

**FEATHER RIVER RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
1875 FEATHER RIVER BLVD., OROVILLE, CA 95965**

DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
Special Board Meeting
August 16, 2018

Location: FRRPD Conference Room

Open Session 6:00 PM

AGENDA

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need a special accommodation to participate in the meeting, please contact the District Administrative Office at (530)533-2011 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Time: _____

2. ROLL CALL

Director Marcia Carter _____
Director Scott Kent Fowler _____
Director Steven Rocchi _____
Vice Chairperson Emberland _____
Chairperson Victoria Smith _____

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

None

5. ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CLOSED SESSION

None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, the Board will extend the courtesy of the Hearing Session to interested parties who wish to speak on items not on the agenda. State law prohibits the Board from taking action on any item presented if it is not listed on the agenda, except under special circumstances as defined in the Government Code. You are limited to three (3) minutes. The Board reserves the right to limit public comment to 15 minutes, and can reopen public comment at a later time. The Chairperson will invite anyone the audience wishing to address the Board on a matter not listed on the agenda to state your name for the record and make your presentation. The Board will not and cannot take any action except for brief response by the Board or staff to a statement or question relating to a non-agenda item.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

None

8. ACTION ITEMS

1. REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH NOR-CAL UNITED.

(Appendix A)

Requested Action: Authorize the General Manager to enter into a cooperative partnership with Nor-Cal United.

VOTE

Director Marcia Carter _____

Director Scott Kent Fowler _____

Director Steven Rocchi _____

Vice Chairperson Emberland _____

Chairperson Victoria Smith _____

9. NON-ACTION ITEMS

1. Aquatic Center presentation by Don Noble and David Pittman (Appendix B)

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. BOARD ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

12. ADJOURNMENT

Time: _____



STAFF REPORT

DATE: AUGUST 16, 2018

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: RANDY MURPHY, GENERAL MANAGER

RE: REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH NOR-CAL UNITED

SUMMARY

Staff request to accept Nor Cal United's proposal to become a satellite program to train male, college level athletes in Butte County. The scope of this plan is to allow the gymnast signed up with Nor Cal United and meeting the criteria for Nor Cal United to train at FRRPD gymnastics at no cost by requiring volunteer coaching in return.

BACKGROUND

Nor Cal United men's gymnastics program is a college club program set up to allow male gymnasts who attend college in northern California to compete at the college level by training at satellite facilities throughout the year. FRRPD Gymnastics has been selected as a satellite facility for athletes attending Chico State, Butte College, Yuba College, Shasta College and/or any online students in Butte county.

Each gymnast training at FRRPD Gymnastics will coach recreation classes as a volunteer, at least one class per day and up to five classes per week. The gymnast will report to the Recreation Supervisor – Gymnastics for schedules and will be required to meet all the employee requirements with FRRPD. The training schedules will be set so not to interfere with scheduled classes. (Subject to change based on the need and under the guidance of the Gymnastics Supervisor.)

This proposal will bring in college level gymnast to promote gymnastics throughout our area. This will also bring in well-trained volunteer coaches for all the recreation classes. This program will be overseen by the gymnastics supervisor and currently has three or four Nor Cal gymnast planning to participate this school year.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

Minimal – DOJ compliance fees, additional staff shirts. The District would ask to be named in all Nor Cal United events and promotions as a host facility and sponsor, which would increase our exposure in the gymnastics community and likely attract new program participants.



RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to enroll Nor Cal United students to utilize District equipment and facilities at no cost for their training sessions. In exchange they will be required to volunteer and teach an equivalent number (up to 5) classes per week, as schedules allow.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS

None

Swimming and Aquatic Facilities for Oroville's Future

(Providing for our community's short and long term needs)

A power point presentation by local citizens

Don Noble and David Pittman

Thursday, August 16, 2018



Outline

1. Introductions, disclaimers and ground rules.
2. Addressing the “Big Questions” for a swimming/aquatic facility for Oroville:
 - a. Is there a need?
 - b. Does such a facility fit SBF guidelines?
 - c. What is the best location?
3. “The Money Thing”:
 - a. Construction costs: an “all of the above approach”
 - b. Sustaining a facility: mitigating loss, maximizing revenue, minimizing risk, providing a safety net.
4. Possible next steps forward to make the vision a reality.
5. Open discussion, note taking.
6. Adjournment, refreshments

Oroville is ready for an amazing aquatic facility. It needs to be built on Mitchell Avenue, adjacent to the FRRPD Activity Center, to be owned and operated by FRRPD.



This could happen soon. Reasonable target to break ground: 2020.

(Imagine the thrill).



1. Is there a need?
2. Does an aquatic park fit SBF guidelines?
3. What is the best location?
4. The money part: construction, sustainability
5. The next steps.

BIG QUESTION #1:
Does Oroville need an aquatic center?



