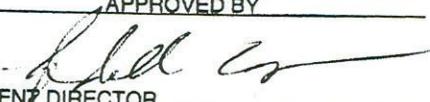
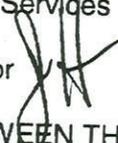


March 6, 2007

AGENDA ITEM NO.
<u>COUNCIL MEETING 3/6/07</u>
APPROVED BY

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR
CITY MANAGER 

**FROM:** RANDALL L. COOPER, Director  
Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department

**BY:** JERRY HAYNES, Assistant Director 

**SUBJECT:** (1) APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF FRESNO AND FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RELATING TO THE JOINT USE OF FIG GARDEN SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD FACILITIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF FRESNO.

(2) ADOPT THE NOTICE OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO CEQA

**KEY RESULT AREA:** Customer Satisfaction

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council approve the attached twenty year joint use agreement between Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) and the City of Fresno.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Fresno currently has a Joint Use Agreement with the Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) which provides us opportunities and partnerships at school sites and parks throughout the City. That agreement is scheduled to expire in July of 2008. Due to a unique project currently underway with FUSD, it was mutually decided that a stand-alone, site specific joint use agreement would be necessary to accomplish all of the goals of the City and District as well as provide a longer term. This agreement, if approved by Council, will provide the City and the School District with a site specific joint use agreement of 20 years.

### KEY OBJECTIVE BALANCE

**Customer Satisfaction:** The reconstructed fields will improve safety and increase the enjoyment for youth and citizens. **Employee Satisfaction:** Employees will have a high quality facility that can be utilized for youth programs and games.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2004 PRCS acquired 8.3 acres on W. Figarden Drive to develop into a park. PRCS met with Councilmember Calhoun's Office to discuss the new neighborhood park. In Northwest Fresno there exists a long history of baseball in the community. The unmet needs of the northwest baseball community were outlined in the "Baseball Needs Assessment Report" issued in Fall of 2005 by Councilmember Calhoun's Office. A full evaluation of the city parks needs revealed a shortage of ball fields for all age groups and was further addressed by the Parks Commission report.

The N. Fig Garden Park Project that includes the adjacent Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) basin and four baseball fields located at Fig Garden Elementary School was identified as a solution to help meet this unmet need. In December 2006 the City Council approved a Reimbursement Resolution that appropriated funds and authorized the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Department to move forward with selected parks projects. The Fig Garden Elementary School baseball fields were one of those projects.

The recommendation to build ball fields in the Figarden area is a two phased approach. The issue at hand today is in regard to the construction of upgrades of four existing fields currently used by both Figarden School and the Bullard Cal Ripkin Baseball Program for their league which is excess of 900 players. These fields are located at Figarden Elementary School (FUSD). That project is currently underway and creatively uses school open space for community recreational facilities. Future phases of this project will be before Council on a future date and will be utilizing property on both City owned land and the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District.

The Joint Use Agreement between FUSD and the City of Fresno provide for the following:

1. The agreement is for twenty years.
2. The City will reconstruct and relocate four baseball fields at Fig Garden School including related improvements and landscaping.
3. The City will have joint use of the facility.
4. FUSD will be responsible for all maintenance and repair.
5. FUSD will be responsible for managing the site.

In December 2006, City hired the Engineers/Consulting Firm, Blair Church & Flynn to do an environmentally assessment of the Project. They determined that the minor alterations being done to the existing school playground, new baseball fields, landscaping and irrigation, as well as the construction of small restrooms and concession stand, qualifies for an environmental exemption because the project will not increase the existing capacity of the school.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The estimated cost to renovate the four fields at Fig Garden Elementary is \$1.5 million, derived from a reimbursement resolution approved by Council December 5, 2006. The resolution allows for the expenditure of project funds in anticipation of a bond issue in which debt service payments will be covered by Developer Park Impact fees.

K:\JosieK\Rept to CC...2007  
Revised 2-28-07

Attachments:      Agreement  
                         Notice of Exemption  
                         Baseball Needs Assessment Report

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN**  
**CITY OF FRESNO**  
**AND**  
**FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**RELATING TO THE JOINT USE OF FIGARDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**BASEBALL FIELD FACILITIES**

This Agreement between City of Fresno and Fresno Unified School District Relating To The Joint Use of Fig Garden School Baseball Field Facilities (this "Agreement") is made and entered into as of this 6th day of March 2007, between the City of Fresno, a municipal corporation (the "City"), and the Fresno Unified School District, a public school district (the "District").

