

Proposed Draft Language for the Carlsbad Tomorrow Quality of Life Memo

Essential to Carlsbad's civic identity is its seven miles of pristine coastline and beaches. The coast is Carlsbad's single most important defining character and is the heart to our quality of life for all who live, work and recreate here.

The Envision Carlsbad Community Vision recognizes that “...the beach is an important outdoor recreational resource, and protecting and enhancing access to the beach and the quality of the beach experience is a top community priority. In the future, the beach will be maintained as a safe, accessible, and attractive recreational resource through partnerships with regional and State agencies, and other organizations. Access to the beach and the quality of the beach experience will be improved through new compatible and supportive uses on or in close proximity to the beach.”

Other sections of the Envision Carlsbad report emphasize the importance of the small-town feel, beach community character and connectedness of Carlsbad, and the importance of walking and biking trails.

It is recognized that Carlsbad's beaches and beach-front areas are under assault from both man-made and environmental conditions that are severely depleting those resources at a time when demand for such recreational space is increasing rapidly. Shoreline preservation, beach erosion, sea-level rise and continuing adverse weather-related influences are all causing great impacts for beach use and access, as witnessed during the winter and spring storms that batter our coastline periodically, and as recently as 2023.

The Carlsbad Tomorrow Committee strongly recommends that the City Council give top priority to the expansion, protection, and enhancement of public access to, and community use of, the shoreline at beach level and on the bluffs overlooking the beach in decisions concerning active and passive park use, open space, enhanced pedestrian and bikes trails, periodic sand replenishment, a dog beach area, park and/or outdoor venue areas for community events, parking, lifeguard coverage, beach showers, and public restroom facilities. Commercial/residential development permitted for such areas should be planned to return substantial public recreational benefit.

Date: April 13, 2023

To: Carlsbad Tomorrow/Growth Management Citizens Committee

From: Steve Linke, Traffic & Mobility Commission primary representative

Subject: April 20, 2023 report review/proposed amendments

QUALITY OF LIFE TOPICS

Recommended document title

QUALITY OF LIFE RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposition H (Page 8)

The second bullet point contains a reference to the current \$1 million limit, but I think it is even more important to make that reference in the first bullet point, proposed as follows:

During committee deliberation it was discussed that the Proposition H limit of \$1 million on general fund capital expenditures, as implemented by Carlsbad Municipal Code Chapter 1.24, has not been updated since it was passed by voters in 1982~~the 1980s~~...

GROWTH MANAGEMENT REPORT

Executive Summary (Page 6)

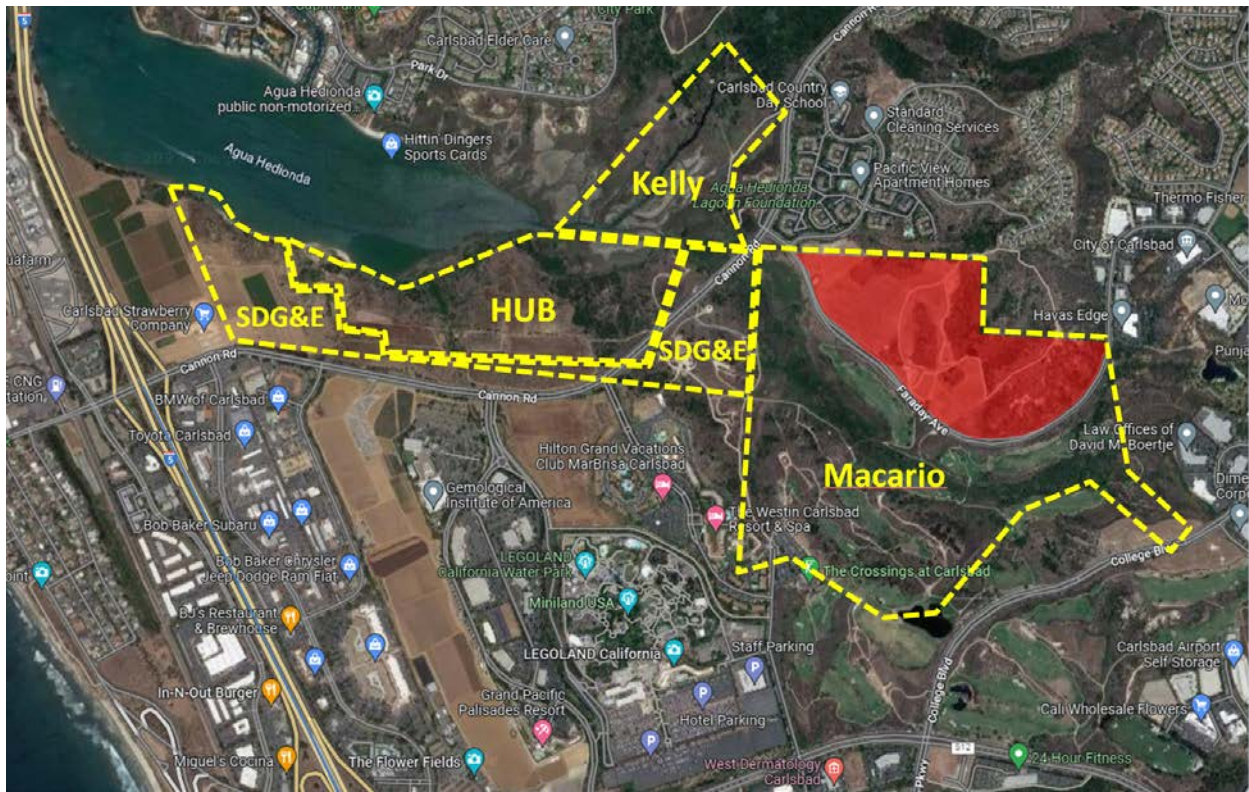
Add “Wasterwater Treatment Capacity” to the list of standards being recommended for removal (only three of the four are currently listed).

