



M E M O R A N D U M
PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES
PARKS AND GROUNDS DIVISION
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors DATE: June 7, 2016
FROM: Ken Grehm, Director of Public Works and Facilities
By: Mark Rideout, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Commendation / John Ramirez

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve and present a Commendation recognizing John Ramirez for 25 years of dedicated public service to the County of Placer and its citizens.

BACKGROUND

During his 25 year career with the County of Placer, John Ramirez served as the first Parks Administrator in the County's history, overseeing the development and operation of parks, trails, and landscaped areas throughout the unincorporated County. His service to our citizens was the culmination of a distinguished 40-year career in the Parks and Recreation profession.

During John's tenure, the Parks and Grounds Division grew from a small function of the Museums and Parks Department, which operated 10 parks, 1 campground, and landscaped grounds around County facilities. The Division is now a robust organization that developed and oversees 40 parks and beaches, 100 miles of trails, 1,650 acres of recreational open space, and 156 acres of landscaped County grounds.

While the metrics of John's professional accomplishments are remarkable, the intangible impact of relationships developed and nurtured by John will, perhaps, be the most enduring aspect of his legacy. John is renowned for his happy, congenial, and supportive nature whether it be with supervisors, staff, or the myriad partner agencies and departments that interacted with John in the course of his professional life.

John began his distinguished career with a Criminal Justice degree from Fresno State University, and upon graduation began working in his chosen field as a U.S. Forest Service Park Ranger in Yosemite National Park. Following his exciting years in Yosemite, John first worked as a Supervising Park Ranger and then the Regional Parks Operations Supervisor with Ventura County. He then moved to Tulare County where he served as the Park Services Superintendent, before accepting the Placer County Parks Administrator position in April 1990.

In retirement, John plans to further his lifetime investment and enjoyment in his family with his wife of 35 years, Maxine, their two grown children and extensive extended family. John also looks forward to free time afforded by retirement to pursue his love of tennis, backpacking, bicycling, working with his hunting dogs, and traveling to parks throughout our State and Country. Not to enter retirement bashfully, John has reservations to hike the entire 250-mile John Muir Trail in the upcoming summer.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

IN THE MATTER OF A COMMENDATION RECOGNIZING JOHN RAMIREZ FOR 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE COUNTY OF PLACER AND ITS CITIZENS

WHEREAS, John Ramirez provided 25 years of exemplary service to the County of Placer and its citizens through his position as Parks Administrator before retiring from the Department of Public Works and Facilities; and,

WHEREAS, during John's tenure, the County saw a time of significant growth and change, and John oversaw the operation and development of 40 parks, beaches and campgrounds; over 100 miles of trails, 1,650 acres of recreational open space, and 156 acres of landscaped grounds; and,

WHEREAS, among John's many accomplishments, he was personally committed throughout the development of Hidden Falls Regional Park, Granite Bay Community Park, Ronald L. Feist Park, Cisco Grove Gould Park, Franklin School Community Park, Applegate Park, Traylor Ranch Nature Preserve, Treelake Park, and Dry Creek Community Park; and,

WHEREAS, John made a personal appeal before the United States Congress to facilitate a transfer of Forest Service property for Squaw Valley Community Park, and worked closely with the community throughout the development of this beautiful recreational resource; and,

WHEREAS, John truly mentored those who worked closely with him by providing continual training and growth opportunities, and John will be missed by all for his reassuring disposition, wide smile, and laughter; and,

WHEREAS, John shares his enthusiasm for the outdoors, tennis, backpacking, camping, dog training, hunting, and bicycling with all those around him - who can keep up; and,

WHEREAS, John actively shared his love of the outdoors through many years of leadership in a local Boy Scouts Troop, where he encouraged numerous Scouts through the growth and development process necessary to attain the rank of Eagle Scout; and,

WHEREAS, John is an exemplary family man, who takes great pride in his marriage of 35 years to Maxine, his two grown children, and his large extended family throughout California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT BE KNOWN, the above COMMENDATION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer on behalf of the citizens of Placer County at a regular meeting held June 7, 2016, to acknowledge with great appreciation John's exceptional service and extend sincere wishes to both he and Maxine for a fulfilled retirement and great successes in their future.

Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2
Chairman 2016

Jack Duran, Supervisor District 1
Jim Holmes, Supervisor District 3
Kirk Uhler, Supervisor District 4
Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5