

**TO:** James L. App, City Manager  
**FROM:** Meg Williamson, Interim Public Works Director  
**SUBJECT:** Melody Drainage Basin (a.k.a. "Park")  
**DATE:** May 4, 2004

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**NEEDS:** For the City Council to review the use and maintenance of Melody Drainage Basin.

- FACTS:**
1. The Melody Drainage Basin is located between Caddie Lane and Melody Drive, surrounded by single family residences (see attached map).
  2. The facility was designed, and continues to serve, as a storm water detention basin.
  3. The basin was designed and built in 1977 to accommodate residential development in the Melody area. Area development required a basin capable of handling 243,360 cubic feet (1,825,200 gallons or 5.6 acre feet) of storm water (as might be encountered in a 100-year storm event).
  4. There have been accounts of storm water events filling the basin to capacity.
  5. Sometime after the storm water detention basin was designed, a few park-like amenities were added. Thereafter, the basin came to be known as Melody Park.
  6. In 1994 approximately \$10,000 was invested in "The Melody Project." Improvements included:
    - Grading and repair of the perimeter walkway
    - Cleaning and maintenance of concrete V-ditch
    - Installation of access road, block wall and retaining wall
    - Planting of trees
  7. Over the ensuing years, maintenance has focused on debris removal and channel clearing for storm water flow. The park-like improvements have deteriorated inasmuch as their existence and use is not compatible with the facilities function as a drainage basin.
  8. A resident of the area, Ms. Maria S. White, has expressed continuing concern and frustration with the quality of the basin/park improvements and maintenance (see attached letter)

**ANALYSIS &**

**CONCLUSION:** The basin, its use and maintenance, has been the subject of neighborhood and City discussions for the last 10-12 years. When the storm water basin functioned exclusively as it was designed, there were neighborhood complaints about stagnating water and vector control. As other non-flood control elements were added, complaints expanded to include deterioration of equipment, landscaping, and security.

There are detention basins within the City that also function as "parks," but they are typically designed to contain far lower volumes of water, are shallower with gentle (4:1 ratio) side slopes, and have no concrete swale construction. In all cases, the first and foremost function of those basins is flood control. Flood control is an essential public safety and property protection component.

This basin was originally designed in 1977 to accommodate residential development planned in the Melody area. Basin calculations identified the need for 243,360 cubic feet of storm water volume in a 100-year storm event. These calculations were based on development assumptions that have proven valid (as there have been observations of storm water being as high as the top of the basin's banks). *NOTE: 243,360 cubic feet equals 1,825,200 gallons. By way of comparison, Barney Schwartz Park Lake contains just 1,000,000 gallons.*

All of the basin's volume is needed for flood protection. No change to the shape or elevations of the basin should be made unless/until a comprehensive engineering study of the hydraulics (upstream and downstream) is performed and alternative flood control measures identified, designed, funded and constructed. The engineering analysis could cost \$50,000; future design and construction costs for an alternative or modified facility cannot currently be estimated.

Features in the basin that do not serve a flood control purpose include:

- Access road (concrete)
- Walking path (decomposed granite - in poor condition)
- Playground equipment (wooden - 20+ years old)
- Basketball court (concrete - fair/poor condition)

The Chief of Police indicates that the retention basin is a security challenge. It is an attraction for illegal activities as it is difficult to view from the street or patrol. He recommends that the basin be fenced to prohibit access.

Reversion to flood control function only, including security fencing as well as removal of non-flood control features, would cost approximately \$15,000. Annual maintenance for flood control features would be approximately \$3,500.

Continued but upgraded partial, or enhancement to more comprehensive, park use (IF flood control function can be otherwise accommodated), with the addition of security lighting & fencing, could cost between \$70-120,000 with annual maintenance expense of \$10-35,000 (depending on the type of park-like features added).

**POLICY**

**REFERENCE:** Melody area development conditions.

**FISCAL**

**IMPACT:** Fiscal impacts are dependent on Council's direction regarding any future basin assessments and/or improvements.

**OPTIONS:**

- a. **Receive & File, and if Appropriate, Provide Direction Regarding Basin Alternative Analysis.**
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.

