



CITY OF RIDGECREST
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February 10, 2018

Dear Community Member,

The City is considering establishing a **Park Assessment District** to provide continued funding to maintain and improve our current sport complexes, parks and city facilities, such as the senior center and the Kerr McGee Center. Keeping our facilities in good condition and easily accessible is important to maintain and improve the **Quality of Life** within our community through facilitation of quality recreational programs for people of all ages.

For over a decade, the City has experienced a significant decline in general fund revenue. While the passage of Measure V (a self-help sales tax to maintain public safety and roads) helped the City's budget to some degree, it did not solve all of our budget issues. City staff was still reduced by over 25% and many of our parks and city facilities went into disrepair. Unfortunately, Pinney Pool suffered the most. The concrete pool siding began to crumble and the overall facility was out of ADA compliance. This condition forced the permanent closure of the pool – the community's only public pool – in 2016.

This last year, the City was able to use one-time funding from a Tax Allocation Bond to replace play equipment at Upjohn and Pearson Parks and begin to refurbish the ball fields at the Kerr McGee Sports Complex and fund the repair of the Senior Citizen's Center parking lot. While these improvements are a step in the right direction, there are still several needed repairs and improvements to our facilities. However, the stark reality is there is no dependable funding within our current budget structure to fund these additional repairs, improvements or scheduled maintenance of our recent improvements to keep them from returning to a state of disrepair.

If established, the District would raise approximately \$500k per year through an average annual assessment of \$49 per parcel. The funds raised through the District cannot be taken by the County or the State and 100% of it must be spent to maintain and improve our facilities.

In considering the establishment of the District, the City wants your input on the priority of the improvement projects. Attached is a link to a short survey we would like you to complete. We want to know what you feel is important.

We believe having quality facilities for everyone to enjoy will foster a better **sense of community** and will benefit the community as a whole. Thank you for taking the time to provide us your very important opinion.

Sincerely,

Ron Strand
City Manager