Measure A: Chico Area Recreation and Parks District [CARD]
Parcel Tax
Pros & Cons

Background

The Chico Parks Department and the Chico Recreation and Park District (CARD) are separate entities. The Chico Parks Department manages Bidwell Park, Caper Acres, Annie’s Glen, Comanche Creek Greenway, and Teichert Ponds. Funding for the Parks Department is included in the Chico city budget.

CARD, established in 1948, manages 17 recreational and community facilities. CARD’s total annual budget is $8.9 million; one-half from property tax, one-half from program and rental fees. An elected 5-member board of directors manages CARD. CARD properties are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Centers</th>
<th>Community Parks</th>
<th>Neighborhood Parks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• CARD Community Center</td>
<td>• Community Park</td>
<td>• Baroni Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Chico Creek Nature Center</td>
<td>• DeGarmo Park</td>
<td>• Hancock Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Dorothy F. Johnson Center</td>
<td>• Hooker Oak Park</td>
<td>• Oak Way Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Pleasant Valley Rec. Center</td>
<td>• Humboldt Ave. Skate Park</td>
<td>• Peterson Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Lakeside Pavilion</td>
<td>• Wildwood Park</td>
<td>• Rotary Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Pleasant Valley Pool</td>
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<td>• Shaprio Pool</td>
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What would Measure A do?

Passage of Measure would increase the revenues available to support and improve the facilities operated by CARD. CARD’s assessment of necessary improvements includes:

- increased safety including: lighting, crime prevention and security
- Increased attention to the homeless residing on CARD property
- Increase ADA accessibility
- Improve and maintain restrooms
- Renovation upgrades in several parks
- Completion of DeGarmo Park: Synthetic Sports Field, Gymnasium, potential Aquatics Facility
All voters living within the boundaries of CARD who are registered voters will be eligible to vote; a 2/3 approval is required to increase taxes.

What does your vote mean?

- A YES vote supports the measure
- A NO vote opposes the measure

Fiscal Effects

Measure A requests approval of a Parcel Tax. If approved, the tax is collected with residential and commercial property taxes. Passage would generate about $3 million per year with an assessment of $85 per year. The monthly increase would be $7.08.

Supporters say:

- This is the first proposed increase since 1948
- Chico has grown and the needs for recreation and park facilities’ and programs has grown similarly
- Too many existing facilities show their age and need to be improved
- Park safety is a growing concern
- All income will go to CARD facilities and programs

Supporters:
- Chico Enterprise Record, 1/31/2020
- Tom Snyder Lando – Residents for Safe Chico Parks and Recreation Chair, Retired Chico City Manager, Past Board Chair Enloe Hospital
- Matthews (Matt) D. Jackson - Retired VP Butte College, Past President Chico Noon Rotary
- Pamela Mueter - Philanthropy Specialist and Past President National Charity League Inc.
- Bob Malowney - Downtown Chico Business Owner, 48-year Chico Resident
- Jillian Smith - President, Chico Mothers’ Club
- Laura McLachlin – Certified Recreation Therapist and Co- Director Ability First Sports Camps
- Jessica Bourne - Chief Financial Officer, River Partners
- Jim Parrott - President, Chico Police Officer’s Association
- Jerry Hughes – Retired CARD General Manager

Funding: Source – Chico Enterprise Record (1/31/2020)

- $50,000: Service Employees International Union Local 1021, Sacramento
- $6,000: Tom Lando
- $2,500: Mark Francis
- $1,000: Terry Cleland.
- $500: Jack Sterling, Kevin Kremer
- $250: Jeff Lobosky, Deborah Maderos, Ralph Meuter, Debra Cannon, Paul McCreary
- $200: Carl Leverenz, Pat & Ann Patterson Family Trust
- $100: Katy Thoma, Denver Latimer

TOTAL - $64,600 from 11/5/2019 to 1/18/2020
Opponents say:

- CARD has a significant shortage in retirement contributions to CalPERS.
- CARD has not worked sufficiently with personnel to increase their contributions to retirement and other benefits.
- Contributions to CalPERS pensions means that Measure A will backfill funds taken from the regular budget for that purpose rather than the promised improvements.

Opponents:

- Juanita Sumner signed the argument against Prop. A on the Butte elections page.
- Joe Azzarito, Letter to the Editor, Chico Enterprise Record, 2/2/2020

Funding: No contributions listed on county elections page.