Attachments:

1. Location Map
2. February 16, 2004 letter from Maria S. White



# Location Map



*Maria S. White*

1121 Caddie Lane  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
(805) 239-3601

February 16, 2004

City Council  
City of El Paso de Robles  
1000 Spring Street  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Re: *Melody Park*

Dear Mayor Mecham and Council Members,

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003, I, along with several other homeowners from the area surrounding Melody Park, met with Mr. Joe Deakin and Mr. Dennis Fansler to discuss the condition of the park. They informed us that there is a source of water coming into the park which has prohibited them from keeping it maintained in the same manner as the rest of the parks in the city. Mr. Deakin said that he had requested funds from last year's budget to study this problem, but his request had been turned down and that he would be putting in another request for this year. We (the homeowners in the surrounding area) would like to see that request approved. Many of us purchased our properties when this park was first constructed, and at that time, it looked nicely maintained. Obviously, no one knew there was a water problem at the time, but after meeting with Mr. Deakin and Mr. Fansler, I understand that management has known about it since 1995, when some repair work was done on the culvert running through the park. We are well aware that this is a dual purpose retention basin/park, but this is a common type of land use throughout the state and they are not mutually exclusive. The fact that Mr. Deakin put in a request for a water study last year shows that he thinks this is important.

I also held a follow up meeting in January with concerned homeowners to discuss other options in the meantime. Melody Park is known by a certain crowd as "Stoner Park", the meaning of which you can surely ascertain. We would like to see some improvements made to rid it of this reputation while the water study is going on. Specifically, we have compiled the following list:

1. *Lighting:* Box lighting around the track and near the play structure that would come on at dusk and go off at dawn, aimed downward so as not to illuminate the surrounding residences.
2. *Signage:* There are currently no indications that a park even exists here unless one looks at a map. There should be directional signs as well as posted hours of operation.

3. *Fencing: We propose that the open perimeter areas be fenced with attractive wrought iron work and that gates be placed at the walk through easements.*
4. *French drain: The current "low-flow" water coming into the park from the surrounding properties creates an erosion problem that could be corrected with a better drainage system.*
5. *Grade the track: After the drainage system is in place, the track would need to be re-graded.*
6. *Trash cans: We need trash cans placed near each entrance and also by the play structure. (A "doggie waste management system" would also help.)*

*This park could be a very attractive walk/run area and family recreational facility. It has the only track in the city aside from the High School and Flamson. If the water problem is solved, it could easily be used as an additional soccer or baseball field. There used to be horse shoe and BBQ pits. This proposed work can only benefit our city and show that we not only care about bringing in nice, new developments, but that we maintain those that are already here. The concerned homeowners that I met with are willing to form an "Adopt-A-Park" group to assist the city in keeping it trash free.*

*We have spent a colossal amount of money on Barney Schwartz Park and we're planning to spend another huge chunk on the Sherwood Forest project. I don't see how that can be justified while this area is neglected. I have been pursuing this on and off since 1992 and I believe that Mr. Fansler has been frustrated by this for years also. I'm including copies of the communications that have transpired over the years (not including numerous telephone calls, of course), which obviously reveal my feelings. I have painted over and scrubbed foul words off of the play equipment while weeping at the thought of my children reading them. I have cleaned up trash in the park and I've called the police when I've seen criminal activities taking place. I know that many others have done the same. The police can only do so much to regulate an area that is so minimally maintained. I'm saddened by the poor response I've received over the years and I'd like to see Melody Park finally taking a turn for the better. I realize that times are hard, but in my occupation as a bookkeeper for over 20 years, I've come to know that people will find a way to pay for the things that are important to them. Please make this a priority and approve these requests for this year's budget.*

*Sincerely,*

  
*Maria S. White*

*Encs.*

*Cc: Jim App, Dennis Fansler*

Eric & Maria White  
1121 Caddie Lane  
Paso Robles, Ca 93446

April 8, 1992

City of Paso Robles  
Community Development  
P. O. Box 307  
Paso Robles, Ca 93447

Re: Melody Park

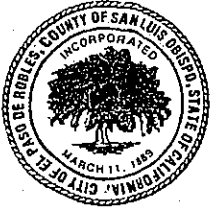
To whom it may concern:

I'm writing regarding the condition of Melody Park. There is an abundance of mosquitos congregating in the park and the surrounding areas as a result of the water stagnating in the drainage ditch. We have a lot of children in our neighborhood and have already had plenty of illnesses this year, so we're concerned about more afflictions being spread by mosquitos. Right now, one can't even go outside in the evening without risk of being bitten several times in a matter of minutes. The marsh is a breeding ground for all kinds of creatures, including the frogs with their incessant din that we have adjusted to hearing every night. We're also concerned about the poor state of the children's play area and the overall inadequate and unhealthy shape of the entire park. Last summer we heard through the grapevine that there were plans to redesign the park. So far we've seen nothing done, and the grounds that were previously kept up have not been mowed in months.

We realize that you probably have your hands full with many other things, but we'd like to know what, if any, your plans are concerning the park. Also, if there are no plans, we'd like to know what we can do to initiate the necessary improvements. You can reach me at 239-3601. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Maria S. White



# City of El Paso de Robles

*"The Pass of the Oaks"*

April 13, 1992

Eric & Maria White  
1121 Caddie Lane  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Subject: Condition of Melody Park

Dear Mr. & Mrs. White:

Thank you so very much for your letter of April 8, regarding the condition of Melody Park.

As our Acting Park Superintendent, Dennis Fansler, told you on the telephone, we are working in conjunction with our Public Works Department to renovate that entire area to:

- (1) Make this area more functional relating to its original concept of a retardation basin; and
- (2) Make it more usable as a public park for the residents of the local neighborhood and general public.

As Dennis advised, we have submitted a request for funds in next year's fiscal budget, that would go into effect July 1, 1992. These funds would go towards raising the level of the bottom of the retardation basin, redoing the irrigation system, redoing part of the playground structure, and again, replant the sides of the slopes to make it more of park setting and hopefully make it more manageable by our Park Maintenance staff.

I have taken the liberty of passing your letter onto John McCarthy, Director of Public Works for the City of Paso Robles, and our City Manager, Richard Ramirez, to make them aware of this situation. I hope in the very near future I will have some positive information for you. In the meantime, please note we are working very hard to eliminate what we also consider as a very negative situation.

Sincerely,  
Department of Community Services

Stuart Ross  
Director

STR/jo

cc: John McCarthy, Public Works Director  
Richard Ramirez, City Manager  
Gary Perruzzi, Acting- Street Superintendent  
Dennis Fansler, Acting- Park & Building Maintenance Supt.

MARIA S. WHITE  
1121 CADDIE LANE  
PASO ROBLES, CA 93446

May 12, 1993

Paso Robles City Council  
910 Park Street  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

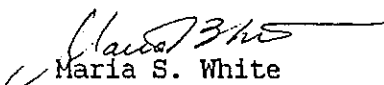
Dear City Council,

Enclosed are pictures of Melody Park, which is located between Melody and Caddie, directly behind my home. As you can see, it is in extremely poor shape, and has not been tended in quite some time. These pictures were taken about 2 weeks after the last rain. The water under the swings was populated with thousands of tadpoles until it finally dried up. The grass is now 2 - 3 feet tall and the water in the culvert is running at a slow trickle, exuding a vile odor.

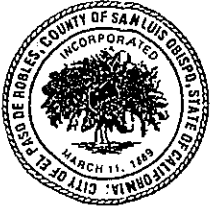
Last year I contacted the Department of Community Services regarding this situation. Copies of my letter and the response I received are attached. I would like to know what, if anything, is going to be done about this disgusting eyesore. I keep hearing about the improvements planned for Paso Robles. I wonder what kind of turnout the Wine Festival would get if it were held in Melody Park. This "very negative situation" as Stuart Ross understated it, is bringing down our already depreciated property values and I find it unacceptable.