Anyone recognize this?
(Advantage: native Orovillians, over 50).

The Feather Plunge closed circa 1972.



In June Oroville Current Events posted an article from the Oroville Mercury.

(There resulted 170 likes, 115 comments and 50 shares)

Big Question #2

Does a downtown pool/aquatic park fit SBF Guidelines?



RFSP & an Aquatic Center



A PERFECT FIT.

The Regional Fund Strategic Plan (RFSP)

The abridged version:

SBF funds should be used:

- 1) To promote recreation within the nexus to the Feather River,
- 2) Stimulate the local economy,
- 3) Mitigate the loss caused by the construction of the Oroville Dam,
(All the while promoting and enhancing the environment along the Low Flow Channel).



- As part of the Settlement Agreement, DWR was required to provide a "Recreation Management Plan", which identified close to \$1 billion for studies, construction management, infrastructure for related projects.
- Included in this plan is to investigate alternatives for warm water swimming.
- One of the identified alternatives was an "off-site swimming pool or water activity center".

SBF Access Goal

"Projects should ensure access for all segments of the population," (e.g. infants to geriatrics) "with connections to the surrounding community and future development."



A new aquatic park will:

1. Address both the recreational and economic goals of the SBF.
2. Benefit all demographics, infants to geriatrics.
3. Fulfill the DWR's existing obligation to replace the warm water swimming lost due to the construction of the Oroville Dam.
4. Have a significant positive impact on community morale.

An aquatic park for Oroville could be a collaborative effort between multiple entities, including possibly:



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Big Question #3
Where should it be built?



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1. North Forebay Recreation Area (Thermaitto)
 2. Nelson Park
 3. Riverbend Park
 4. North Fork Feather River (Tadlis)
 5. Downsville
 6. Feather River Recreation & Park District Activity Center
 7. Lake Saddle
 8. Taylor Creek
- Preferred Sites For Complete Aquatic Facility

1. Feather River Recreation & Park District Activity Center
2. Riverbend Park
3. North Forebay Recreation Area (Thermaitto)

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In 2016 the SBF Ad Hoc Aquatic Committee narrowed venue preferences to two:
Mitchell Avenue & Riverbend Park. And then came February 2017:



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Mitchell Avenue
Following are just some of the reasons.

◦ **Reason #1. Infrastructure**

◦ (Not sexy, but extremely relevant for costs)

- Water, sewer, PG&E are already in place.

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#2. Convenience to downtown.

- Easily accessible for Oroville's citizens, including families who might be visiting on foot, or on bicycles.
- **Safety:** the convenience of this location would provide probably the safest destination for hundreds of children and families who visit either on foot or on bicycles.
- Walking distance from motels and restaurants.

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Shuttles could provide transportation to this central location for families from Southside and Thermalito.



3. Traffic Flow

Traffic will be able to go two directions on Mitchell, two directions on Feather River Blvd., with easy access on and off the freeway.



#4. Existing Public Transportation

B Line already in place, making an aquatic park on Mitchell a countywide destination.



#6. An aquatic park on Mitchell Avenue

Would perfectly complement the existing:

- 1. State-of-the-art Harrison Stadium
- 2. The Gary Nolan baseball and softball fields.
- 3. The FRRPD gymnastics and Activity Center.



Proximity to other destinations speaks directly to SBF preferences to locate projects adjacent to existing or planned facilities.



7. Revitalization

The Mitchell Avenue location would fit perfectly with the City's vision of overhauling Feather River Blvd., which could very well lead to the revitalization of the western portion of downtown Oroville, stimulating development and raising property values.

#8. It will be a regional draw.

FRRPD's gymnastics facility is already a proven destination for much of Northern California.

An aquatic park, including competition swimming, diving and water polo, would also be a regional destination.

This pairing of these state-of-the-art facilities would be unique in Northern California, (perhaps the state?)



#9. A Perfect Match: gymnastics and diving.

"Years of flipping, trampoline time, and either innate or trained awareness, make gymnasts prime candidates for the sport of diving". (From a gymnastics blog).

#10 Will make a centrally located home pool for our local swim teams.



11. Environmental considerations: the Mitchell Avenue location would likely be the least sensitive of the potential locations, probably expediting the CEQA process.



("Mitigated Negative Declaration" to skip EIR).

#12 Mitchell Avenue could become a cluster of attractions, e.g., a "Fairytale Town" or a botanical garden.



Or perhaps.....

A new basketball/multi-purpose gym



#13 Security



1. Chief Lagrone:

Stand alone facilities create challenges for law enforcement.

2. Securing the perimeter:

(A 500 ft. long concrete block wall's already in place)

3. Reasonable expectation:

With a secure perimeter, state of the art lighting/security cameras, bring vandalism and crime down to an absolute minimum.

4. Overkill perhaps?

Include a small accommodation for an onsite security person.

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#14 An aquatic park on Mitchell Avenue could be built in phases, spread over several, perhaps many years.

