

Road Measure Now Up to Voters

By Cathy Tyson

Organizers of the Fix our Roads initiative made their final plea to the City Council in late July to put the measure on the November ballot. "We now have 1518 signatures," explained Guy Atwood, Committee Co-Chair, adding they have a lot of momentum. The signatures gathered at various locations around Lafayette were a way to gauge support for a proposed \$89 flat parcel tax to be used, along with a generous three million dollar contribution from the City's reserves, to repair all the failed roads in Lafayette over the next ten years.

"How confident are you that the measure will pass?" asked Mayor Carl Anduri. Atwood replied that's a

tough question but said the committee was encouraged that there has been no opposition and they've gotten lots of favorable comments. This measure is roughly half of the amount and one third of the time period proposed in a 2007 measure that barely failed—garnering just under 64% approval; 66% is needed to pass this type of measure.

"Please put this on the November ballot," implored George Burt. "We don't want to be Orinda. Help us all do this together." With a unanimous vote by the City Council, the "Fix Our Roads" measure will be included on the November ballot for voters to decide.

Proposed BMX Park Getting Expensive

By Cathy Tyson



LEGEND

- Bike Park (approx 1.8 acres)
- Las Trampas Creek
- Public Parking Lots
- Lafayette-Moraga Trail
- Sidewalk
- Lafayette Community Park Trail

Map courtesy of Jennifer Russell, Director of Parks Trails and Recreation

Blame it on the Red-Legged frog. The proposed bike park at the south end of the Community Park - basically a dirt bike track with jumps surrounded by a chain link fence - has tripled in price since it was recommended in December 2008 by the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. The proposed 1.8 acre park was originally slated to cost \$105,000, but currently is up to \$322,000 due mostly to extensive environmental studies and special permits because of a report of a Red-Legged Frog sighting in 1994.

As of June 15 2011, the proposed project has cost \$72,226; \$14,180 on design and planning and \$58,046 on environmental studies, permits and project management. Parks Trails and Recreation Director Jennifer Russell calls it, "obviously controversial and complicated."

The intent of the bike park is to provide a place at the south end of the Lafayette Community Park for BMX riders to enjoy their sport and to prevent youths from damaging sensitive Las Trampas Creek habitat where riders were constantly building unauthorized jumps. Russell explained that

the Park Master Plan clearly states that only the south east end of the park can be designated for active uses - the majority of the park will be left in its natural state.

At a recent City Council meeting, after much public input, City Council members voted unanimously to approve \$25,800 for additional environmental study. According to Russell all of the forecast costs, "Can be covered by the Park Facilities Fund in fiscal year 2011-2012." Park Facilities monies can only be spent on parks, with no exceptions for potholes or road repair.

Although this agenda item did not come up until very late at a recent City Council meeting, the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center was filled with both biking enthusiasts and naysayers.

"Frog mitigation factors suggested by the US Fish and Wildlife Department included things that I feel are doable," said Russell. "Even if we don't build the bike park - these are all positive things." The list included education for park users, building a habitat for reptiles and amphibians, and water testing.

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