Yes, I'm upset, and I believe rightly so. When my husband and I were considering purchasing our property, this park was one of its selling points. It was fairly well kept, except for the half culvert, which was shrouded with tall grasses. We didn't even know there was a pipe running through the park until this winter, when someone came through and dug it clear, leaving piles of weeds and dirt all around. We so enjoy listening to the noise of the frogs, which is loud enough to drown out our outside stereo speakers while being played at their limit. We are also relishing the mosquitos which will no doubt keep us indoors during the months to come, even though we have a beautiful garden that we would like to be able to appreciate. If this area is to stay both a retardation basin and a park, then it needs to be redone with a full culvert pipe and landscaped properly. Please allocate funds in this year's budget for an overhaul of this site. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

  
Maria S. White





OFFICE OF THE  
MAYOR

# City of El Paso de Robles

*"The Pass of the Oaks"*

May 15, 1993

Mrs. Maria White  
1121 Caddie Lane  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Re: Melody Park

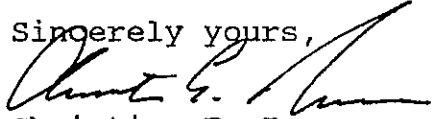
Dear Mrs. White:

Thank you for your letter regarding the condition of Melody Park with your pictures. It will be circulated among the Council and staff with an early response requested.

It has been some time since viewed the park and will do so immediately. You will soon be notified of what is intended to remedy the situation.

We appreciate your taking the time to write to us.

Sincerely yours,

  
Christian E. Iversen  
Mayor

CEI/pd

cc: Council  
Rich Ramirez

*New Address: 910 Park Street • Paso Robles, CA 93446 • Phone: (805) 237-3888*

1030 Spring Street • P.O. Box 307, Paso Robles, CA 93447-0307 • (805) 238-0400 • FAX (805) 238-4704

MARIA S. WHITE  
1121 CADDIE LANE  
PASO ROBLES, CA 93446  
(805) 239-3601

January 8, 1994

Office of the Mayor  
City of El Paso de Robles  
910 Park Street  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Re: Melody Park

Dear Mayor Iversen,

This is my third year in a row writing to you and the council regarding Melody Park. I am not sending pictures this year; I'm getting tired of spending money on film and developing and getting no results for my efforts.

I respectfully request that the maintenance and disposition of Melody Park be placed as a City Council agenda item for discussion as soon as possible. I also request that I be notified in advance of the date of such meeting so that I and my neighbors can attend. It would be advisable that the Council members make a visit to the park before the meeting, since I do not intend to take any more pictures. They also might want to refer to my letters dated April 8, 1992 and May 12, 1993, and their responses from Stuart Ross and yourself, respectively. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Maria S. White



OFFICE OF THE  
MAYOR

# City of El Paso de Robles

"The Pass of the Oaks"

January 23, 1998<sup>4</sup>

Mrs. Maria S. White  
1121 Caddie Lane  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Re: Melody Park

Dear Mrs. White:

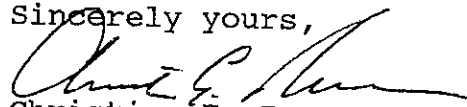
Thank you for your recent letter regarding needed improvements or "other disposition" of Melody Park. You are absolutely right that something needs to be done and it is long overdue.

I'm requesting that this matter be placed on our next agenda, February 1, for Council discussion. More than likely the Council will request a staff report with suggested action at a later meeting.

I've looked at the park on several occasions and there appear to be many problems with drainage and access which make maintenance difficult.

Hopefully, we can get something resolved and I apologize for the delay.

Sincerely yours,

  
Christian E. Iversen  
Mayor

CEI/pd

cc: Council

800 N. Blick  
di

Voice mail  
239-7277

office  
239-2130

New Address: 910 Park Street • Paso Robles, CA 93446 • Phone: (805) 237-3888

1030 Spring Street • P.O. Box 307, Paso Robles, CA 93447-0307 • (805) 238-0400 • FAX (805) 238-4704



# City of El Paso de Robles

*"The Pass of the Oaks"*

## MELODY PARK WORKSHOP

MAY 19, 1994; 7:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION: CENTENNIAL PARK  
600 NIICKERSON DRIVE

(City Hall Mailing Address: 910 Park Street)

- 
- |      |  |         |
|------|--|---------|
| I.   | <u>Welcome</u>   | 7:00 pm |
| II.  | <u>Short History</u> - Stu Ross  | 7:15 pm |
| III. | <u>Technical Constraints</u> - John McCarthy<br>Environmental<br>Hydrological<br>Topography<br>Maintenance   | 7:30 pm |
| IV.  | <u>Problem Solving Sessions</u><br>Facilitators:<br>Bob Lata, Community Development Director<br>Ann Martin, Librarian<br>Rich Ramirez, City Manager<br><br>Issues:<br>Technical Constraints<br>Source of Funds<br>Time Table | 7:45 pm |
| V.   | <u>Session Findings and Report</u>   | 8:30 pm |
| VI.  | <u>Rank Options</u>  | 9:00 pm |
| VII. | <u>Adjournment</u>   | 9:30 pm |

# Melody Storm Drain/Park Workshop

**OBJECTIVE:** Enable neighborhood to directly participate in identifying options for Council to consider so as to solve drainage/park problems.