**RECITALS**

Whereas, the City and the District, jointly and severally have an unmet need for programmatic and public use recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, City and District, in order to address this unmet need desire to allow for a project consisting of demolition, relocation and reconstruction of public and community baseball/sports field and related improvements and landscaping as more specifically described and depicted in Exhibit "A" hereto incorporated herein ("Project"), upon the terms and conditions herein; and

WHEREAS, the Project is consistent with the City's 2025 General Plan including the Open Space and Recreational Element, hereinafter the "Plan" including the finding therein that the City's playfield program of utilizing joint use agreements with school districts provides recreational space for organized programmatic and non-programmatic activities such as baseball, and the Plan's objective of continuing to coordinate with other agencies and organizations providing recreation facilities and services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Plan the City has a further stated policy objective of, where feasible, using school sites for city recreation programs in order to provide a wider range of recreation programs and maximize the efficient use, maintenance, and supervision of public facilities, such that the City shall continue to enter joint use agreements with school districts in the metropolitan area to expand recreational playfield programs; and

WHEREAS, the Project is consistent with and supportive of the applicable Plan designations, findings and determinations including that the Project will further and facilitate programmatic and non-programmatic public recreational uses per joint use relationships with school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Project is consistent with all applicable Plan policies, and with the applicable zoning designation, and related zoning regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Project also will cause the development of under-utilized school district property to more intensive and viable uses; will increase the aesthetics and improve the appearance of the Project area and the surrounding area; and will contribute to the recreational activity in the Project Area; and

WHEREAS, the City has allocated and available \$1,500,000 in FY 2006-2007 (reimbursable general funds)] as to which the Project is an eligible use; and

WHEREAS, the Project has been environmentally assessed and has been determined to be categorically exempt [Class 1 (Guideline 15301, Class 3 (Guideline 15314)] pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), under Notice of Exemption filed January 9, 2007, hereinafter the "Environmental Document(s); and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2007, the Council held a public hearing and duly considered the above findings and the Project Environment Documents and the Project and evaluated all the information, testimony and evidence presented during the public hearing and believe that the Project is in the best interests of the City and the health, safety, and welfare of its residents, and consistent with the public purposes and provision of applicable state and local laws and requirements.

### **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and of the covenants, conditions, and premises hereinafter contained, to be kept and performed by the respective parties, the parties agree that the aforesaid Agreement be amended as follows:

1. All the foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference as fully set forth herein.
2. District, in consideration of the City's contributions as set forth hereunder hereby grants City a no fee license (the "License") to use the project site specifically described/depicted in Exhibit "B" hereto incorporated herein (the "Project Site"). The License is limited to use of the Project Site for recreational purposes in conjunction with recreational programs administered by the City and the City's development of the Project Improvements (defined below), in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. The License shall run for duration of this Agreement.
3. The City shall, at its sole cost and as lead agency, cause the demolition and construction of the Project upon the Project Site in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the District, consistent with the Project budget

and schedule attached as Exhibit "C" incorporated herein (the "Project Improvements") and subject to required City Council approval(s) regarding Project funding and procurement/award.

4. During the duration of City's License, the Project Improvements shall at all times be owned solely by the City.

5. As authorized by Government Code Section 895.4, during the duration of the License, City shall indemnify, save and hold harmless the District, its officials, officers, agents, employees, and volunteers against any and all claims, causes of action, liability, suits, judgments and expenses, including reasonable attorneys fees and costs, for death or injury to persons, or loss of or damage to property, arising from: (a) negligent acts or omissions of City, its officials, officers, agents, employees or volunteers in the performance of this Agreement; (b) use of the Project Site or Project Improvements by the City or its authorized users or invitees; (c) any dangerous or defective condition or negligent design of the Project Improvements or the suitability of the Project Site for the Project Improvements; or, (d) the City's negligent or wrongful act or omission in bidding, contract award, construction and other activities with respect to the installation of the Project Improvements.

