

Park Impact Fee Status

TO: Robert Garza, City Manager
FROM: Mark Johnston, Director – Parks & Recreation 
DATE: May 2, 2012
RE: Work Session Status Update: Park Impact Fees
FILE NO.: PRD-12-138

At the May 14, 2012, City Council Work Session staff will provide Council a status update concerning Park Impact Fees and review the process that was involved with creating the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Land Use Assumptions, and the Park Impact Fee Study.

The Las Cruces Municipal Code requires that at least every five (5) years the City update Land Use Assumptions, Park Capital Improvement Plan and Park Development Fees (PIF) or determine that no updates are needed. To date, staff has worked with the consulting team led by Conservation Technix, Inc. developing the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan and solicited public input through focus groups, public meetings, and outreach utilizing a statistically accurate survey tool. The draft Park Impact Fee study has been completed; staff presented the information and findings to the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee (CIAC), the Las Cruces Home Builders Association, and the Las Cruces Realtor Association.

The draft Park Impact Fee study shows that in order to maintain current service levels, (number of acres per citizen) an increase in the fee is needed or a different funding source identified or regulatory action requiring developers to provide parks or a combination of the different actions needs to take place. Staff has requested action from the CIAC over the past several months; the CIAC has been unable to reach consensus. Staff has developed a recommendation for City Council consideration determining no updates are needed and extending the current fee structure for the June 4, 2012, City Council meeting.

cc: Brian Denmark, Assistant City Manager/Chief Operating Officer 