



TITLE

Pickleball Discussion

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss the option of adding additional pickleball courts and provide a recommendation to the City Council.

CONTACT

Alexandra Ikeda, Deputy City Manager

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

NOT A WORK PLAN ITEM - RESPONSE TO A CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT

During a City Council meeting, a member of the public provided a public comment requesting additional pickleball courts due to the popularity of the existing courts and the amount of time players are having to wait to participate. It was expressed that the City's two dedicated pickleball courts at Elliott Park are not sufficient to meet current demand.

The City has a planned Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project, PR23-0200 Melvin Tennis Court Improvement Project, to resurface and restripe the tennis courts at Melvin Park. Staff had preliminarily planned to stripe the courts for both tennis and pickleball to accommodate shared use; however, due to recent concerns regarding pickleball and the close proximity of nearby homes, staff is reevaluating the project approach and seeking feedback from the Commission.

Noise Pollution

While pickleball continues to grow in popularity and demand locally, the sport has also generated increased concern in many communities due to noise impacts, particularly when courts are located near residential areas. Pickleball produces a distinct, repetitive "popping" sound from paddle-to-ball contact, and noise complaints have led some cities to explore operational restrictions, quieter equipment requirements, and, in some cases, limitations on pickleball play at public courts.

Impacts and Considerations

In communities where pickleball courts are located near residential neighborhoods, noise concerns have at times resulted in significant impacts to nearby residents, including ongoing complaints and, in some cases, legal action. These concerns have also led some cities to adopt restrictive operating conditions such as limited hours of play, equipment requirements, or other constraints that may be difficult to enforce long-term. In more extreme cases, cities have moved toward restricting or prohibiting pickleball play at certain locations. Examples of these types of actions and community responses have been reported in the City of Carmel, the City of Martinez, Laguna Beach, Saratoga, Camarillo, and Newport Beach.

While the City's dedicated pickleball courts at Elliott Park are also located in close proximity to residential housing, staff is not aware of any noise complaints associated with pickleball activity at that location to date. Residents along Melvin Road and near Melvin Park were invited to attend tonight's meeting to participate in the discussion and provide feedback on the potential impacts to their daily living experience if pickleball courts are added at this location.

Next Steps

The Melvin Park tennis court project provides an opportunity to evaluate shared use. However, due to the recent concerns regarding pickleball noise and the close proximity of these homes, this item is being brought forward for Commission review and discussion. The Commission's feedback will assist staff in developing a recommendation to City Council regarding whether to restripe the Melvin Park tennis courts for shared use to help meet the growing demands of pickleball in our community.

COUNCIL PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Organizational Effectiveness: "Deliver exemplary government services."

FISCAL IMPACT

Not Applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

None

COMMUNICATION

Level 1: Minimal Communication

The staff report serves as the formal communication regarding this item. Targeted outreach to residents living on Melvin Road was through mailed notification letters inviting them to attend this meeting and participate in the discussion.

ATTACHMENTS:

None