Parks Standard (Pages 27-28)

The footnote for the Status table on Page 28 (agreed upon by consensus of the committee at our meeting last month) included only the fact that the acreage of Veteran’s Memorial park was being split equally among all four quadrants, even though the park is located entirely within the northwest quadrant. Staff’s inclusion of the following additional language was not discussed, which requires a re-opening of this topic:

...because of its size, centralized location and citywide significance, the park fulfills citywide park facility needs. The city’s intention for the park to be a citywide park facility dates to the adoption of the Growth Management Program in 1986.

The fact is, in 1986, the park’s Master Plan included an approximately **500-acre** swath of land that extended from just east of the strawberry fields to what is now College Boulevard and far south of what is now Faraday Avenue (all of the yellow dotted line parcels on the following map). City documents in that time period **likened this sprawling future park complex to “Balboa Park in San Diego and Golden Gate Park in San Francisco”!**



Just within the approximately **100-acre** portion that will now become Veteran's Memorial Park (red shaded area in the above image), the Master Plan—as it existed in 1986—included a **conference center, an interpretive center, an athletic center, an artisans village, tennis courts, baseball/softball fields,** and garden, picnic, and hiking areas. In a 1989 update, the athletic center and artisans village were replaced with an **amphitheater and cultural arts center**. Other parts of the 500-acre park were slated for a **boating facility and beach access at the lagoon, soccer fields, a botanical center, an agricultural preserve, restaurant and concession areas,** etc. See Attachment 1 for the 1989 Master Plan map.

The sheer size of the territory and all of these extensive buildings and activity areas were what justified the proposed park's classification as a regional park like Balboa Park that was worthy of citywide treatment for growth management purposes. Attachment 2 shows how the city was classifying what was then called Macario Canyon Park (Entry #18 on the second page) relative to other parks, based on acreage and amenities.

However, over time, multiple parcels that were going to be leased (SDG&E and Kelly properties to the west) were eliminated, and a large portion south of Faraday Avenue was converted to the golf course. The final ~100-acre portion shaded in red (50% park/50% protected habitat) largely only includes picnic and hiking areas, a playground, and a bike park—**none of the previously planned major amenities listed above.**

During final review, the traffic study and the Planning Commission acknowledged that, Veterans Memorial Park will now act more like a small community park—with less user trips (and only trips redistributed from other parks), fewer amenities, and much smaller activities than many of Carlsbad’s other community parks, like Alga Norte, Poinsettia, Stagecoach, etc., which are only counted in their own quadrants.

Accordingly, I propose that the “Alternative Perspective” on the Veterans Memorial Park issue on Page 27 be expanded to better convey the discussion and separate votes that occurred on these matters at our 1/26/2023 meeting, as follows:

Alternative perspectives

- Some committee members preferred a citywide standard of 4 acres per 1,000 population.
- Some committee members preferred excluding acreage inaccessible to people and restricting the acreage of Veterans Memorial Park to the northwest quadrant given the significant reduction in its scope and elimination of the planned buildings and activity areas that originally classified it as a citywide/regional park in 1986.
- In the end, the majority voted to retain the existing standard.
- To address the access to parks, a majority of the committee also voted to request that City Council direct staff to evaluate the feasibility of a standard based upon a distance measure to any publicly accessible park.

