



Esmeralda★Soria

Fresno City Councilmember District 1

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY AT 3:30PM

Quigley Park – 808 W Dakota, Fresno CA

Councilmember Soria Requests \$1.5 million in Funding to Plan and Build More Parks in Fresno

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Terry Cox, Chief of Staff, District 1
559-621-7810 office, 559-908-7654 cell

Fresno – On Monday, June 8th at 3:30PM, Councilmember Esmeralda Soria will hold her first press conference at Quigley Park, 880 W Dakota, Fresno, CA. Councilmember Soria will outline her request for an additional \$1.5 million to improve our national ranking in park space for our community.

In the Trust for Public Land Park Score 2015, Fresno continued to rank last in cities across the nation for adequate park space, accessibility via walking and economic investment. 75th out of 75 in 2015. Currently, Fresno relies on a 26 year old (1989) Parks Master Plan mostly non-relative to Fresno and its needs today. Moreover, the current budget points to the PARCS Department’s goal of refurbishing one park each year for the over 70 parks that we have in our city.

Budget Request:

- City of Fresno Parks Master Plan Update
- Additional funds for Operations, Maintenance, and Land Acquisition

“There is a deficiency in park space available to our residents across our city, and more prevalent in disadvantaged and older neighborhoods. To address this we need to fund a Parks Master Plan now,” says Councilmember Soria. “A Parks Master Plan will provide a long-term defined plan to adequately address the City’s current and future parks needs including a plan for operating and maintaining them. The Plan will analyze ways to address disparity in parks between neighborhoods across our city.”

As we launch the planning process it is critical that we also invest in our current inventory of parks. “Refurbishing only one existing park a year as is currently the goal of the department is unacceptable. We can do better.” The proposed \$1.5 million new dollars would allow us to refurbish additional parks and prevent further deterioration of our city assets.

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