

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Supervisor Roy Wilson

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** Sept. 7, 2004

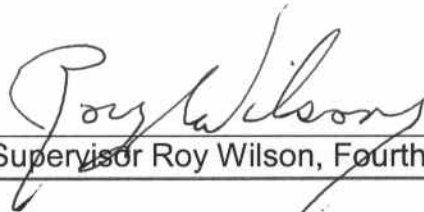
**SUBJECT:** Study of Parks & Recreation Services in the unincorporated communities of Riverside County

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors instruct the Executive Office, in cooperation with the Parks & Open Space District and CSA Administrators, to explore options available to the County for assuming responsibilities for Parks & Recreation services in the County's urbanized, unincorporated communities. Report back to the Board in 90 days as to said findings.

**BACKGROUND:** As all areas of the County of Riverside grow in population, so does the need for adequate parks and recreation services to serve the needs of those communities. Most of the County's 24 incorporated cities have their own separate Parks & Rec. Department. The sole responsibility of these departments is to oversee the maintenance of city parks and to ensure adequate recreation programs are in place to address the needs of the city's residents. In most of the County's unincorporated communities, these responsibilities are left to either Special Districts or County Service Areas (CSA's). Examples are the Coachella Valley Recreation District in the eastern county, Valley Wide Recreation District in the Hemet/San Jacinto area, and the Jurupa Area Parks & Recreation District in the far western part of the county. Through a variety of County Service Areas, the County assumes responsibility for unincorporated areas not covered by parks districts.

In the case of Special Districts, some have been challenged by their inability to adequately maintain and operate their respective parks due to inadequate resources, management or the direction provided by their elected boards. These challenges are compounded by the fact that frequently residents of incorporated cities move into unincorporated communities, expecting a level of park and recreation services typical of cities. Unfortunately, misunderstanding among these new residents and their various service providers (including parks, but also sewer, water, electric and trash) inevitably leads to an appeal to the Board of Supervisors for a remedy. Most often the remedy is not available to us – as each service provider is an adjudicated agency with its own elected board members.

Since active population growth in our County began in the mid-90's it has been our Board's hope that the independent Parks & Recreation Districts improve and prosper with the growth. Unfortunately, some still struggle, and ultimately it is the new residents of these districts who suffer. To ensure that every option to our Board is in place for the provision of Parks and Recreation services throughout the County, we must explore our options.

  
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Supervisor Roy Wilson, Fourth District