## PRE-WORKSHOP

- STEP I**      **April 8th**  
John McCarthy Identifies affected area (radius map)
- STEP IIa**    **April 15th**  
Bob Lata provides one page problem statement and purpose of workshop.  
Stu Ross and John McCarthy provide background data for paper.
- April 22nd**  
Bob Lata coordinates mailing.
- STEP IIb**    **Workshop meeting date May 19th**  
Stu Ross coordinates getting Centennial Park. Will need three (3) areas so we can "breakout", and one (1) area for group meeting.

## WORKSHOP FORMAT

- STEP III**    Workshop
1. Welcome by Mayor Iversen
  2. Short historical overview by Stu Ross
  3. Technical constraints (Do not build false expectations) *John McCarthy*
- STEP IV**    Breakout with facilitators
- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <u>Facilitators:</u> | <u>Issues:</u>   |
| Rich Ramirez         | Technical constraints - <i>finally admits that the park is not visible &amp; therefore is low priority</i> |
| Bob Lata             | Source of funds  |
| Jim App              | Time table   |
- STEP V**    Regroup and report options and assign estimated costs and rank.
- STEP VI**    **June, 1994**  
Report findings to City Council by Chairs of Sub Committee.

Mrs. Maria S. White  
1121 Caddie Lane  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

August 24, 1994

City Council  
El Paso de Robles  
910 Park Street  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Re: Melody Park

Dear City Council Members,

On May 19, 1994, the Community Development Department held a public workshop regarding the disposition of Melody Park, facilitated by Richard Ramirez, Stu Ross, John McCarthy and Bob Lata. This meeting was held at your direction after the April 5th council meeting. At the close of the workshop, those of us who attended were under the impression that the staff would get back to us within 60 days with the results of their research on the issues discussed. It is now over 90 days and we have received no notice of any plans for Melody Park.

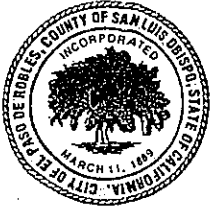
We have heard through the "grapevine" that funds were allotted in this year's budget, but not how much and for what specific purpose, if this is the truth. I would like to know what the staff developed after our meeting and what, if any, decision was made by the Council. It would seem that those of us notified of the May 19th workshop should have also been notified, in the same manner, of what the results were.

I would also like to ask that this letter be included for the record in the next regular Council meeting minutes. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Maria S. White

cc: Richard Ramirez  
Stuart Ross  
John McCarthy  
Robert Lata



# City of El Paso de Robles

*"The Pass of the Oaks"*

September 12, 1994

Eric & Maria White  
1121 Caddie Lane  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Re: Melody Park

Dear Mr. & Mrs. White:

During the 1994/95 budget process, the City Council allocated \$10,000 to upgrade the Melody Park area. The \$10,000 would address to commence some of the ideas identified during the problem solving workshop.

Following that workshop, City staff indicated that within 60 days we would be getting out material to the Melody Park residents to review regarding how to best spend the initial allocation of resources. We are late in meeting that objective. Nevertheless, we have developed a set of objectives that will address your concerns.

City staff have met on two different occasions to look at creative means of resolving problems identified at the problem solving workshop. Enclosed is material which may assist you in better understanding the current status of the upgrades that may take place at Melody Park. On October 4, 1994 at 7:30 pm, the City Council will be reviewing the enclosed material. During this meeting, the City Council will specifically allocate the dollars budgeted for 1994/95 so as to upgrade Melody Park storm retention basin.

I would like to again thank you for your involvement and patience in assisting the City to identify what needs to be done at Melody Park and a means for coming up with solutions for the improvements. We look forward to working with you in the future on this important community/neighborhood endeavor.