6. As authorized by Government Code Section 895.4, during the duration of the License, District shall indemnify, save and hold harmless the City, its officials, officers, agents, employees, and volunteers against any and all claims, causes of action, liability, suits, judgments and expenses, including reasonable attorneys fees and costs, for death or injury to persons, or loss of or damage to property, arising from: (a) negligent acts or omissions of District, its officials, officers, agents, employees or volunteers in the performance of this Agreement; or (b) use of the Project Site or Project Improvements by the District or its authorized users or invitees. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the City shall nevertheless indemnify District for claims that arise from; any dangerous or defective condition or negligent design of the Project Improvements or the suitability of the Project Site for the Project Improvements; or, the City's negligent or wrongful act or omission in bidding, contract award, construction and other activities with respect to the installation of the Project Improvements.

7. The City, its officials, officers, agents, employees, and volunteers shall be added as an additional insured on the District's general liability coverage throughout the term of this Agreement. The District, its officials, officers, agents, employees, and volunteers shall be added as covered parties on the City's self-insurance coverage throughout the term of this Agreement. In addition, City shall provide in its bidding materials that District shall be named as an additional insured under all policies of liability insurance that City requires to be provided by any contractor or service provider engaged by City with respect to the Project.

8. Following completion of the Project Improvements, the City and the District shall jointly use the Project Site and Project Improvements consistent with the terms of this Agreement. City's use of the Project Site and Improvements shall be limited to use in conjunction with recreational programs administered through the City's Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. All uses by third parties, (including use by Cal-Ripkin Little League Baseball League or other nonprofit entities), shall be conducted pursuant to authorizations provided by the District, pursuant to terms of separate standard Use Agreements required for such use by the District.

9. The City at all times shall keep the Project Site and Project Improvements free of liens/encumbrances.

10. The License granted under this Agreement shall be for an initial term running from the effective date hereof through 6-30-27. The District shall allow City's Project contractor access to the Project Site as necessary to complete the Project Improvements as awarded and shall not unreasonably interfere with the Project work or take any action that would cause the City to be in violation of its obligations to the Project contractor.

11. After completion of installation of the Project Improvements by City, District shall be responsible for all maintenance and repair of the Project Improvements other than "Capital Repair". City shall be responsible for all "Capital Repair" of the Project Improvements. The term "Capital Repair" means any event of repair of permanent Project Improvements that exceeds a cost of \$5,000.00.

12. Upon any termination or expiration of the Agreement the City's obligation to maintain the Project improvements shall end and the Project Improvements including incidents and obligations of ownership shall vest in and be the responsibility of the District and the District shall pay the City the mutually agreed upon unamortized value of the Project improvements, if any.

13. Except for the indemnity obligations specified herein, the obligations of the City and the District are limited to and contingent upon appropriation of sufficient funding in each fiscal year during the term of the Agreement.

14. The District acknowledges that the City intends to reimburse Project expenditures hereunder with proceeds of a revenue bond issuance. The parties further agree to negotiate in good faith an amendment to this Agreement to address any items that the City may be required to address on account of its bond issuance transactions, provided that in no event shall the District be obligated to agree to any amendments to this Agreement that will impose upon the District any additional expenses, burdens, or limitations on its operational usage of the Project Improvements.

15. The parties acknowledge that they are parties to an "Amended and Restated Agreement Between City of Fresno and Fresno Unified School District Relating to the Recreational Use of School Facilities and the Educational Use of School Facilities", approved by the District on January 28, 2004 (the "Current Agreement"). The Current Agreement addresses issues similar to those dealt with under this Agreement regarding joint use of certain facilities owned by the District and the City. Nevertheless, the parties intend that the duties and obligations of the parties with respect to the Project Improvements and Project Site shall be governed exclusively by this Agreement, without regard to otherwise applicable terms of the Current Agreement.

16. The parties are acting as independent contractors. Neither party, nor any of its officers, associates, agents or employees shall be deemed an employee, partner or agent of the other for any purpose. Each party shall retain as program income any and all income generated by its respective use hereunder.

17. If either party is required to commence any proceeding or legal action to enforce or interpret any term, covenant or condition of this Agreement, the prevailing party in such proceeding or action shall be entitled to recover from the other party its reasonable attorney's fees and legal expenses.

18. Any notice required or intended to be given to either party under the terms of this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to be duly given if delivered personally or deposited into the United States mail, with postage prepaid, addressed to the party to which notice is to be given at the party's address set forth on the signature page of this Agreement or at such other address as the parties may from time to time designate by written notice.

///

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement at Fresno, California, the day and year first above written.

