



CITY OF

NEWPORT BEACH

City Council Staff Report

November 5, 2019
Agenda Item No. 11

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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TITLE: Consideration of Directing the Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission to Evaluate the Feasibility of a Community Pool at Lower Castaways Park

ABSTRACT:

Mayor Diane Dixon has asked the City Council to consider directing the Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission to evaluate the feasibility of a community pool at Lower Castaways Park that serves recreational & therapeutic needs.

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) Find this project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies) of the CEQA Guidelines, because this project has no potential to have a significant effect on the environment; and
- b) Direct the Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission to form an ad hoc committee to study the feasibility of a community pool at Lower Castaways Park through architectural review and community outreach.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

The current adopted budget includes sufficient funding for the hiring of an architect to study the feasibility of the Lower Castaways Park site. Approximately \$15,000 is available from the CIP, Master Facilities Plan Strategic Planning account, 57201-980000.

DISCUSSION:

There is an existing deficit of available pool time in Newport Beach to serve the high schools, community programs, competitive aquatics, and recreational programs. Additionally, there is not a public therapeutic pool option. The City currently shares pool use with Corona del Mar High School and Newport Harbor High School, balancing a full schedule of both school and community activity. Demand for aquatic programming greatly outweighs the available time and space at the two high school pools.

A dedicated community aquatic facility would satisfy these needs by allowing for increased lap swim hours, year-round swim lessons, and a variety of aquatic based fitness and therapeutic classes for all ages. The addition of a community pool would also free up the high school pools for increased school, club, and competitive programming.

Staff have identified a 4.04-acre undeveloped park parcel at Lower Castaways Park (Attachment A) as a possible location for the community pool. The Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission would be tasked with evaluating the feasibility of the location with assistance from staff and an architectural consultant. Community outreach meetings and surveys will be conducted as part of the process to pinpoint facility and programming needs.

As it relates to future project funding of the pool, the Honorable Evelyn Hart has indicated her commitment to leading a fundraising effort to offset half of the project costs through private funding.

Staff prepared a forecasted budget for the new community pool based on estimated revenues, expenditures, and potential growth. Revenues of \$200,000 were based on community activities seven days a week including, but not limited to, swim lessons, aqua fitness classes, therapeutic aquatics, and adult masters and lap swim. Expenditures were broken down into staff costs (approximately \$650,000) and maintenance and operations costs (approximately \$250,000). Annual General Fund support will be necessary to cover the \$700,000 gap between maintenance and operational expenses and revenues. These figures are based on a 25-yard lap/non-competitive pool model.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the City Council find this project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential to have a significant effect on the environment.

NOTICING:

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A – Map of Lower Castaways Park/Project Location