

RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 16, 2022  
TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: District Manager  
SUBJECT: PUBLIC STATEMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA) – Pickleball Courts  
at Deerhill Park in Oak Park - **Supplemental Information**

For your review, attached please find correspondence that was received subsequent to the posting of the February 16, 2022 Board Meeting agenda related to the subject item.



Dan Paranick  
District Manager

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**From:** Rob Taylor  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:02 PM  
**To:** Sandee Covone  
**Subject:** Comment for Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors Meeting

I am Rob Taylor, an 8 year resident of Oak Park. During Covid I have taken to playing pickleball at Deehill Park in Oak Park. The courts are in need of basic maintenance and repair. They have divots in the play areas and are in need of repainting.

As the courts are currently set up for dual use with tennis and rollway pickleball nets, the lines for pickleball need to be painted a yellow or other color that will stand out for play. The current color schematic of having blue on blue is difficult for play.

In the past year that I have been playing, I have been on the courts nearly every day, and often in the evening. With the number of people who play pickleball and no other courts nearby, it is time for the play area at Deehill park to be converted to permanent pickeblall courts. Oak Park is flush with many parks and tennis courts that it is unnecessary for Deerhill Park to be set up for dual use with Tennis.

Thank you for your time.

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**Subject:** FW: For Feb 16th Board Meeting  
**Attachments:** Deerhill Park Pickleball Courts.docx

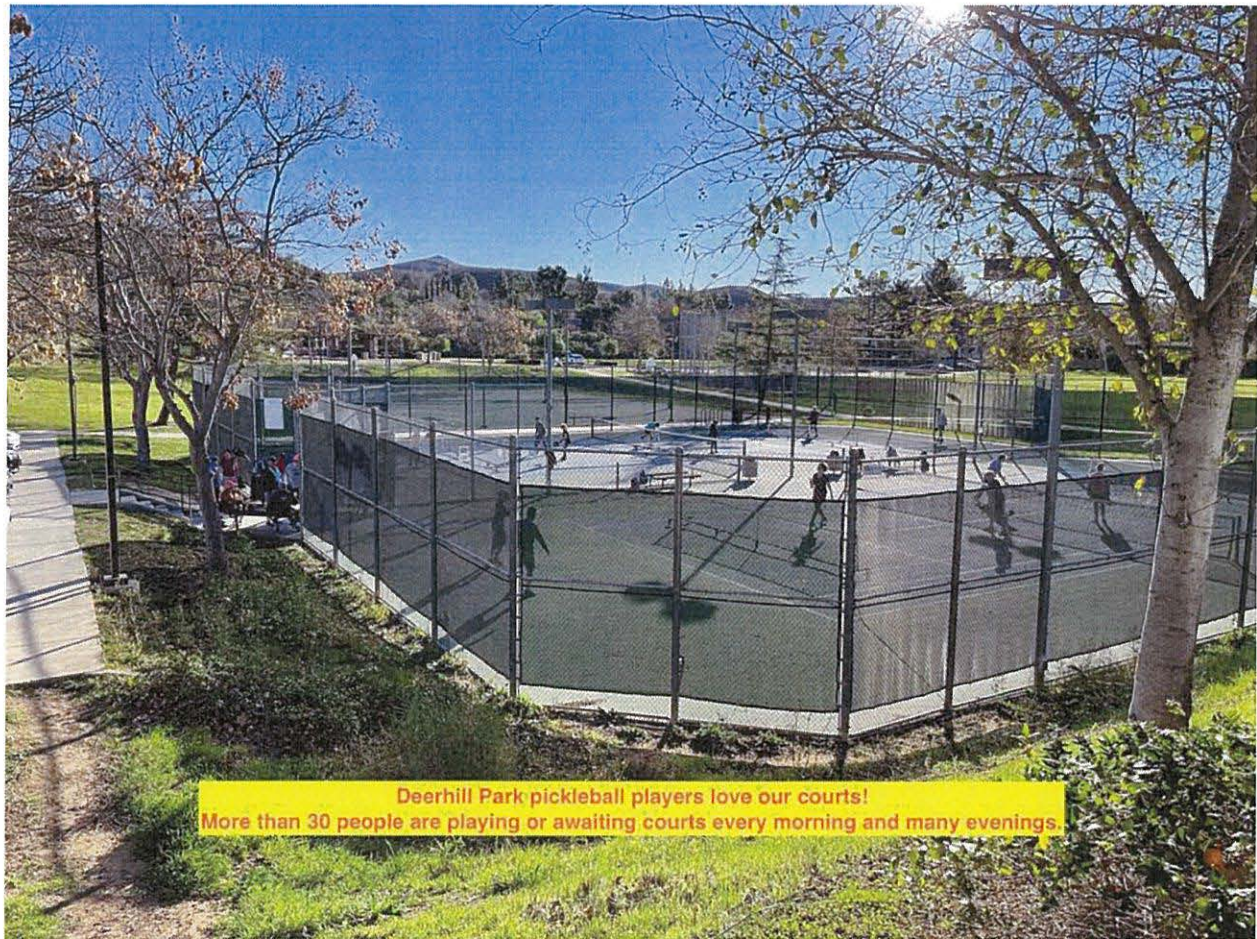
**From:** Katie Morgar  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2022 10:19 PM  
**To:** Sandee Covone <[sandeec@rsrpd.us](mailto:sandeec@rsrpd.us)>  
**Subject:** For Feb 16th Board Meeting

