

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

Dept. Head \_\_\_\_\_

Manager \_\_\_\_\_

Admin. Asst. MS

# AGENDA REPORT

BEACHES, PARKS &amp; RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Date: February 9, 2021

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

**Subject:** **CONSIDERATION OF ERRANT BALL NETTING AT JIM JOHNSON MEMORIAL SPORTS PARK – PARK MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT**

**Fiscal Impact:** Staff estimates that the purchase and installation of netting would not exceed \$45,000, and errant ball netting would typically require replacement every 10 years.

**Summary:** Staff recommends that the Commission discuss and provide a recommendation to the City Council on the installation of errant ball netting at Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park along the southernmost side of the artificial turf soccer field, paralleling Avenida Vista Hermosa.

**Background:** Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park (JJMSP) opened in 2017 with an approximately 6-7-foot tubular fence surrounding the fields, acting as the barrier between the field/park and the street.

At its March 14, 2017 meeting, the Public Works Department presented a report displaying options for the installation of errant ball netting and/or additional fencing to be installed by the developer, Taylor Morrison. The Beaches, Parks & Recreation Commission recommended installing poles and netting at the same height as Vista Hermosa Sports Park (30-foot high) along Avenida Vista Hermosa (AVH), and the east edge of the synthetic turf field nearest the I-5 freeway.

At its April 4, 2017 meeting, the City Council approved the installation of netting at the eastern side of the synthetic turf field, paralleling the I-5 freeway off ramp, and not to install any additional fencing along AVH.

At its February 2, 2021 meeting, the City Council directed the Commission to review and reconsider the installation of errant ball netting along AVH.

**Discussion:** Council and staff, at times, have received citizen concerns about the potentially unsafe conditions created when a ball is kicked over the existing 6-7 foot fencing and onto the AVH right-of-way.

Staff have connected with the frequent user groups of the adjacent soccer field in question to gather feedback. Collectively, these groups have stated that they have rules implemented for their youth games and practices that don't allow for the players to follow errant balls, but require that an adult retrieve the ball when possible. Game officials and coaches are responsible for monitoring this.

Adding netting along AVH could be accomplished in two different ways: (1) install 30-foot high netting akin to what is currently used at Vista Hermosa Sports Park, netting installed at turf surface; or (2) install additional fence posts (25-feet high) alongside current fence, and install netting beginning at top of existing fence, effectively adding an approximate 18-feet of additional protection. If netting is not desired, a new fence could be installed at a height of 10-12 feet, however this would increase costs up to \$100,000.

Of the options listed above, staff recommend Option 2 as is it would be more aesthetically appealing and netting would be easier to maintain.

***Recommended***

***Action:*** STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the Beaches, Parks & Recreation Commission comment and/or provide a recommendation to the City Council on the installation of errant ball netting at Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park at the southernmost side of the soccer field, paralleling Avenida Vista Hermosa.

***Attachments:*** Excerpt from BPR Commission Minutes, March 14, 2017  
Staff Report, City Council Meeting, April 4, 2017

***Notification:*** AYSO  
Elite Soccer League

glyphosate kills root to tip; stated that herbicides can be carried into water sources; and opined workers applying herbicides and others may suffer health effects.

Commissioners either in agreement or individually commented:

- A subcommittee would be a good setting to thoroughly vet this information.
- A subcommittee would fulfill the suggestion of a thoughtful approach to implementation.
- Irvine's model could be used as an example for a landscape management plan.
- More discussion is needed.

CHAIR STREGER FORMED A SUBCOMMITTEE, AND APPOINTED COMMISSIONER SHAW AND COMMISSIONER DOREY to the subcommittee to develop an updated landscape management policy.

**B. Park Master Plan Amendment to Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park Synthetic Turf Field Area**

Tom Bonigut, Deputy Public Works Director, summarized the contents of the administrative report regarding the proposed amendment to the Park Master Plan at Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park's synthetic turf area and responded to Commission inquiries.

Commissioners either in agreement or individually commented:

- Errant balls around soccer fields and children entering traffic to retrieve them are concerns.
- There is no such thing as too high of a fence.
- Netting on the east edge of the synthetic turf field is preferred to catch more balls on the upswing.
- Netting deteriorates where fencing would hold up over time.
- The height of the netting at Vista Hermosa Sports Park is necessary.
- Fencing has a heavier appearance where netting disappears.

MOTION BY CHAIR STREGER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GATES, AND CARRIED 7-0, to recommend amending the park master plan for Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park to install poles and netting at the same height as Vista Hermosa Sports Park along Avenida Vista Hermosa and the east edge of the synthetic turf field toward the I-5 freeway.

