



# AGENDA REPORT

SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Meeting Date: September 3, 2019

Agenda Item 9C

Approvals: \_\_\_\_\_

City Manager gm

Dept. Head ES

Attorney \_\_\_\_\_

Finance af

**Department:** Beaches, Parks and Recreation  
**Prepared By:** Samantha Wylie, Recreation Manager

**Subject:** *REVIEW OF PICKLEBALL PILOT PROGRAM & INSTALLATION OF PICKLEBALL LINES ON COURT #1 AT SAN GORGONIO PARK.*

**Fiscal Impact:** Yes. If approved, the addition of lines at San Gorgonio Park court #1 will cost \$3,350 and pickleball nets will need to be purchased, estimated at \$2,000 for four sets. The permanent conversion of court #2 to pickleball will cost approximately \$7,000, covering costs for posts, nets, and coring the court.

The pickleball community has donated \$3,350 towards the cost of the adding lines on the additional court. The City will be responsible for funding the nets and covering the ongoing maintenance of the pickleball nets and court surfaces.

**Summary:** The purpose of reviewing the pilot program is to help determine next steps as it relates to the future development of pickleball courts in San Clemente. Staff and the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission recommend discontinuing the use of San Luis Rey Park for pickleball, and adding lines to the second tennis court (Court #1) at San Gorgonio Park. The Commission recommends designating five dedicated days to pickleball, providing exclusive use without the opportunity for tennis to play on these selected days. Tennis would be designated two days, on which pickleball could not play. Staff recommends the City Council consider the permanent conversion of one court (Court #2) to pickleball and establishing priority play for pickleball and tennis on a dual-lined Court #1 on select days.

**Background:** At its September 4, 2018 meeting, the City Council approved, 3-1-1 (Councilmembers Brown, Ward, Donchak voted in favor, Mayor Swartz voted Noe and Mayor Pro Tem Hamm was absent) a master plan amendment at San Luis Rey Park (SLR) and San Gorgonio Park (San G) to implement a one-year pickleball pilot program which would add lines to one tennis court at SLR and one tennis court at San G. These dual-lined courts were established as shared use, however each sport received priority days for play. Council designated the priority use of pickleball at SLR on Sundays and Thursdays, and at San G on Mondays and Wednesdays. The intention of the pilot program was to develop an understanding of the potential future use of each site for permanent pickleball courts, while also giving residents access to pickleball on both sides of the city.

Early in the implementation of the pilot program, staff received feedback from neighboring residents at SLR and pickleball users. Residents near SLR expressed concern regarding the high noise levels occurring during pickleball play on both priority

and non-priority days. While members of the pickleball community stated there was high usage of the pickleball courts during peak times at San G. Upon reviewing these concerns and input, staff amended the pilot program to the following: SLR priority usage on Tuesdays and Thursdays; San G priority usage on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. This amendment broadened the opportunity for priority pickleball at San G, while removing weekend priority at SLR which was an expressed concern from surrounding residents.

On April 22, 2019, late Mayor Steve Swartz and the Assistant City Manager met with members of the San Clemente pickleball community to discuss the possibility of adding lines to the second tennis court at San G. The pickleball members were asked to submit a letter to the City stating what they were seeking to accomplish, in addition to committing necessary funds for the project, estimated at \$3,350. This letter along with 100 signatures from the pickleball community was received by the City on May 6, 2019. A check donation in the amount of \$3,350 has also been received by the City from the pickleball community.

At its August 13, 2019 meeting, the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission recommended the City Council eliminate pickleball usage at San Luis Rey Park; and add new pickleball lines on San Gorgonio Court #1; and directed staff to designate five dedicated days for pickleball, not allowing tennis play to occur these selected days.

**Discussion:**

Feedback from the pickleball community included, but was not limited to:

- The color of the pickleball lines at SLR make courts difficult to see.
- There is high use and long wait times to play at peak times at San G.
- There is a need for additional nets to prevent errant balls between courts.
- There is a desire for more courts.
- Pickleball has continued to grow since the beginning of the pilot program.
- San G is the preferred location for possible future permanent pickleball courts.
- Establishing courts in one central location allows for more players to participate.

Feedback from the surrounding neighbors at SLR included, but was not limited to:

- Pickleball play is loud and disruptive.
- Players waiting to play are loud and disruptive.
- Loud pickleball play begins very early in the morning.
- Pickleball play is not limited to priority days.
- Lessons are taught on the courts.
- The use of pickleball courts continues all day, including the weekends.

Feedback from the tennis community included, but was not limited to:

- SLR is limited on parking. During pickleball days, parking was impacted making it difficult to utilize the other three courts for tennis.
- Initially, some pickleball players brought boom boxes/speakers to play music during usage, which was disruptive to tennis activities and surrounding neighbors.
- Pickleball was very often played on non-priority days.