Most sincerely,

Richard J. Ramirez  
City Manager

mldyprk

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: RICHARD J. RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER  
FROM: JOHN R. MCCARTHY, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS *JRM/CS*  
SUBJECT: MELODY PARK IMPROVEMENTS  
DATE: JUNE 29, 1994

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Regarding the Public Works aspects of this particular project, it appears that the main concern is the stagnate water located in the park. I have recently reviewed the Melody Park site after the CYA crews have come in and thoroughly removed all vegetation. Some options to help the situation are as follows:

OPTION #1

- A. The concrete channel is in excellent shape.
- B. A constant maintenance effort to keep the channel clean and to keep the weeds off the concrete channel will keep water flowing through the existing channel.
- C. Improper maintenance or no maintenance of the channel will cause water to back up, therefore causing bacteria, mosquitos, frogs and other problems as complained about by the residents.
- D. The cost for proper maintenance to insure that there would be no problems with bacteria, mosquitos, frogs, etc. can be calculated as follows:

3 hours/week X \$30.00/hour for maintenance person =  
\$120.00/week X 52 weeks = \$6,240.00/year.

The channel would be kept completely clear and any vegetation growing on the side would be kept under control by spraying.

OPTION #2

- A. A small low flow PVC pipe, approximately 12" in size could be installed in the location of the existing bank. This pipe would be utilized to carry low flow only and would completely eliminate any problems with water. The length of this pipe would be approximately 570'. Cost of this pipe can be calculated as follows:

570' X \$30.00/ft = \$17,100.00.

Additional costs such as mobilization and concrete structure modifications would add approximately another \$15,000.00 to the job for a total cost of approximately \$35,000.00.



## SUMMARY OF OPTIONS

It appears that there are two viable options regarding the elimination of stagnate water, mosquitos, frogs, etc. It appears that Option #1 is far superior in terms of cost. Option #2, while expensive initially would have less of an ongoing long-term maintenance cost, however it would be estimated that approximately half of the yearly maintenance amount in Option #1 would still have to be expended, as some maintenance would still have to be done.

## OTHER ISSUES

LIGHTING: There is no lighting in this area at this time. However, lighting could be installed in this area with perhaps one or two lights, just to make the area visible to police, etc. Estimated cost for lighting improvements is \$10,000.00.

LATE NIGHT ACTIVITIES/CRIME ELEMENT: This was registered as a concern. If a minimal lighting standard is installed, this could help deter any type of criminal activities at night.

PARK EQUIPMENT: The park equipment is old. I would defer to Community Services for replacement/upgrade costs.

HIGH GROUNDWATER: High groundwater is an issue that has to be dealt with in terms of the types of plantings that can occur in this area. The irrigation system for the slopes is currently in disrepair and could be reactivated so that landscaping could be installed on the existing slopes. Community Services would have to make the call in terms of interior tree types and plantings.

DIRT TRACK: The dirt track is not currently in good condition, but is not unusable. I would characterize it as in "fair" condition. Additional granular material could be added to make a solid track. Water coming out of the yards could be diverted by use of pipes down the slopes at major water shed points. This should resolve most of the water wash-outs over the track areas. As with any type of facility, the track would need some maintenance.

## SUMMARY

In summary, the park could be restored to a condition that would be a facility that citizens could view with pride. Although the entire park could not be landscaped due to the high groundwater, at least the upper portions near the equipment could be landscaped, as well as the banks. Irrigation systems are in place and could be modified as needed. The existing track could be slightly upgraded and wash-out problems could be mostly resolved with appropriate pipes for drainage. With appropriate maintenance/drainage control, there would not be problems with stagnate water, mosquitos, frogs, etc.

I would be happy to review this in more detail.

lb

x:\engr\melody.mem  
CC: Stuart Ross, Director of Community Services  
Gary Perruzzi, Street Superintendent

Proposed uses of \$10,000 approved for the Melody Project.

