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**November 5, 1999**

Nov. 5, 1999 - County considers big swap

Proposed land trade may boost youth sports, recreation in county

“This deal would really work out well for both parties. We end up trading out of a smaller industrial-zoned site to a large, flat piece of land that has a ton of potential.”

-- Craven Alcott, County Parks and Recreation

By ROB COLE

Staff writer

This may not be the big leagues, or a deal that includes the acquisition of Ken Griffey Jr., but the El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Commission will be recommending on Tuesday that the county Board of Supervisors approve a land trade that would accommodate a new county recreational park and baseball-softball facility.

And District 1 Supervisor Sam Bradley even hinted that this deal could further lead to the development of bike trails, a wildlife sanctuary and a skate park that would be linked to the site.

The proposed land trade would give the county title to a 41-acre parcel located on the eastern side of Bass Lake, just off of Bass Lake Road, currently owned by a Sacramento-based developer. On the trading block is a 16-acre site owned by the county, south of Highway 50 in Cameron Park currently zoned for industrial use.

“We hope to develop a regional park facility,” said county Parks and Recreation Manager Craven Alcott yesterday. She added that acquisition of the site would allow the county to construct a new sports complex that may include baseball, softball and soccer fields. Alcott said this is an idea that has been in the works for years.

Bradley concurred, “This has been a long time coming, and it is really very exciting.”

The supervisor said once the county owns this property, he hopes that county agencies will work closely with the El Dorado Irrigation District to also construct bike and pedestrian paths near the lake. He also envisions a portion of the site to be set aside as a protective buffer for wildlife in the area.

“This could also mean that we could develop a bike path that would connect to a future, drug-free skate park just south of (Highway) 50,” he added. Bradley said that he is optimistic that new youth-oriented facilities could be a great source of pride for the young adults in the county.

Alcott and other members of the commission will be writing a letter to members of the board, to suggest the board approve the proposed trade with a Sacramento-area real estate developer who has been looking for an industrial site near Highway 50 for the past two years.

``This deal should really work out well for both parties," said Alcott. ``We end up trading out of a smaller industrial-zoned site to a large, flat piece of land that has a ton of potential."

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