Office of the City Manager

December 2, 2011

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Christine Daniel, Interim City Manager

Subject: Strawberry Creek Slide

Recently, the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department informed the community that the slide in Strawberry Creek Park needed significant improvements to comply with California State law and to address a variety of immediate safety concerns. The City planned to remove the slide in February of 2012. This determination was based on a City-wide assessment of all City park playgrounds and is part of a multiyear effort to make safer and improve the playgrounds.

In 2010, as part of the workplan for the Measure WW Parks Bond program from the East Bay Regional Park District developed by City staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission, a project to improve Strawberry Creek Park and playground was included. This project is currently scheduled to start in 2013 and would involve a planning process with the community that could include the installation of a new slide.

On November 2, 2011, staff held a community meeting in the Strawberry Creek Park neighborhood to inform the public of these plans, including the removal of the existing slide. Many concerns from neighbors, park users and other stakeholders were voiced before, during, and after that public meeting. Given the feedback received, the City will delay the removal of the slide, while we assess options and determine whether or not funds can be taken from other projects to fix the slide. A reallocation of funds will result in the reduction or elimination of a current project.

Staff will report back to the community and the City Council in January with the results of the assessment and if funding will be affected for other projects.

cc: William Rogers, Interim Deputy City Manager
Deanna Despain, City Clerk
Scott Ferris, Acting Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Director
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Mary Kay Clunies-Ross, Public Information Officer

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