CITY OF FRESNO  
a municipal corporation

FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
a public school district

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Title Director of PR&CS

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Title

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Address: 2326 Fresno St. Room 101  
Fresno CA 93721

Address

ATTEST:  
REBECCA E. KLISCH  
City Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
JAMES C. SANCHEZ  
City Attorney

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

Attachments:	Exhibit "A"	Project Description
	Exhibit "B"	Project Site Description/Depiction
	Exhibit "C"	Project Schedule

**EXHIBIT A**  
**Project Description**

**Site Improvements @ Figarden Elementary School: 4 Baseball Fields**

December 28, 2006

**1. Phase 1: Construction Start June 1, 2007.**

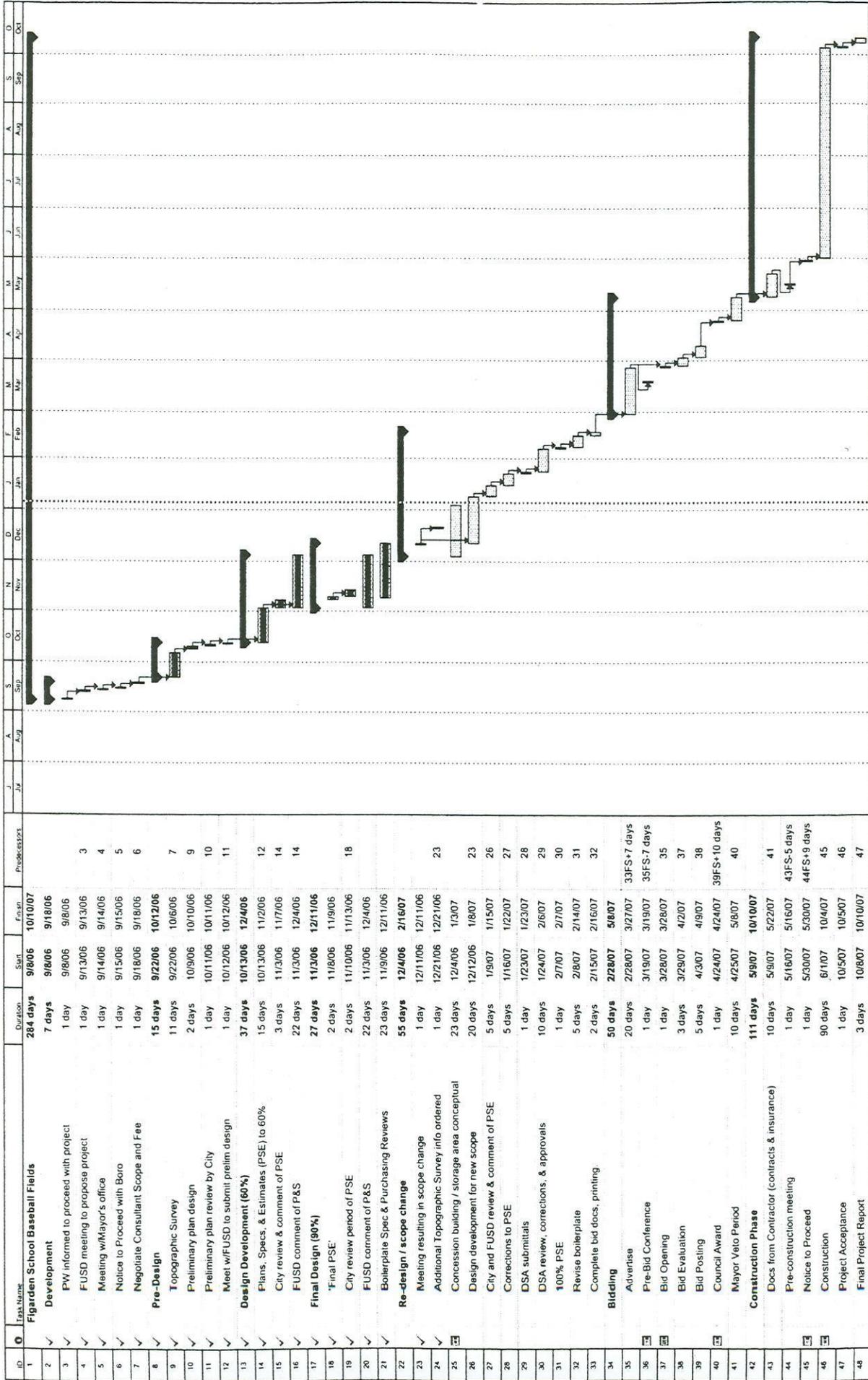
- a. Construct four baseball diamonds located at Fig Garden Elementary School, which replaces existing baseball diamonds. Work to include:
  - i. Minor relocation existing diamonds to better accommodate increased diamond size necessary for little league play.
  - ii. New backstops to Little League Standards
  - iii. New 5 tier aluminum bleachers on concrete slabs at each baseline.
  - iv. New drinking fountains next to ball diamonds and within dugouts.
  - v. Misc. concrete walkways around baseball diamonds
  - vi. Electronic scoreboards, (4 each).
  - vii. Reconstruct diamond turf and infield surfaces.
  - viii. Remodel / replace irrigation system for baseball diamonds, and surrounding landscaped areas.
  - ix. Furnish and install new city water supply to existing irrigation system.
  - x. Misc. fencing as needed.
- b. Combination concession & storage building, and attached enclosed/fenced storage area.
  - i. Furnish and install one pre-engineered / pre-fabricated building that includes one +/- 150 s.f. room for concessions operations and one +/- 150 s.f. room for indoor storage; +/- 300 s.f. total. Locate building adjacent to existing parking lot. Furnish and install an adjacent and attached chain link outdoor storage enclosure for baseball related equipment (home run fencing, infield drag, carts, etc.).
  - ii. Furnish and install all utilities for this new building.
  - iii. Install drinking fountain(s) at new building.
  - iv. Install misc. concrete walkways, fencing, signs, etc. at new building.