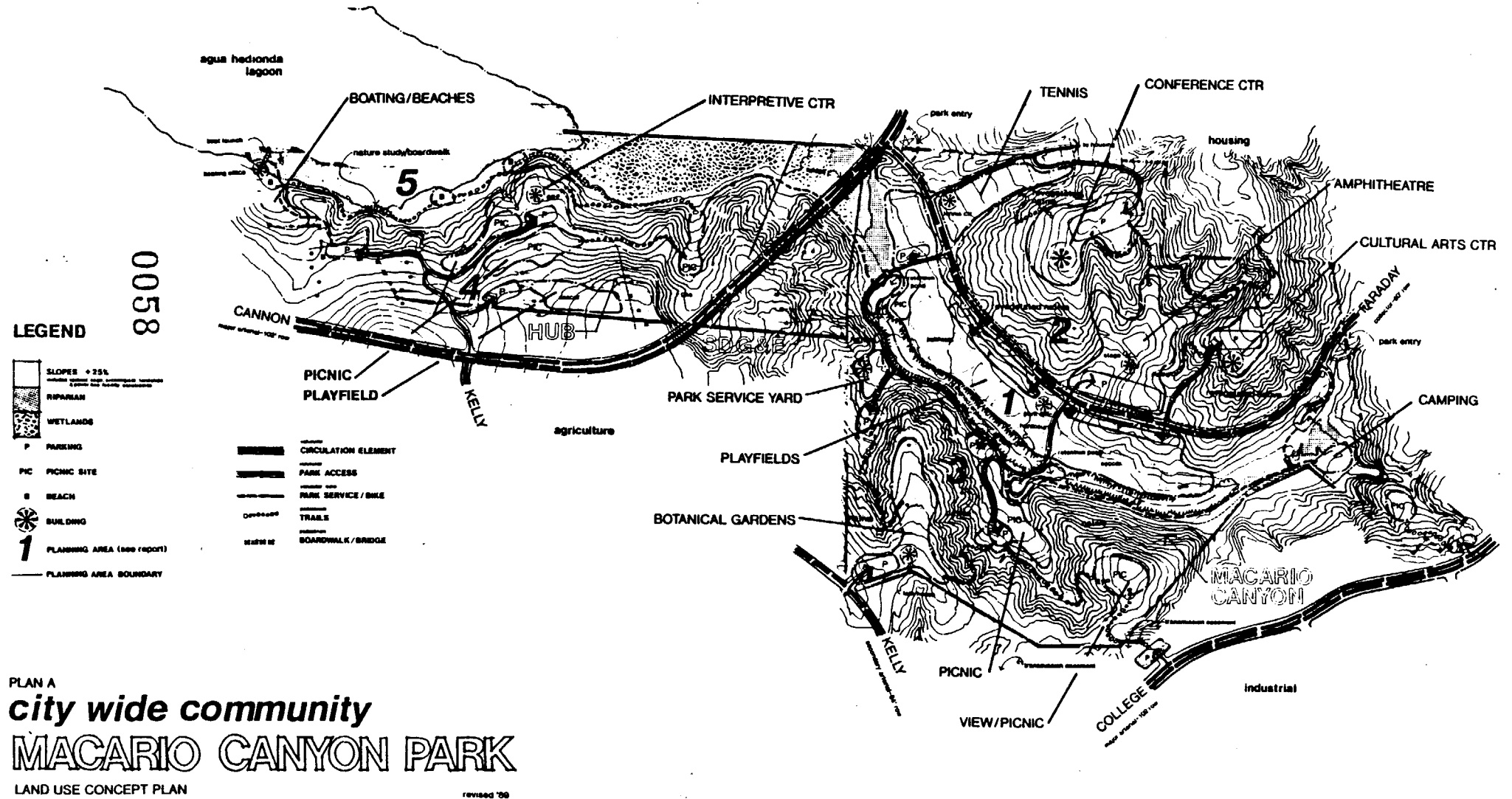
Open Space (Page 35)

The “Status” heading implies that the table beneath it directly addresses current compliance with the performance standard, which it does not. There was supposed to be a statement added to create transparency about that. However, the tiny footnote added to the bottom is not obvious and is very confusing.

In the spirit of true transparency and ease of understanding, I propose that the “Status” heading be changed to “Total open space inventory,” and that the footnote be replaced with the following text directly under the new heading in the larger main paragraph font, as follows:

Total open space inventory

Note: The open space percentages in the following table represent total open space in each zone, not just the unconstrained developable portion required to meet the 15% performance standard.