Dear RSPD Board Member:

I plan to attend your meeting on Wednesday, February 16th to speak on behalf of 200 some pickleball players at Deerhill Park. A few of my fellow players will also be in attendance and some may also choose to speak. We are coming to request you paint the pickleball lines a more contrasting color than the blue lines in use now. Please see the attached document so you can have the visual aids for our message on Wednesday.

Thank you for your time and service,

*Katie Morgan*



Dear Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District Board Member:

On behalf of 200 some pickleball players at Deerhill Park, I will be speaking with you on Wednesday February 16<sup>th</sup> during the public comments time. We request that you repaint the court lines using a more contrasting color for the pickleball lines. The blue lines on both blue and green sections are not visible from the playing area on each court. Please follow through the pictures.

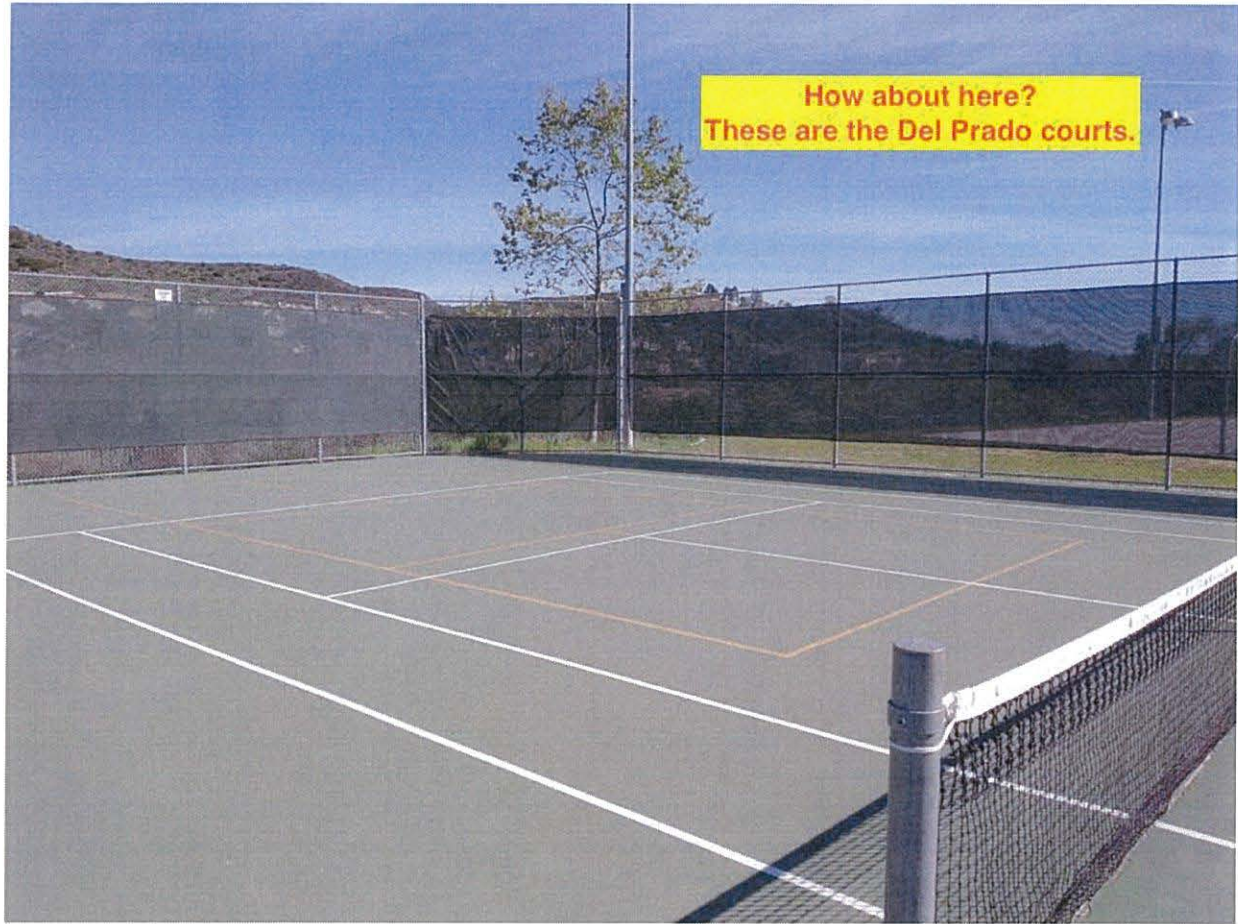
Thank you and respectfully,  
Katie Morgan

February 16, 2022



The lines in any court sport are critical to game play. When lines are superimposed like these on multi-use courts, the brightest line is what the player sees, as it draws their eyes to it. With a better contrast for the pickleball lines, players will have a better sense of how big the court is and where the pertinent lines are.