**C. Community Center Sunday Operations**

Samantha Thomas, Recreation Manager, summarized the contents of the administrative report regarding Sunday operations at the San Clemente Community Center and responded to Commission inquiries.



# AGENDA REPORT

SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Meeting Date: April 4, 2017

**Approvals:**

City Manager [Signature]

Dept. Head TS

Attorney \_\_\_\_\_

Finance JV

**Department:** Public Works, Engineering  
**Prepared By:** Aeryn Donnelly-Terrey, Park Planner  
Tom Bonigut, Deputy Public Works Director

**Subject:** ***PARK MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT TO JIM JOHNSON MEMORIAL SPORTS PARK SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD AREA.***

**Fiscal Impact:** None. The cost to install the fence will be covered by the developer Taylor Morrison.

**Summary:** The Beaches, Parks and Recreation (BP&R) Commission recommends that the City Council amend the park master plan of Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park, to allow for the installation of a fence to be installed along Avenida Vista Hermosa, as well as a higher fence to be installed behind the goal at the synthetic turf field along the Interstate 5 (I-5) freeway exit, to prevent errant balls from reaching the street and freeway off ramp.

**Background:** Construction of the Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park at the Marblehead Coastal/Sea Summit Development is nearing completion. The park includes a synthetic turf soccer field near Avenida Vista Hermosa and part of the Interstate 5 (I-5) freeway off ramp. Along the Vista Hermosa side, there is a minimum of 20 feet between the long edge of the soccer field and the park perimeter fence (refer to Photos 1 and 2 in Attachment 1). The total height of the perimeter fence is about seven to eight feet, and consists of a uniform six-foot high decorative fence that sits on top of a small block wall of varying height. There is an approximately 11-foot landscaped area between the park perimeter fence and Avenida Vista Hermosa (refer to Photo 3 in Attachment 1). At the eastern end of the field, there is no fence behind the goal nearest the I-5 freeway. However, there is a six-foot high Caltrans chain link fence at the property line between the park and the freeway, and that fence is about 50 to 80 feet behind the soccer goal (refer to Photo 4 in Attachment 1). With the current conditions there is some concern about the potential that stray balls might be kicked over the existing fences and into Avenida Vista Hermosa and the nearby I-5 freeway off ramp. The BP&R Commission considered this issue at its March 14, 2017 meeting and recommended that the City Council amend the current Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park Master Plan to revise and add fencing as discussed below.

**Discussion:** Staff developed several alternatives for potential fence treatments as listed in the following table and shown in Attachment 2. The options included installing taller decorative fencing and variations of the pole/net system which is currently used at the Vista Hermosa Sports Park. City Recreation staff preferred the Option C 10-foot high netting behind the soccer goal and the Option D post/net system for the perimeter along Vista Hermosa. City Maintenance staff preferred installation of taller chain link

fence at the freeway boundary, plus the taller Option A decorative fence to eliminate use of nets which must be periodically replaced on average every five years.

Option	Description	Approx. Cost	Time Frame
A	Replace existing 6-foot high decorative fence with 10-foot high decorative fence similar to the 10-foot decorative fence at the nearby basketball court. Increases fence height by 4 feet to about 13 feet above field level.	\$ 96,418.00	6 - 8 weeks
B	Add Round Post Fence (painted bronze to match existing fence) with Soccer Netting attached to top of fence. 30-foot tall posts with net increase effective fence height to about 25-26 feet above field level. 20-foot tall posts increase effective height to 15-16 feet above field level.	\$ 44,602.00	3 - 4 weeks
C	Add 10-foot high post/net along east side of Synthetic field	\$ 20,208.00	2 - 3 weeks
D	Add 20-foot tall 4" X 4" posts (painted bronze) attached to the existing wall parallel to AVH. Increases effective fence height to 15-16 feet above field level.	\$ 40,658.00	4 - 5 weeks

Engineering staff similarly preferred the Option A fence but to not install fence behind the soccer goal and instead monitor the situation to verify if in fact there is any issue with errant balls reaching the park/freeway boundary.

The BP&R Commission considered the options at its March 14, 2017 meeting and recommended the installation of Option B post/net system along the Vista Hermosa side as well as use of the Option B fence in back of the soccer goal just behind the field boundary as depicted in Attachment 3. The Commission preferred tall 30-foot posts because it felt that it was important to have a high post/net system to catch and prevent stray balls from reaching Vista Hermosa and the freeway off ramp, and that the post/net system is consistent with that used at the Vista Hermosa Sports Park.

It should be noted that the tall post/nets will be visible from residences on both sides of the freeway, as well as from the northern portion of the Outlets at San Clemente (currently undeveloped). However, the Planning Division has confirmed that the potential fencing changes do not require discretionary review and no additional approvals are required, provided that the City Council approves this park master plan amendment.

