



CITY OF KUNA CITY NEWSLETTER

October 2006

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NOVEMBER 7TH!

To the Citizens of Kuna,

On November 7, 2006, you will be asked to cast a vote regarding a proposed bond issue for the City of Kuna. This letter is not designed to persuade you to vote one way or another and you should consider it as informational only. My hope is to communicate to you the reasons and circumstances leading up to the bond question and to describe for you how the money would be spent in the event the bond is approved.

For many years, city residents have clamored for recreational facilities and more park space. The simple fact is that the City has not had, nor has it been able to accumulate, the funds necessary to pursue or provide these amenities. For the past few years, city officials have been exploring a number of options to try and bring some of these amenities to town. We have explored the possibility of adding park impact fees onto new developments, the possibility of creating a separate recreational district and the possibility of developing a larger and more comprehensive parks department within the City.

As you can well imagine, there are benefits and drawbacks to each of the proposed alternatives, and each of them would require additional funding from you, the taxpayer. As we got further and further into the differing alternatives, one thing became clear; there needed to be a rather large improvement in the City's park space and recreational facilities up front to create the basic infrastructure and services necessary to build upon for the future. Such improvements are extremely costly, and the City has desperately needed to expand its sewer treatment capacity for some time.

During the process for planning for a new sewer treatment plant, it became obvious that the land comprising the sewer farm was a tremendously valuable asset to the City which could be sold or traded to acquire the park and recreational facilities the City wanted. The problem with using this land to achieve these ends, however, is that the land is needed for the sole purpose of disposing of the effluent created by the lagoon treatment system the City has used for decades. The effluent created by the lagoon system is not clean enough to simply discharge into another waterway, it must be spread out upon the ground.

The City has the ability to use, trade or sell the farm ground for other purposes, but only if the City can eliminate the need to use that ground to apply its sewer effluent. The only way that can be accomplished is to change the way the City's current wastewater is treated. The Local Improvement District created to construct a new wastewater treatment facility will be funding construction of a different type of treatment system, a membrane bio-reactor treatment system. That system, however, will be designed to only serve the needs of the land within the LID and new growth.

The plant could be built larger to accommodate the City's existing treatment needs, thus freeing up the sewer farm land for other purposes. Displacing the existing lagoon treatment system is expected to cost around \$11,000,000. The bond will not cover this entire amount, which is why the City has been working with a developer to try and share this expense and make any tax impact as low as is feasible.

We would expect you to have questions or concerns. Please contact me or come to City Hall for further information. Regardless of your position on this issue, please vote on November 7.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY - PLEASE CAUTION YOUR CHILDREN TO NOT KNOCK ON DOORS OF HOMES WHERE THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED OFF!

Prepared by City Attorney Randall Grove