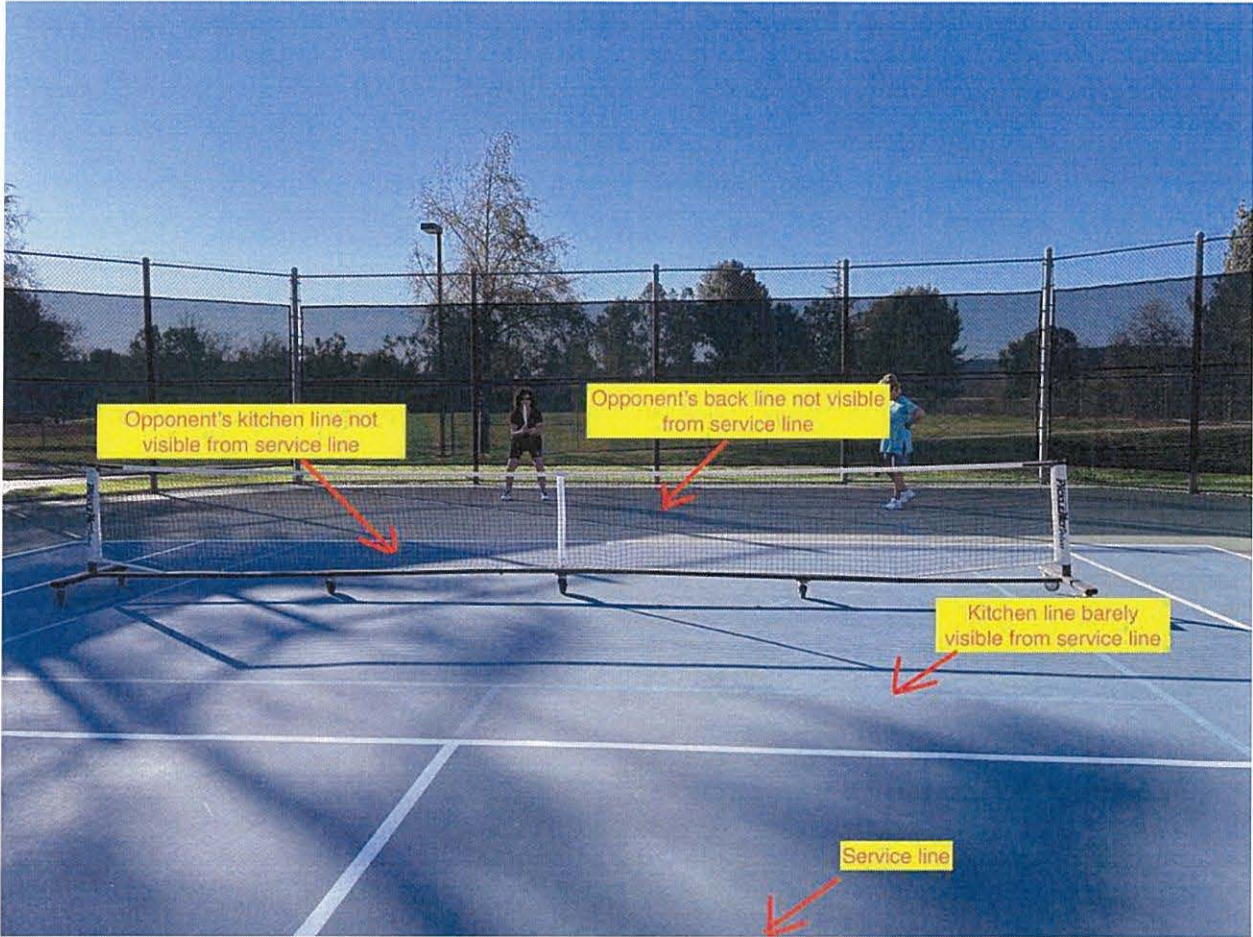




How about here?  
These are the Del Prado courts.



This shot was taken from the service line on a Deerhill court. As a comprehensive photo, you can see the lines on the server's side aren't visible, much less on the opponent's side.



This shot was taken from the kitchen line on the receiving side. Even standing near the net, the opponent's back line is not visible.





Often players stand in the wrong place as the white tennis lines draw our attention and distract us from our own lines.