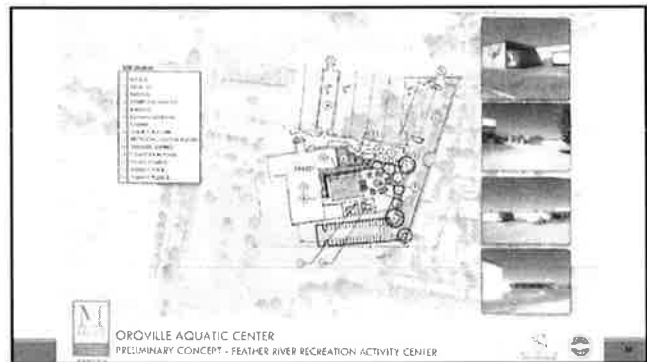
- Would greatly increase chances a pool, as part of a Phase 1, could open sooner, rather than later. (Less start up cost).
- Would open the door to a pay-as-you go approach, dramatically reducing, the need to borrow from the community's future. Grant writers would be able to do their jobs leading up the beginning of each new phase.
- By paying as we go we would not only avoid robbing money from our community's future, but also avoid robbing them of future decision making about features to add. New features are being designed every year.

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#14 (continued).

- Before the construction of each new phase, there could be reevaluation by FRRPD board and staff, as well as having outreach to the community, to help decide what features should come next.
- With the completion of each new phase, there would be renewed interest from the public.
- Perhaps, by building gradually, there will be more SBF \$\$ available to other worthy projects in our community.

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"Need a break?"



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The money thing Part 1: Paying for construction



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Use an "all of the above approach" to construction funding for Phase 1.

1. DWR obligations 
2. SWC grant writing obligations with relicensing
3. Securitize future SBF installments. 
4. "Beat the bushes" for funding we don't even know about, e.g., Valerie Navarro and "Living Elements"

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A large portion, perhaps a majority of Oroville area's residents, doesn't have access to boating opportunities on Lake Oroville.



DWR funding of a swimming facility in the downtown area, from the identified nearly \$1 billion in recreation management plan, would benefit community members who don't utilize the lake.

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The money thing Part 2
Sustainability



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How's this for a terrifying thought?



According to results of the research done for CARD, annual maintenance for an aquatic center would run around \$83,000 per year!

What's always the first rule? Don't panic.

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Mitigating operation and maintenance costs:



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#1. A reasonable goal: zero debt service. Again, by building in phases, paying as we go.



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#2. Integrate solar at new aquatic park, effectively eliminating electric bills at the Activity Center. Potential savings \$3,000/mo. or approx. \$36,000 per year.



#3. In planning Phase 1, emphasize features that will generate revenue, e.g. food and beverage sales, perhaps food trucks initially.

(Potential 60-75% of revenues at water parks).



#4. Regulating the chemistry of new pools is much more efficient than with old ones, saving on chemicals, and extending the life of the pool.

This can be done from a smart phone.



#5. Dig a well?

A local water company been actively trying to purchase properties on Mitchell Avenue. FRRPD could investigate drilling a well for its own use, or once parcels are acquired, perhaps negotiate a deal to have water provided in exchange for drilling rights.

#6. Price admission carefully, finding the sweet spot to encourage large volume of visitors, while keeping it affordable for families.



#7. Naming Rights
Potentially a huge money maker, e.g.
"The New Dirks Automotive Feather Plunge"



#8. This cow is a party animal!



A Party destination with no equal

The aquatic park could actually be a front for a party business (Joking, but not entirely). We could hire a full time, seasonal party coordinator, offering basic to deluxe packages.

This would be the bad version of how FRRPD might try to develop an aquatic park.



Rule one: Never work without a net.
Rule two: Specify the type of net.

A Safety Net: The SBF Itself



Under Goal 6 in the RFSP, the SBF can fund “a potential project’s administrative, capital, environmental permitting and other costs”.

There’s a precedent for funding O and M.



The next steps, making a vision a reality:



With the issuance of a NOFA by the SBF, FRRPD could apply for a single grant to achieve three goals to address both short and long term swimming and aquatic needs for Oroville.

1. To fund necessary repairs to Nelson Pool, to be matched from the "New Money" account.
2. To fund the purchase of eight, possibly nine parcels adjacent to the FRRPD A.C. for purpose of a swimming facility, or other recreational uses, benefitting the community into the future.
3. To fund the design, planning and permits to have Phase 1 shovel ready by 2020.

Form ad hoc committee to finalize goals for Phase 1.

- FRRPD Board members
- Community members
- Local swim team reps
- DWR
- City of Oroville
- Design consultants

Do you realize how fun this could be?

(The planning, the anticipation, breaking ground, the grand opening, and using it).

(Most people consider fun a good thing).



"Being bold, is not the same as being careless"

A topic for many years.