If approved by the City Council, staff will coordinate with the developer Taylor Morrison, who has agreed to install the additional fencing or post/netting at no cost to the City.

**Recommended**

**Action:** THE BEACHES PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council amend the master plan of Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park, to provide for up to 30-foot high post/net fencing along the Avenida Vista Hermosa park perimeter and along the I-5 freeway park perimeter adjacent to the synthetic turf soccer field. Avenida Vista Hermosa.

**Attachments:**

1. Site photos
2. Fence option illustrations
3. BP&R Commission recommended fence plan

**Notification:** Taylor Morrison Developer

S:\cd\Engineering\secure\Admin\2017 Admins\4April2017\4-4-17-7r.docx.





Photo 1. Looking east, area between long edge of soccer field and park perimeter fence.



Photo 2. Looking west, area between long edge of soccer field and park perimeter fence.



Photo 3. Looking east, area between park perimeter fence and Ave. Vista Hermosa.



Photo 4. Looking north, area between goal line of soccer field and park perimeter/freeway fence.



OPTION A  
TRENCH  
STEEL





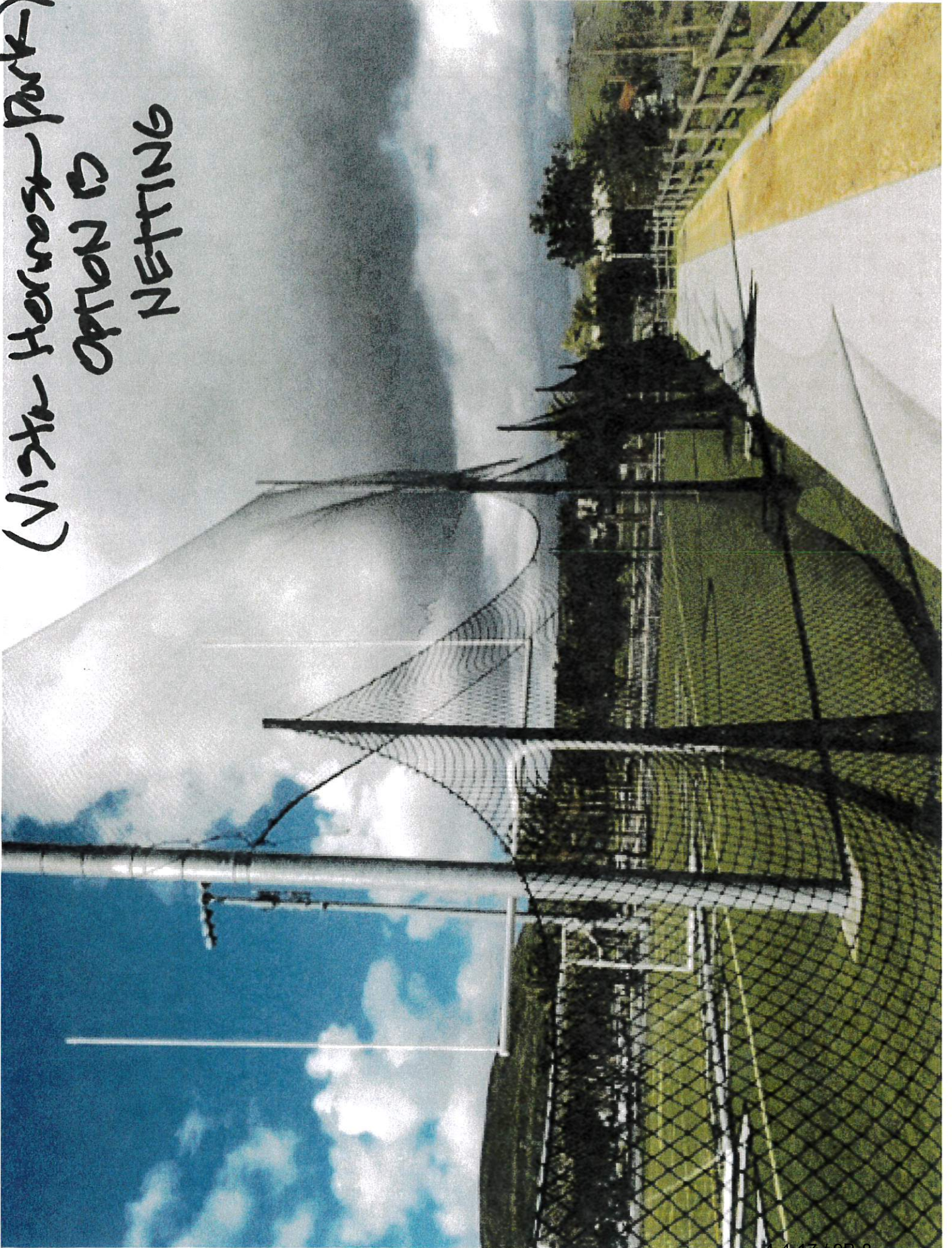


OPTION B  
NETTING



(Vista Horner Park)