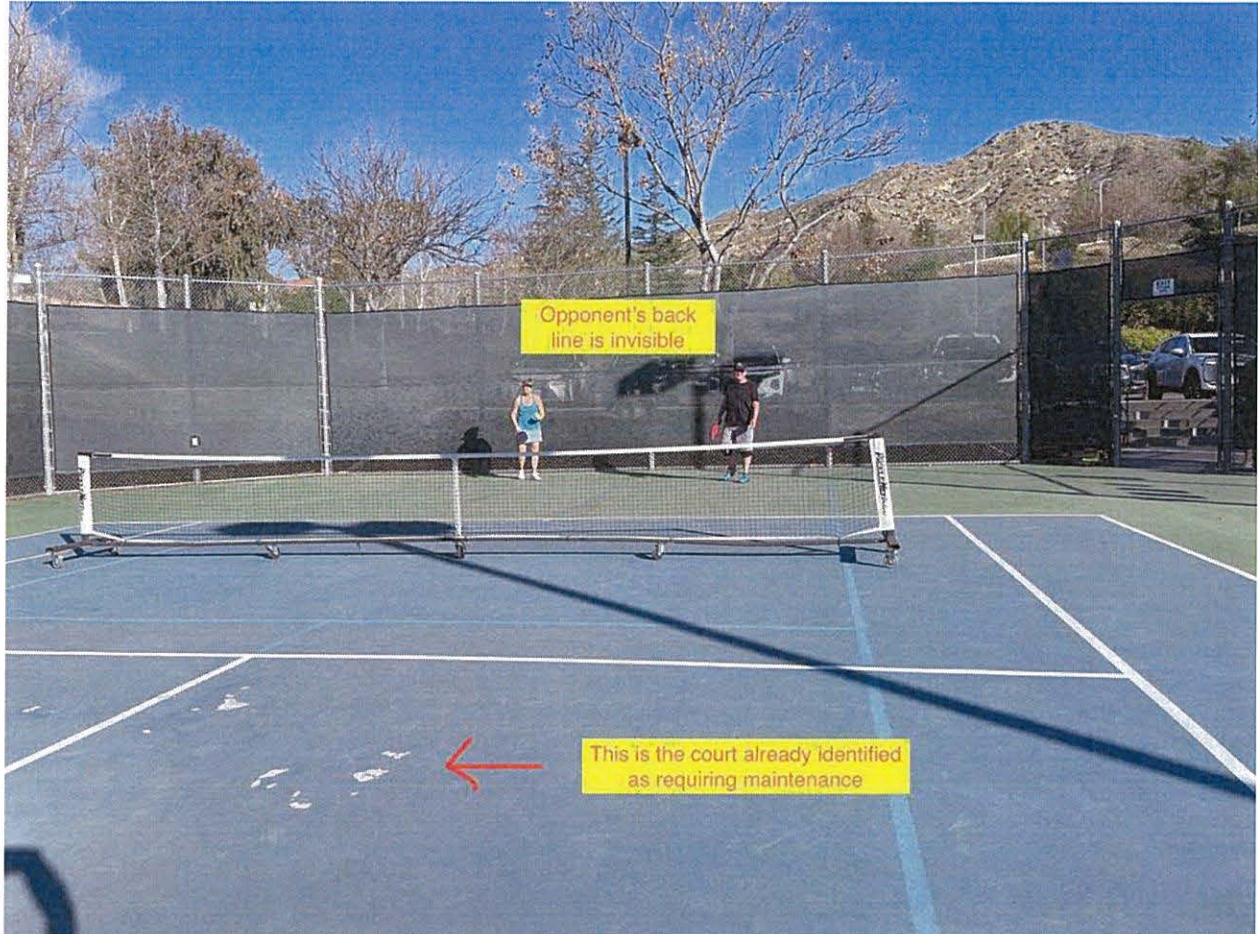
For the visually impaired players, the lack of contrast adds to their less-ability.





These players are standing on the back line. Can you see it?

These are the courts that have been identified as requiring maintenance for the divets in them. Could we please repaint the lines a new color while addressing the repair?



Thank you for reviewing our photos. We look forward to seeing you at the board meeting on Wednesday.

RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 16, 2022  
TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: District Manager  
SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding Drone Usage on District Property -  
**Supplemental Information**

For your review, attached please find correspondence that was received subsequent to the posting of the February 16, 2022 Board Meeting agenda and staff report related to the subject item.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Paranick", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Paranick  
District Manager



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**From:** Samantha Folb  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 13, 2022 5:34 PM  
**To:** Sandee Covone  
**Subject:** Comment for 2/16 board meeting

Hello,

Please read the following comment at the 2/16 board meeting:

The Board's recent decision to allow drones in Simi Valley's open spaces will negatively impact the mental health of our community. Multiple studies suggest beneficial associations between access to green open spaces and reduced stress, positive mood, less depressive symptoms, better emotional well-being, improved mental health and behaviour, and decreased psychological distress.