# Exhibit "C"

## Site Improvements @ Figarden Elementary School: 4 Baseball Fields

Fr 15607



Task Progress Milestone Summary Rollup Task Rollup Milestone Rollup Progress External Task Project Summary

**Notice of Exemption**

**Form D**

To:  Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) City of Fresno  
Public Works Department, 2600 Fresno St.  
Fresno, CA 93721-3600

County Clerk  
County of Fresno  
2221 Kern St.  
Fresno, CA 93721

(Address)

**Project Title:** Figarden Elementary School Playground Enhancement Project

**Project Location - Specific:**

6235 N. Brawley Ave., Fresno, CA 93722

**Project Location - City:** Fresno

**Project Location - County:** Fresno

**Description of Project:**

Construct new baseball fields, restrooms, landscaping, concession stand, and irrigation system on existing elementary school playground

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** City of Fresno

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** City of Fresno

**Exempt Status: (check one)**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1 (Sec. 15301); Class 3 (Sec. 15303)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Class 14 (Sec. 15314)

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The project consists of minor alterations to an existing public school playground (new baseball fields, landscaping, and irrigation) and the construction of a new, small structures (restrooms and concession stand), all of which will take place within the existing school grounds and none which will increase the existing capacity of the school.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If filed by applicant:**

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
- 2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature: Andrew Campbell Date: 1/9/07 Title: PROJECT MANAGER

- Signed by Lead Agency
  - Signed by Applicant
- Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

January 2004

City of Fresno  
Fresno City Hall  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721



## Figarden Loop Park Project

# Northwest Fresno Baseball Park Needs Assessment

*Prepared by the Office of  
Councilmember Brian Calhoun,  
Fresno City Council District 2*

**The Movie "Field of Dreams" said, "Build it and they will come."  
Guess what? They're already here!**



# Northwest Fresno Baseball

## *The Value of Baseball in Fresno and the Needs of the Northwest Fresno Baseball Community*

### **Background and Overview**

The game of baseball, "America's National Pastime," is responsible for many heartwarming family memories and childhood traditions. The tradition of baseball in Fresno and the importance of the game to our community is apparent at a variety of levels. The evidence is demonstrated by the number of players, fans and coaches City-Wide. Whether it be a pick up game in a vacant lot, a City or neighborhood league in a park or school, a college game at Beiden Field, or a professional game at the City's Grizzlies stadium, for many in Fresno, baseball is a way of life.

#### **City of Fresno's Commitment to Baseball and Youth.**

The City's elected have been very good in recent years in their commitment to the City's youth and the advancement of baseball by initiating new baseball complexes in Southwest and Southeast Fresno. This action further demonstrates not only the City's commitment to our children, but to the tradition of baseball.

