parking lot is often full. Many patrons walk in from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Unless your plan is to destroy the symbiotic relationship of the park as it stands. It makes little logical sense, to change what is already one of the most successful parks I have attended.

Ronnie Espolt
"Youth and Education, Model Aviation Group"
(310)344-3140

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

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