

# Sonoma County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Submitted by: David Robinson, Park Manager, Sonoma County Regional Parks

- Informational
- Action

<b>Commission Meeting Date:</b> 10-2-23	<b>Deadline:</b> n/a
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## Agenda Title: Occidental Community Center Pickle Ball and Tennis Court Review

**Executive Summary:** The Occidental Community has expressed interest in increasing the number of pickleball courts at the Occidental Community Center. Currently, there are two tennis courts at the facility, with the southernmost court also striped for both tennis and pickleball. The community has recently requested the option to tape or stripe four pickleball courts on the southern tennis court.

Regional Parks is seeking guidance from the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission on an interim approach, as well as a final decision on the number of pickleball courts at the facility, once funding is identified and the courts can be permanently resurfaced.

### Alternatives/Consequences:

Maintain the current configuration, with both courts striped for tennis and the southern court striped for both pickleball and tennis.

### Discussion / Actions Requested:

The Occidental Community Center, situated at 3920 Bohemian Highway in Occidental, CA, is a Regional Park facility. This facility comprises a gym, offices, and a classroom and is presently operated under an agreement with the Harmony Unified School District. On the exterior, there is a fenced area that currently hosts one tennis-striped court on the north side and one court striped for both tennis and pickleball on the south side.

In 2022, Regional Parks reached out to the community in response to requests for pickleball-striped courts at the Occidental Community Center. This proposal was presented to the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission, which recommended striping both courts for pickleball and tennis.

Regional Parks chose to stripe a single court for both pickleball and tennis on the southern side as a pilot project and gauge community interest while leaving one court exclusively for tennis on the northern side. Interested parties were informed

that this pilot striping project would be in effect for one year, after which Regional Parks would assess the project's success.

The project proved successful, with a growing number of pickleball players using the court and ongoing requests throughout the year to add more pickleball-only striped courts.

Through observations by Regional Parks staff and feedback from the community, it became evident that the majority of court usage was for pickleball.

The courts at the Occidental Community Center have reached the end of their usable life, and Regional Parks is in the process of budgeting for court resurfacing in the fiscal year 2023/2024. This is an opportune moment to decide on the future of pickleball and tennis courts at the facility.

Over the past two years, Regional Parks has invested more than \$50,000 in renovating the main building and estimates that the cost of resurfacing and adding permanent fixtures to the courts will be approximately \$35,000. Parks believe that securing funding from Measure M, along with local and foundation support, is an appropriate means to fund these improvements.

While the community has expressed a willingness to cover the costs of re-striping the courts temporarily, Regional Parks is seeking guidance from the PRAC and is proposing that the community creates a temporary expansion (non-permanent) of the pickleball courts. This approach would allow the funding to be used for permanent resurfacing and additional pickleball courts.

Parks have received advice from one of the major pickleball striping and resurfacing companies in Sonoma County which suggests that it is feasible to resurface and re-stripe the current courts to accommodate four pickleball courts and one tennis court permanently. However, Parks has concerns about doing so temporarily as it may encroach on the current tennis court without wholistically creating the additional courts.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Regional Parks recommends that the Commission advise the Parks to allow the community to temporarily mark two pickleball courts with tape or paint and install temporary netting on the south court. Furthermore, it is recommended that planning for the resurfacing and re-striping of four pickleball-only courts and one tennis-only court be undertaken as funding becomes available.

**Requested Commission Action:**

The Commission is requested to provide guidance on one of three options or a combination thereof:

**Receive More Community Input:** This option entails pausing both temporary and permanent re-striping and re-surfacing to gather additional input from the community.

**Re-surface with 2 pickleball Courts:** This option involves resurfacing the courts, maintaining one tennis-only court, and creating two pickle ball- only courts. (This may be necessary if the space proves unable to accommodate four pickle ball courts).

**Comprehensive Upgrade:** This option includes resurfacing and re-striping the courts to accommodate four pickleball-only striped courts and one tennis-only striped court.

**Attachments: None.**