0058

| | class | uses | | | | | | | | | | | | | | operation methods | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|-------------------|---------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Size | Classification | Ownership | Open Space/Ecological Preserve | Passive Area | Picnic Area | Play Apparatus | Swimming Pool | Turfed Multi-Use Play Field | Multi-Purpose Courts | Gymnasium | Tennis and/or Racquetball Courts | Restrooms | Group Meeting Structure | On-Site Parking | Off-Street Parking | Hiking | Non-Power Boating | Power Boating | Fishing | Adopt-a-Park | Program/Fee Supported | Private Investment Supported | Assessment District | Rehabilitate | Acquire Additional Land | Leasing Additional Land |
| 1 | Alga Norte | 21.0 | CO | P | X | PS | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Buena Vista (School Park) | 2.0 | SU | SD | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| 3 | Cadencia | 4.1 | N | C | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| 4 | Calavera Hills Community | 10.0 | CO | C | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | X | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | | |
| 5 | Calavera Hills North | 5.0 | N | C | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| 6 | Cannon | 1.7 | M | L | X | PS | X | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| 7 | Carlsbad Swim & Tennis Complex | 3.0 | SU | C | | | | X | | | X | X | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Carrillo Ranch | 10.3 | SRA | C | X | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | X | | X | X | | |
| 9 | Chase Fields | 2.3 | SU | C | | X | | X | | | | | X | | | X | | | | | | X | X | | | X | | |
| 10 | Harding Community Center | 1.5 | SU | C | X | | | | | | | | X | X | X | X | | | | | | X | X | | | | | |
| 11 | Holiday Park | 5.4 | N | C | X | PS | X | X | X | | | | X | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| 12 | Jefferson (School/Park) | 2.1 | SU | SD | | | | X | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | A | | | |
| 13 | Kelly (School/Park) | 4.0 | SU | SD | | | | X | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| 14 | La Costa Canyon | 9.0 | N | C | X | B | PS | | | X | | X | X | | X | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| 15 | Laguna Riviera | 6.8 | N | C | X | X | PS | | | X | | X | X | | | X | | | | | | | | X | A | | | |
| 16 | Lake Calavera | 252.0 | SRA | C | X | X | PS | X | X | | | | X | X | X | | X | X | | | | | X | X | | | | |
| 17 | Levante (School/Park) | 5.0 | SU | SD | | PS | X | X | | | | | X | X | | X | | | | | | | | X | | | | |

MATRIX LEGEND

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| classifications | | |
| M | = | Mini |
| N | = | Neighborhood |
| CO | = | Community |
| SU | = | Special Use |
| SRA | = | Special Resource Area |
| ownership | | |
| C | = | City Owned |
| SD | = | School District |
| P | = | Privately Owned |
| L | = | Leased |
| facility amenity | | |
| PS | = | Picnic Structure |
| B | = | Benches Needed |
| A | = | Pedestrian Access Needs Improvement |

uses in recreation areas matrix

| | class | uses | | | | | | | | | | | | | | operation methods | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|-------------------|---------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Size | Classification | Ownership | Open Space/Ecological Reserve | Passive Area | Picnic Area | Play Apparatus | Swimming Pool | Turfed Multi-Use Play Field | Multi-Purpose Courts | Gymnasium | Tennis and/or Racquetball Courts | Restrooms | Group Meeting Structure | On-Site Parking | Off-Street Parking | Hiking | Non-Power Boating | Power Boating | Fishing | Adopt-a-Park | Program/Fee Supported | Private Investment Supported | Assessment District | Rehabilitate | Acquire Additional Land | Leasing Additional Land |
| 18 | Macario/HUB | 488.0 | SRA | C&L | X | X | PS | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | | | | X |
| 19 | Magee | 3.0 | N | C | | X | PS | | | | | | X | X | X | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | |
| 20 | Magnolia (School/Park) | 4.2 | SU | SD | | | | X | | X | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| 21 | Maxton Browne | 1.4 | M | C | | X | X | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | X | | | X | | | | |
| 22 | Maxton Browne Extension | 2.1 | SU | C | X | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | |
| 23 | Occidental | 3.88 | | C | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Pine | 1.0 | SU | SD | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | X | | X | | | |
| 25 | Rotary | 1.0 | M | P | | | X | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | Stagecoach | 28.0 | CO | C | | X | PS | X | | X | X | | X | X | X | | | | | | | X | | X | | X | | |
| 27 | Calavera Hills East | 5.0 | N | C | | X | X | X | | X | | | | | | X | | | | | X | | | | | | | |
| 28 | Larwin | 34.0 | CO | C | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | X | X | | | | | |
| 29 | Fuerte | 3.66 | N | O | | X | X | X | | X | X | | | | X | X | | | | | | X | | | | | | |
| 30 | Calavera East | 5.0 | N | C | | X | X | X | | X | X | | X | | X | | | | | | | X | | | | | | |
| 31 | Valley Junior High | 5.0 | SU | SD | | | | | | X | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | Alta Mira | 12.0 | N | C | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | |
| 33 | Hosp Grove | 11.0 | N | C | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | X | | X | | | | | | | | | | | |

MATRIX LEGEND

classifications

- M = Mini
- N = Neighborhood
- CO = Community
- SU = Special Use
- SRA = Special Resource Area

ownership

- C = City Owned
- SD = School District
- P = Privately Owned
- L = Leased

facility amenity

- PS = Picnic Structure
- B = Benches Needed
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uses in recreation areas matrix