This report provides information about the following:

- Introduction to the Northwest Baseball Community
- Facility Needs Assessment
- Opportunities for the City and a Community Partnership

### **Northwest Baseball Community**

The baseball community in Northwest Fresno is diverse both in the ethnic make-up of its players and coaches, and in the expansive age range of its players. There are Tee-Ball players as young as five and Men's League players as mature as 57, sometimes from the same family. Some play the game in the spring just for fun, while others opt to join summer camps, fall ball leagues or travel ball all year long.

The following will introduce you to some of the Northwest baseball community leagues and teams currently active. These teams are primarily in the Bullard and Figarden area near the vacant park land just recently purchased by the City for \$1.5 million and does not include the City leagues or Central Unified teams.

**Bullard Cal Ripken League (Little League size field requirement)**

The Bullard Cal Ripken League is the largest of all of the northwest organizations. They offer a Spring Season to any child from the ages of five to twelve that want to learn and play the game. There are six different divisions (levels) of play starting with T-ball, and advancing to more competitive player pitched ball which could prepare players for a try out at the junior high school level. This league has 835 active players, 173 volunteer coaches, a dedicated League Board, 62 Team Moms and many years of successful fundraising. While they currently have no specific dedicated facility to call home, they have been successful in raising enough funds and volunteers to establish make-shift facilities on a year-to-year basis at the Malloch and Figarden Elementary Schools. They have two temporary Tee-ball fields at Malloch and back-stops for four little league fields and have been fortunate to have Figarden School agree to the placement of two portable toilets near the ponding basin and a wooden trailer to provide equipment storage and temporary concession sales. Concession sales are a component of the League's fundraising and all 62 teams are required to seek volunteer parents to run the stand all season.

The dedication of the coaches, parents and community to this league is impressive. Although they desperately need a permanent, upgraded facility to call home, these individuals should be commended for the continued growth and competitiveness of the league and what they have managed to accomplish on their own.

The Bullard Cal Ripken League also fields up to five All-star Teams that have the option of traveling throughout the Central Valley and California playing other Cal Ripken All-star teams.

**Bullard Babe Ruth League (Regulation size field requirement)**

The Bullard Babe Ruth League consists of thirteen to fifteen year olds that make up 7 teams. There are approximately 100 players and volunteer coaches. This league offers an opportunity for more baseball to the kids who played on their junior high school teams, while providing an opportunity for the many that were not able to play on the school teams. They have an informal agreement with Tenaya Junior High School for practice field time and games.

This League also offers a post-season All-Star team. This year the All-Stars won their District Tournament, the State Championship and then traveled to play in the Regional tournament in Utah. They play these tournaments "on-the-road" because they have no field to call home. Although they can put in a bid to host a local district tournament at Tenaya Junior High School, they are unable to put in an official bid for a State or Regional tournament. Clovis hosted the District Tournament and Madera hosted the State Tournament.

**Legion Baseball League (Regulation size field requirement)**

The Legion League consists of players in the fifteen to eighteen year old division of play. The two teams consist of approximately 30 players and coaches. Many of the players have played high school ball and are looking for additional playing opportunities other than what the school season provides. These teams have challenges to find practice field

time and their games at Bullard High School and are in competition for playing time with other baseball leagues.

**Northwest Fresno Travel Ball (Regulation size field requirement)**

The Fresno Storm and the Fresno Braves are two of the identified year-round travel baseball teams in Northwest Fresno. There are 30 players and coaches that also seek informal agreements with local Fresno Unified schools for practice and playing times. Most of their games are played on the road. Valley cities such as Clovis, Modesto, Stockton, Bakersfield, Merced, Paso Robles and Madera gain the economic benefits of having teams travel to their communities for weekend tournaments. These Fresno Teams have on occasion of played at Granite Park although the issue of a regulation size field poses challenges for many tournaments.

**National Adult Baseball Association (NABA) (Regulation size field requirement)**

This Fresno League offers two divisions for the 18 years and Over and 28 years and Over player. The 2005 season produced fifteen teams with a total of 225 players and play over 150 games a season. While they try to contract with FUSD area high schools on a year-to-year basis, the maintenance issue becomes quite a challenge during the summer months. Evening games would increase participation and could be achieved by a lighted facility. Many of these players have children in area little league and play for the love of the game and health and recreation purposes. They, too, could pursue hosting area and regional tournaments if they had access to an appropriate facility.

