



County of Del Norte
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March 2, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jared Huffman
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, and Representative Huffman,

On behalf of the Del Norte County, I write to seek your support of a Community Project Funding request. Specifically, we request \$1,827,019 from the Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, Economic Development Initiative account for the *Pyke Field Park Community Use Improvement Project* in Crescent City.

While we made a similar request to your offices last year, Pyke Field Park, located at 202 E. Macken Avenue in Crescent City remains in significant need of renovation. Recently, representatives from the Del Norte Little League Association came before the Board of Supervisors and aired grievances relating to the condition of the baseball fields, specifically their playability relating to poor drainage. While the County has designed a short-term solution to improve drainage and has provided an additional maintenance budget to implement drainage improvements, more significant work remains.

Pyke Field is an approximately 220,570 square foot facility consisting primarily of three older, dilapidated baseball/softball fields. Our request for \$1,827,019, to be supplemented with local funding for additional necessary improvements including restrooms and lighting, will allow for drainage improvements, construction of a new playground, and the creation of a jogging/walking loop around the facility. Improvements to Pyke Field Park reflects Del Norte County's mission to create healthy opportunities for better recreational outcomes, leading to healthier lifestyle choices.

As you know, Del Norte County is challenged with a shortage of usable public park space for families to recreate in populated areas. When considering public park space offered within the County, the region ranks far below the national average of 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. However, while 73 percent of the County is considered "park space," it is U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service land, which does not meet all the recreational needs of the community, yet it also limits our local tax base.

Del Norte County has a significantly lower rating of health compared to its urban counterparts in California with respect to smoking, obesity, and youth in poverty, and is ranked 55 out of 58 counties for poor health outcomes. To address this problem, improvements to Pyke Field Park will assist the community in becoming healthier while engaging in play and physical activity.

Del Norte County has substantially higher poverty and unemployment rates compared to urban areas in the state. The overall California poverty rate averages 14.7 percent, but 22 percent of the Del Norte population live at or below the poverty line. High poverty also limits our tax base and makes it more difficult to invest in our parks and recreation facilities. Revitalizing Pyke Field Park is an investment in the community, creating a safer and nicer community while helping to increase the quality of life for youth, seniors, and diverse families in our region.

As previously noted, Pyke Field Park is used by the Del Norte Little League Association for the County's annual youth baseball league. The drainage issues on the ballfields create uncertainty each season as to whether Little League will be able to provide a full season, thus jeopardizing the ability of teams to qualify for post-season tournaments. Annually, approximately 600 youth participate in Little League, representing around 50 Del Norte County teams with youth ranging in age from 4-17, as well as a "Challenger Division" for developmentally or physically disabled participants. Additionally, Pyke Field serves as a facility for the County's annual Junior Giants baseball program, which is a free, non-competitive, co-ed baseball program that serves over 200 youth in Del Norte County per year. Finally, another important service provided at Pyke Field Park is the County's K.I.D.S. Camp (Kids Involved During Summer), a summer camp experience for Del Norte County youth. The camp provides youth with adult mentors who nurture experiential education, resulting in improved self-respect and appreciation for human value. Youth develop a sense of community at camp while developing intergenerational relationships through firsthand experience outdoors. Pyke Field has been a cherished, and highly utilized, recreational and educational facility for generations of residents and visitors of rural Del Norte County and is one that Del Norte County hopes can continue to be utilized and appreciated for many more generations to come!

Thank you for your consideration of our important request. We look forward to working with you on this and other issues in the future.

Sincerely,



Darrin Short, Chairman
Board of Supervisors



Neal Lopez
County Administrative Officer

California State Senate

SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE

MAJORITY LEADER

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

March 3, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jared Huffman
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, and Representative Huffman:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Community Project Funding request made by Del Norte County for the Pyke Field Park Community Use Improvement Project in Crescent City. Pyke Field Park is an underutilized asset that could be transformed into a beneficial community resource with funding support. The project's proposed improvements to Pyke Field Park reflect Del Norte County's mission to create healthy opportunities for better recreational outcomes, leading to improved lifestyle choices.

Del Norte is challenged with a shortage of public park space for families to recreate in populated areas. The region also suffers from disproportionately low health outcomes compared to urban areas in California in respect to smoking, obesity, and youth poverty. Parks are a great way to address this inequity.

Pyke Field Park is currently used by a variety of community groups, including Little League baseball and K.I.D.S. Camp (Kids Involved During Summer), and the Junior Giants (which served over 200 youth last summer), among others. It also functions as a recreational resource for the entire community.

Improvements to Pyke Field Park will assist the community in becoming healthier while engaging in play and physical activity. The project is also an investment in the community, creating a safe and updated recreation area that will help increase the quality of life for youth, seniors, and families in Del Norte.

I wholeheartedly support this effort and hope to see its successful implementation. If our office can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call us at (707) 445-6508.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McGuire".

MIKE MCGUIRE
Senator

COMMITTEES

CHAIR: HEALTH
BUDGET
INSURANCE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
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HEALTHCARE ACCESS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES
CRAFT BREWING AND DISTILLING
SEA LEVEL RISE IN CALIFORNIA

Assembly
California Legislature



JIM WOOD
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

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March 2, 2023

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331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jared Huffman
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, and Representative Huffman,

I write to support a Community Project Funding request made by Del Norte County for the Pyke Field Park Community Use Improvement Project in Crescent City. Pyke Field Park is an underutilized asset, but with funding support could be transformed into a beneficial community amenity. Improvements to Pyke Field Park reflects Del Norte County's mission to create healthy opportunities for better recreational outcomes, leading to improved lifestyle choices.

Pyke Field Park is utilized by a variety of community groups, including Little League baseball and K.I.D.S. Camp (Kids Involved During Summer), Junior Giants (which served over 200 youth last summer) among others. It also functions as a community recreational resource for all.

As you know, Del Norte County is challenged with a shortage of public park space for families to recreate in populated areas. The County's populace also suffers from a lower rating of health compared to urban counterparts in California with respect to smoking, obesity, and youth in poverty.

Improvements to Pyke Field Park will assist the community in becoming healthier while engaging in play and physical activity. The project is also an investment in the community, creating a safer and nicer area while helping to increase the quality of life for youth, seniors, and diverse families in our region.

Thank you for your consideration of Del Norte County's important request, which I wholeheartedly support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Wood".

JIM WOOD
Assemblymember, 2nd District