Hillside access road

92'X12' concrete road from Caddie Lane to bottom of basin-approx.\$3500

Walkway from steps to play equipment

50' X 4' feet/ 200sq ft @ \$4 per = \$800

Cement Retaining wall by playground

55'X \$25 per lineal foot= \$1400

Cement curb from stairs to basketball court

60'X \$12 per lineal foot=\$720

Cement curb perimeter for playground

200 ' X \$12 per lineal foot=\$2400 (Brinar=12 per foot curb  
Bohner=9 per foot curb)

Cement Curb for edge of base access road

350' X \$12 per lineal foot= \$4200

Basketball equipment

2 basketball rims-\$100

1 basketball pole-\$100

Trees

15 gallon approx \$75 each

Future Items

Landscape irrigation system

Drainage pipe and fittings

Install Plant Material

Installation of hard surface walkway with curb(concrete or asphalt)

Tasks to be performed by staff using in house equipment and labor.

Removal of Horseshoe equipment and BBQ pit.-completed

Removal of debris and grading of basin.-completed

Construction of base road from end of concrete drive to playground.

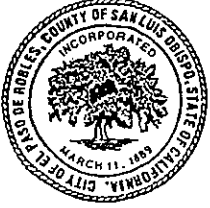
Grading and repair of existing decomposed granite perimeter walkway.

Importing,tilling and contouring of topsoil for area to be landscaped.

Removal of debris and regular cleaning of concrete v-ditch.

Weed abatement-Sprayed 8/29/94

Maintenance of landscaped areas



# City of El Paso de Robles

*"The Pass of the Oaks"*

January 16, 1996

Subject: Melody Park Project Status

Dear Residents:

Attached is a list of tasks that have been performed as a part of the Melody Park Renovation Project over the past twelve months. This work had been brought about by your concerns as to the condition of the Melody Park retardation area.

As you can see, our Park and Building Maintenance staff has made great strides in their efforts to provide a quality facility for your use. In addition, you can see at the bottom of the project list, future items which will further the efforts in this process. In order to further our communications with you, I along with the members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and members of my staff will be at Melody Park between the hours of 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 3, 1996 to answer any of your questions as to what has been accomplished to date and what we intend to accomplish in the future. I hope to see many of you on this date so that the concerns you have can be addressed. I want to thank you for your patience on this project and assure you that we are doing all within our capabilities to ensure you being kept informed as to our progress.

If you wish to contact me prior to February 3, 1996 please feel free to call me at 238-3993, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Department of Community Services

Stuart T. Ross, Director

STR/jo

cc: Dennis Fansler, Park Superintendent  
Members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee  
Richard Ramirez, City Manager  
Paso Robles City Council

## Use of \$10,000 approved for the Melody Project

### Tasks performed by City equipment and labor.

- 1) Removal of Horseshoe equipment and BBQ pit.-completed
- 2) Removal of debris and grading of basin.-completed
- 3) Grading and repair of existing perimeter walkway. Completed
- 4) Removal of debris and regular cleaning of concrete v-ditch.-Ongoing
- 5) Weed abatement-Ongoing

### Tasks performed by contract Labor

6) Hillside access road	\$3500
7) Cement Retaining wall by playground	\$1400
8) Block wall by north pathway	<u>\$2700</u>
Total	\$7600

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### Approximate Costs of remaining items

Walkway from steps to play equipment	\$ 800
Cement curb from stairs to basketball court	\$ 720
Cement curb perimeter for playground	\$2400
Basketball equipment	\$ 200
Trees (10)	<u>\$ 750</u>
	\$4870

### Possible future items

- Landscape irrigation system
- Drainage pipe and fittings
- Install Plant Material
- Installation of hard surface walkway with curb(concrete or asphalt)

Maria S. White  
1121 Caddie Lane  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
(805) 239-3601

June 1, 2000

Mr. James App, City Manager  
City of El Paso de Robles  
1000 Spring Street  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Dear Mr. App,

I would like to draw your attention to Melody Park. The homeowners whose properties surround this area do not find the current condition of the park acceptable. The play equipment is old and in poor condition. There is no lighting, thereby offering the perfect place for unhealthy activities at night. I have removed several condoms from the sand while my children were playing. I also found a large bolt that belonged somewhere on the play structure or the bridge. The bridge is rotting and is on the verge of an injury/lawsuit. My son saw two elementary children jump up and down on one of the boards until it broke. The "greenbelt" that the realtors are so fond of advertising when they list homes in the area is virtually non-existent. The BBQ pit and the horseshoe pits that were used by our neighborhood when we first moved here were removed by the city in 1994, for what reason I'm not really sure. The concrete retaining wall that was erected by the culvert pipe 5 years ago is already crumbling.