Drones can be invasive and noisy. Allowing them to fly over and through our open spaces makes these spaces less peaceful and relaxing, thus preventing our community from enjoying many of the mental health benefits our open spaces can provide. The world is a stressful place right now. It would be nice if we could keep the few places that provide a respite from the chaos of daily life as spaces for all to rest and relax.

Please consider reversing your decision to allow drones to fly unrestricted throughout our open spaces.

Thank you,

Samantha

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**Subject:** FW: To Board of Directors re Drones in open spaces

**From:** Lisa Darin

**Sent:** Saturday, February 12, 2022 9:54 AM

**To:** [info@rsrpd.us](mailto:info@rsrpd.us)

**Subject:** To Board of Directors re Drones in open spaces

Dear Board of Directors,

I am writing in response to the article in the Acorn regarding allowing drones in Rancho Simi open spaces. I am an avid horseback rider, and my friends and I often ride in those same open spaces. We are extremely appreciative of the park district's maintenance of the trails for riding and our ability to access those trails directly from the residential areas where we keep our horses, Bridle Path and Country Lane.

I am extremely worried about drones being allowed to fly in areas frequented by horses and riders as horses can be terrified of drones. Drones create sight and sound that is unfamiliar to horses, and this can cause a horse to spook and throw the rider. Many of our open space trails are narrow or on the side of cliffs, and a horse accident could be deadly.

I understand the people that wish to fly drones have a right to use the open spaces, however, drones and horseback riding areas cannot coexist without deadly consequences. I recommend that drones not be allowed in the Challenger Park area and the Coyote Park hills area as those open spaces are used frequently by horseback riders. Other open space areas could be open to drones, with a caution to not fly close to horses for any reason.

Thank you,

Lisa Darin  
Simi Valev



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**From:** noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2022 8:56 AM  
**To:** comments  
**Subject:** Board of Directors Submit Form

Everyone on the Board = true

Name = Deet Ezra

City\_Town = Oak Park

Email =

Comments for the Board = I object to the approval of drone usage over our open spaces in Oak Park I request that you immediately repeal said permission as drone usage interfere with our neighborhood privacy, and poses a fire risk in our VHFH-designated area (which literally backs up to our homes) Thank you!

Client IP = 75.83.81.0

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**From:** Laura Pasetta  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2022 9:39 AM  
**To:** Sandee Covone  
**Subject:** Concern on Drones

Dear Sandee,

I'm a resident of Simi Valley, an outdoor trail guide to families, children, and adult groups. I do many guided hikes through the trails in Simi Valley, teaching our residence about the plant and animal life that live and grow in our local area. Our trails are some of the most beautiful trails in Ventura County, some say the last frontier of the quiet outdoors which is being currently enjoyed by hundreds local Simi Valley residences.

I'm also an equine owner and my husband and I frequently ride many of Simi Valley trails, where horses are allowed. We are concerned and afraid for our safety when it comes to drones flying over our horses. Horses are creatures that are easily frightened and the liability to myself and other equine riders warrants a NO to drones in our open space areas.

The most concerning, is emanant protentional risk of drones creating a wildfire! It's a known fact that LiPo batteries are known for their instability and risk of combustion, how could you take even the slightest risk to our community when we have seen more fires than we can count in our Simi Valley area over the past 10 years! This increased risk is not worth the loss of a residence home or property and again NO to drones in our area.

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Laura Pasetta

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**From:** noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2022 4:54 PM  
**To:** comments  
**Subject:** Board of Directors Submit Form

Everyone on the Board = true

Name = Terri Smith

City\_Town = Simi Valley

Email =

Comments for the Board = I was shocked to hear that Rancho Simi Parks and Recreation has approved the use of drones in park areas where equestrians share trails. I live in the Bridlepath community and ride my horse nearly everyday in either the Coyote Park open space and Challenger Park areas. Horses can easily be spooked (scare) by sudden and strange objects flying by or hovering in the air. When a horse is fearful their natural instincts are flight or fight. Flight would cause a horse to run at sudden speeds up to 40+mph without a rider being able to control the fearful horse. It feels like a freight engine that has gone out of control. They can also start bucking or rearing causing their rider to fall. I am sincerely hoping that the Council will take this into consideration and not allow the use of drones where equestrians share the trail. Thank you!

