

Kevin McNamee
Mayor

August 10, 2023

California Strategic Growth Council
Attn: Community Resilience Centers Program
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE CENTERS PROGRAM – CONEJO COMMUNITY
PARK AND CENTER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Thousand Oaks, I am writing in support of the Conejo Recreation and Park District's (CRPD) subject grant application.

The City of Thousand Oaks believes the Conejo Community Park and Center Improvement Project is vitally important to increase positive community use and expanded resiliency within our community. The city supports CRPD's proposed resiliency and emergency evacuation project, will participate in the planning, design, and implementation as needed, and is committed to the broad objectives of California Strategic Growth Council goals and evacuation center planning with the County Human Services Agency (HSA).

The project proposes to replace the existing 7,000sf building built in 1965 by local volunteer efforts with a new 19,000sf building and a variety of community-serving park improvements. The proposed new building will be constructed to current standards and codes and provide expanded recreational improvements as well as the increased ability to serve as an evacuation shelter for the community.

These improvements will provide functional and aesthetic value to the greater community and park system and region. This project also addresses a meaningful need within the community for park facilities to evolve and provide for the community they serve. Most critically, the Conejo Community Park and Center Improvement Project will be a significant resource in addressing climate resilience and serving the district's most vulnerable residents.

Emergency Evacuation Centers are critical to our region and the city works closely with the HSA on evacuation center planning. Thousand Oaks is surrounded by open space and is designated as a Very High Fire Severity Zone. Climate change factors such as high winds, extreme heat, and severe drought make the region susceptible to wildfires. These zones are also predisposed to Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). Investor-owned utilities (IOUs) can enact PSPS based on elevated weather conditions such as strong winds and low humidity to prevent the incidence of wildfires caused by electrical equipment.

As an example, the 2018 Hill/Woolsey Fires swept through Thousand Oaks in Ventura County and Los Angeles County cities of Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, and Malibu, burning almost 100,000 acres. In Thousand Oaks alone, two-thirds of the city was evacuated. The fire destroyed 36 residential structures and two commercial buildings. An additional twelve residential structures were deemed uninhabitable.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital project and your efforts to support a healthy, thriving, and resilient California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin McNamee', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin McNamee
Mayor

CC: Conejo Recreation & Park District

cmo: 660-40/Conejo RPD Resiliency Center City of Thousand Oaks 080923.ml