OPTION B  
NETTING

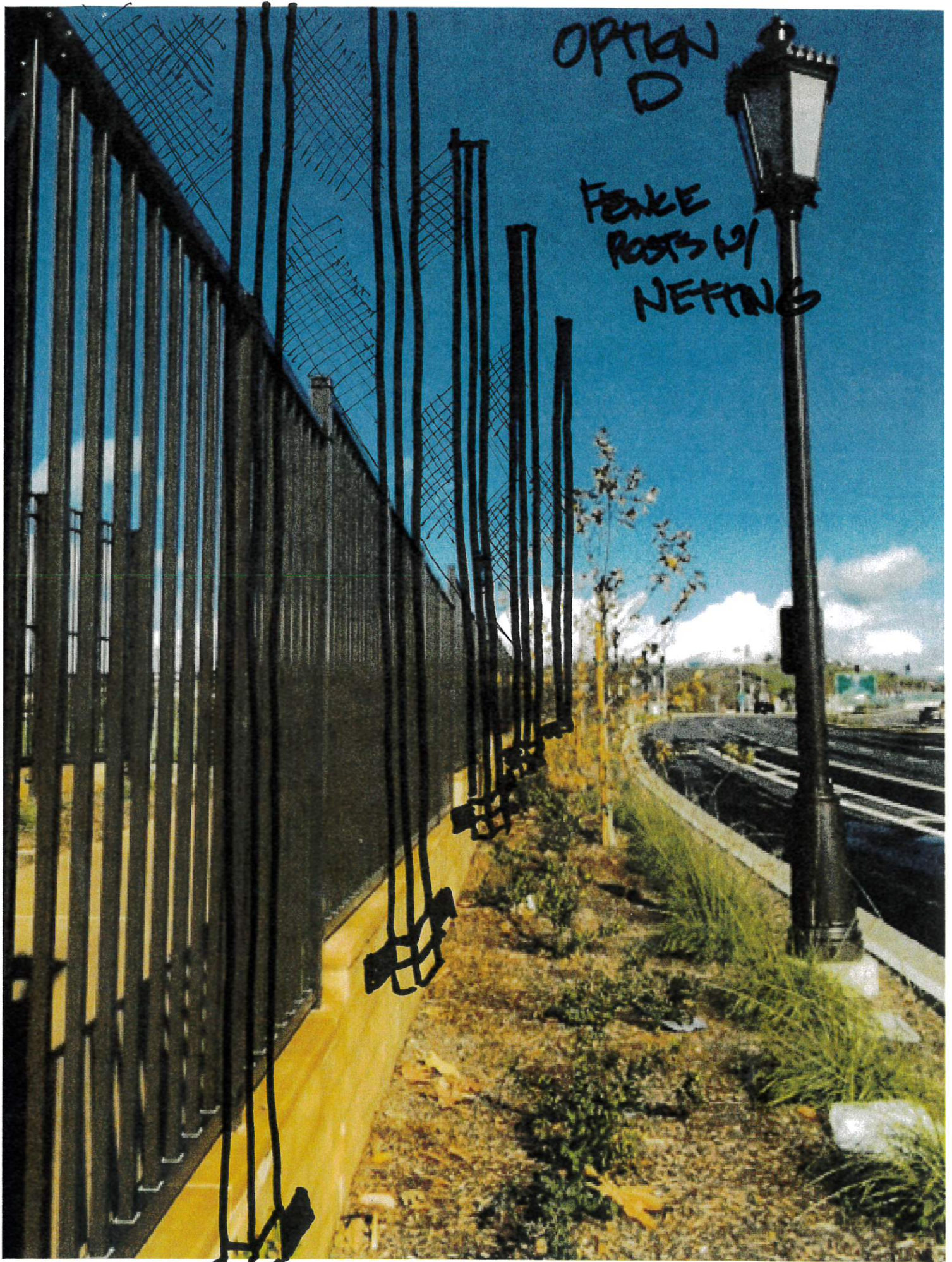




OPTION C  
NEFTING







OPTION  
D

FENCE  
POSTS W/  
NETTING



BP&R Commission Preferred Fence Options  
For Jim Johnson Memorial Sports Park