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**Sandee Covone**

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**Subject:** FW: Drones in Open Space

**From:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 12:12 PM  
**To:** Dan Paranick <[danp@rsrpd.us](mailto:danp@rsrpd.us)>  
**Subject:** Drones in Open Space

Mr Paranick,

I was shocked to hear that Rancho Simi Parks and Recreation has approved the use of drones in park areas where equestrians share trails. I live in the Bridlepath community and ride my horse nearly everyday in either the Coyote Park open space and Challenger Park areas. Horses can easily be spooked (scare) by sudden and strange objects flying by or hovering in the air. When a horse is fearful their natural instincts are flight or fight. Flight would cause a horse to run at sudden speeds up to 40+mph without a rider being able to control the fearful horse. It feels like a freight engine that has gone out of control. They can also start bucking or rearing causing their rider to fall. I am sincerely hoping that The Rancho Simi Park District will take this into consideration and not allow the use of drones where equestrians share the trail. Thank you!

Terri Smith

Sent from my iPhone

## Sandee Covone

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**From:** info <info@rsrpd.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 9:28 AM  
**To:** Sandee Covone  
**Subject:** FW: Drone usage

-----Original Message-----

**From:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 6:38 PM  
**To:** info@rsrpd.us  
**Subject:** Drone usage

To Whom It May Concern,

The Acorn Newspaper has an article stating that you may be approving drone usage at Oak Canyon park in Oak Park. As a member of the community I strongly disapprove of this decision going forward. Parks are for leisure, quiet walks, children playing and picnics. I and many others in my community would like our park to remain free of recreational drone usage. We do NOT want the noise and possible danger to our community. We live in a vulnerable place. A crash could lead to another Woolsey Fire incident or someone being hurt.

Thank You,  
Debbie Hume

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**From:** Harry Medved  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 11:56 AM  
**To:** sandeec@rsrpd.org; Dan Paranick  
**Subject:** Letter for the Board from a glider fan

Here's a letter from Conejo Valley resident Brett Jaffe. He wanted to get it to the Board, but he said the form would not allow him to send the entire letter...and he didn't want to chop it up. Best, Harry

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I've been living in the Conejo Valley for forty years. Through a lot of those years, I've participated in a great hobby that a lot of people don't know about...radio control slope soaring. Slope soaring involves flying model R/C gliders (also known as sailplanes) in the updrafts created when the wind hits a slope, hill, cliff, or mountain. There are a few hills in our area that offer the perfect mixture of geography, wind exposure, and access for our sport, and we have made use of those for decades.

Now, the reason you might not have heard of slope soaring (or slope gliding) is because of the nature of the models we fly. They are QUIET. They have no motor or engine, or indeed any method of self propulsion, unlike drones and other radio control vehicles. You would probably not even know we were near you flying unless you looked up and saw one swooping around a hill (and even then you might mistake the gliders for birds).

In addition, slope soaring models use safe and proven nickel metal hydride batteries (NiMH) for their controls, which, unlike the lithium polymer batteries that drones and powered electric models use, do not present a fire danger in a crash.

Also, unlike drones, we are not carrying cameras. We aren't looking down at the houses and taking pictures...we are flying for the simple joy of flying in the lift created by nature.

The reason I am writing this is that I understand there are new regulations being proposed restricting the flying of drones and other powered radio control vehicles to specific areas like parks. I am worried that this might impact our ability to fly slope sailplanes at the places we've traditionally been able to fly at for nearly four decades.

I think our little corner of the hobby has a proven safety record. We don't make noise, and we aren't looking into people's houses or properties, and we have very little impact in general. I hope this letter has raised awareness of this, and that you will keep it in mind.

Thanks for your time.