Melody Park was deeded to the City by the original subdivision. The City should not have accepted the deed if it was not intending to care for the park according to the conditions of approval. Ironically, at the first City Council meeting (Feb. 1, 1994) which Melody Park was mentioned, the Council approved the naming of the Lawrence Moore Neighborhood Park located on Riverbank Lane and it appears to be well maintained by the City.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Maria S. White

cc: El Paso de Robles City Council Members

Maria S. White  
1121 Caddie Lane  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

June 1, 2000

Mayor Duane Picanco  
El Paso de Robles City Council  
1000 Spring Street  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Dear Mayor Picanco,

Enclosed please find a copy of my letter to Mr. James App, City Manager regarding the condition of Melody Park. Since this issue has been brought before the previous Council and was never completely resolved, I hope you will take the time to look into it also. You were a sitting member of the Council at the time, but I'm not sure if you remember this issue, since it has been several years. Please come by and visit the park, which is located between the Caddie Lane and Melody Drive tracts. There are entrances off of Caddie Lane, Melody Drive and Patricia Lane.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

  
Maria S. White

Mrs. Maria S. White  
1121 Caddie Lane  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
(805) 239-3601

July 28, 2000

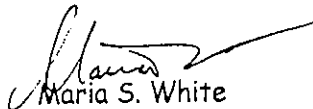
Mr. James App, City Manager  
City of El Paso de Robles  
1000 Spring Street  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Dear Mr. App,

I wrote to you 2 months ago regarding Melody Park and have received no answer to date. Please let me know if this has been looked into and what action will be taken.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Maria S. White

cc: El Paso de Robles City Council Members

8/3 - talked to Dennis - Jim  
hasn't gotten to it yet  
8/16 - Dennis - still working  
on it



# CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

"The Pass of the Oaks"

October 4, 2000

Maria S. White  
1121 Caddie Lane  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Dear Ms. White:

Please accept my apologies for this tardy response to your letter of concerning Melody "Park."

Melody "Park" was designed, and continues to serve, as a stormwater detention basin. The City maintains the facility in a manner consistent with its primary design purpose - to drain excess surface water from properties in the area, particularly during major storm events. This flood control function is the facility's primary purpose, and the City's first concern.

Sometime after the Melody stormwater detention basin was designed, the City decided to install some park-like amenities in the basin, and, it was named Melody Park. Attempts to install have failed due to a high water table under the basin/Park. The continued presence of near surface water creates a soil condition unsuitable for plant life (the water table is so high that City maintenance equipment has bogged down in the soil, even in the summertime, and tow vehicles have had to be brought in to extricate them).

In your letter you indicated that "the play equipment is old and in poor condition." Admittedly, the play equipment is not new, but it is inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Repairs are made when necessary. We appreciate your bringing the matter of the broken bridgeboard to our attention; it has since been repaired. The City did remove the BBQ pit and horseshoe pit in 1994 as they were subject to vandalism and rarely used.

You contrast the appearance of Melody Park against Lawrence Moore Park. It should be pointed out that Moore Park was specifically designed as a park, does not suffer from a high water table/poor soil conditions nor function as a flood control facility.

Unfortunately, Melody Park will not sustain the type of landscape normally found in neighborhood or City parks. Further, its' primary purpose - to collect and drain storm/flood waters - works against any thought of filling with top soil and replanting (as each year's rain would wash it out and/or act to diminish its stormwater drainage capacity and purpose). The facility might be hardscaped (paved with concrete) and lighted, but such an installation would require neighborhood support for the type of public activities that frequent hardscape areas. It is also very costly. Such an option may be discussed as part of the City's future budgetary considerations.

Finally, I have asked Police Chief Dennis Cassidy to determine whether additional patrols can occur in this area, particularly at night, to discourage the unhealthy activities that you referred to in your letter.

Thank you for your sharing your concerns with us.

Sincerely,

James L. App  
City Manager

Cc: City Council  
Chief of Police  
Director of Public Works