League Name	Number of Teams	Number of Players and Coaches	Dedicated Playing Facility to Call Home
Bullard Cal Ripken (5 to 13 year olds)	62	970	NO
Bullard Babe Ruth (13 to 15 year olds)	7	100	NO
Legion Baseball League (15 to 18 year old)	2	30	NO
NW Fresno Travel Teams (Storm & Braves)	2	30	NO
Men's League 18years & Over	8	120	NO
Men's League 28years & Over	7	105	NO
<b>TOTAL OF UNDERSERVED</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1355</b>	

*Table: Numbers may vary from season to season.  
Additional teams in the area may not of been included.*

## Facility Needs Assessment

It is clear to see that a City of Fresno baseball facility is needed in Northwest Fresno. Also, the team information provided is not complete and it is believed that more baseball teams are currently active in the Bullard area. The teams included in the report are the teams that have come forward requesting consideration of facilities. Additional planning needs to be done to accommodate the continued residential growth in the area which may account for why the Cal Ripken team numbers continue to grow each year. While the 8 acres the City of Fresno Parks Departments just purchased on the Figarden loop won't be enough to address all the Northwest Baseball needs but it will certainly go a long way towards providing playing opportunities. There is a need for Tee-ball, Little League and Regulation sized fields.

Unfortunately, there are currently no "Kaiser" Park like facilities anywhere in Northwest Fresno. Providing high quality playing fields and facilities is the long term goal for all levels of play. The current strategy is to provide two regulation sized fields with lights on the newly acquired land on the Figarden loop site. These fields can also be constructed in such a way that temporary outfield fences could transform them for Little League use.

A consultant for the City of Fresno recently completed a report which detailed and inventoried open space and parks space both a City sites and public school sites. This strategy will provide the City an opportunity to convert additional little league fields on the adjacent Figarden Elementary School site which currently is home to four temporary make-shift fields. Fresno Unified School District stands ready to work toward this goal.

The District 2 staff looks forward to working with the City of Fresno Parks Department and the Northwest Baseball Community in planning and designing the facilities to best meet these needs.

## Opportunities for the City and the Community

Recent developments provide new opportunities for a baseball park in Northwest Fresno.

- Newly acquired park space on the Figarden Loop
- Updating of the City Development Park Fees
- Willingness by the Northwest Baseball Community to do fundraising for the project through the City's FUN Program.
- Cooperation of the City of Fresno and Fresno Unified School District to create joint recreational facilities.

In addition to the construction of this new baseball facility and all the recreational opportunities this will provide, there are also quality of life and economic benefits.

Permanent and upgraded facilities will provide opportunities to many local teams to experience a "home field advantage." Players will develop a sense of pride which

translates into being more competitive and successful. The opportunity to play on a higher and more competitive level could also lead to an increased probability of playing on school teams which might result in scholarships to college.

The number of players participating will also increase as a result of this facility being constructed. The increased community participation will help to meet the goals of a more fit society by keeping active in sports at all ages.

Construction of regulation sized facilities also has an economic benefit. Many of the All-Star Teams and Travel Baseball Teams would love to host a tournament on their home field. Being able to remain in Fresno while still competing at the next level means we would attract teams from around the state and even western region to play in Northwest Fresno tournaments. The City would benefit from hotel taxes, restaurant and entertainment dollars being spent in Fresno. Many cities have compiled revenue estimates on the value of their recreational baseball facilities.

### *Closing Comments and Recommendations*

This report has been generated to represent Northwest Fresno citizens who have accomplished so much on their own, but are still seeking to partner with the City and Fresno Unified to do even more. It is of course understood that there are competing needs for park dollars around the City of Fresno. Members of these Leagues have offered to raise money for upgraded amenities and can also pursue grants through their national Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken organizations for lights and stadium enhancements. The dedication and commitment offered to the City by the leaders of the Northwest Baseball Community has been an inspiration. They have heard empty promises in previous years, but have refused to let skepticism overcome their optimism for a chance to build a ballpark. It is recommended that the Figarden Baseball Facility be made a top priority by the City of Fresno.

*The movie "Field of Dreams" said, "Build it and they will come."  
Guess what, they're already here!.*