- Because of the volume of pickleball players that use the courts at any given time, the group size can be intimidating to approach and request court usage during tennis priority days.
- At San G, the overflow of players waiting to get on court #1 runs onto court #2 during tennis play, making tennis matches difficult to complete.
- Peak times for play of pickleball and tennis coincide with each other.
- The pickleball nets are not put to the side after pickleball play is complete causing tennis players to move nets around, impeding on the players' play time on the courts.
- Tennis players recognize the growing demand and popularity of pickleball and see value in its offering, however it is difficult to have shared space amongst the two sports.
- Pickleball and tennis lessons at SLR limits court availability.

To date, staff have not received feedback from the surrounding neighborhood at San G Park.

Possible actions and implications for future pickleball usage:

1. Possible action: Eliminate pickleball usage at SLR court #4.  
Implication: This will remove the neighbor residents' concerns regarding excessive noise during all hours of the day. It will force all pickleball play to occur at San G which could create additional impact at the already popular site.
2. Possible action: Add pickleball lines to Court #1 at San G.  
Implication: This will increase the capacity for pickleball play at San G, and will reduce wait times during peak use. This will also create a hub of pickleball play as an expressed desire from the pickleball community. This will reduce the availability of tennis courts on the north end of the city.
3. Possible action: Establish dedicated or restricted days and/or times of use for each activity rather than priority days.  
Implication: This will prohibit the use of courts for specific activities outside of dedicated days and/or times. This will likely cause an increase in costs for enforcement of court use. This could mitigate complaints from residents regarding early play.
4. Possible action: Recommend another park site to establish pickleball.  
Implication: A pilot period would be recommended for any new site where pickleball might be established. There are not currently funds budgeted for the installation of additional court lines.
5. Possible action: Convert one tennis court at San G to permanent pickleball.  
Implication: Initially recommended by the BPR Commission 2018. This would allow for pickleball play seven days per week, without an additional need for enforcement of designated or dedicated days. It would leave only one tennis court at this site.

In consideration of the actions above, staff recommends that the City Council approve the addition of lines onto court #1 at San G and discontinue the use of court #4 for pickleball at SLR. With the dual-striping of this court, it is recommended that pickleball have priority use of the court Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Priority days for tennis will be Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tennis will remain

able to use the courts anytime that pickleball is not in play during pickleball priority days, and vis-a-versa for pickleball.

Because San G has been identified as the most suitable location for pickleball, staff also recommends that court #2 be resurfaced to four permanent pickleball courts, leaving court #1 as a dual-lined for both tennis and pickleball. In initial discussions regarding pickleball at BPR Commission meetings, the Commission recommended this configuration, but given the uncertainty of locations between SLR and San G, the pilot program recommended only dual-lining courts to gauge use between both sites. Resurfacing of the courts at San G is currently budgeted within the FY19-20 Annual Budget. Permanent pickleball courts with permanent nets will require less maintenance over time, as the wear and tear on permanent nets is substantially less than portable nets which often break due to their mobile nature.

If the City Council chooses to leave both courts at San G as dual-lined, it is recommended that the priority play continue on both courts with priority given to pickleball on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and priority given to tennis on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Fiscal Year 2019-20 Annual Budget allocated funding towards site specific master plan studies at San Gorgonio Park, San Luis Rey Park, Linda Lane Park, Richard T. Steed Park/Baron Von Willard Park, and Bonito Canyon Park. The goal of the studies is to provide a framework and recommendation for future park amenities as recommended through 2018 BPR Master Plan. This is the first phase in developing an understanding of the needs and potential of each park site. As some of the City's older park sites, these parks have been identified as sites with unused or underutilized land which could potentially provide space for the recommended addition of park amenities and features. These amenities may include skateboard features, pickleball, and off-leash dog space which were revealed as community priorities through 2018 BPR Master Plan process.

Additionally, if the City Council approves the staff recommendation of converting one tennis court at San G, a new standalone tennis court may be considered through the site specific plan.

**Recommended  
Action:**

STAFF AND THE BEACHES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMEND THAT the City Council

- 1.) Discontinue the use of court #4 at San Luis Rey Park for pickleball; and
- 2.) Approve the addition of pickleball lines at San Gorgonio Park tennis court #1;
- 3.) Accept a donation of \$3,350 to donation account 001-000-36780-000-00000; and
- 4.) Approve a supplemental appropriation to fund painting of pickleball lines in the amount of \$3,350 to account #001-635-43470-000-00000 (Maintenance of Other Facilities).

THE BEACHES, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council approve the use of both courts at San Gorgonio Park five days per week for exclusive pickleball use.

STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council

- 1.) Approve the conversion of San Gorgonio court #2 to four permanent pickleball courts; and
- 2.) Approve the dual-lined court #1 for priority pickleball use five days per week (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays) and priority tennis use on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Attachments:** None.

**Notification:** Interested Parties  
Residents within 300 feet of 109 Avenida San Luis Rey (San Luis Rey Park)  
Residents within 300 feet of 2916 Via San Gorgonio (San Gorgonio Park)