

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 14, 1987

LODI LAKE PARK  
DEVELOPMENT MASTER  
PLAN APPROVED IN  
CONCEPT

CC-27(c)

Following introduction of the matter by Staff and discussion, Council, on motion of Council Member Pinkerton, Hinchman second, adopted the Lodi Lake Park Development Master Plan in concept, as prepared by Landscape Architect Richard Bigler.

## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

TO THE CITY COUNCIL	DATE	NO.
FROM THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE	October 14, 1987	
SUBJECT APPROVE LODI LAKE PARK DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN		

PREPARED BY: Parks and Recreation Director

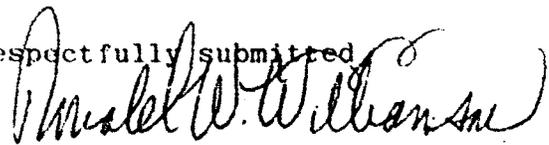
RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council approve the Lodi Lake Park Development Master Plan as prepared by Landscape Architect Richard Bigler.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: For over a year Mr. Richard Bigler, Landscape Architect, has prepared seasonal reports on the contracted Lodi Lake Park Development Master Plan.

His final findings, both in written and visual forms, were presented to the Lodi Parks and Recreation Commission at their September 1, 1987, meeting and met with unanimous approval. Likewise, Mr. Bigler and myself made a similar presentation to the City Council at a shirtsleeve session on Tuesday, September 15, 1987, which met with favorable reaction.

It is therefore recommended by Staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission that approval of the Lodi Lake Park Development Plan be given and that the Council encourage phasing of the development as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald W. Williamson  
Parks and Recreation Director

RWW:jd

CITY COUNCIL

EVELYN M. OLSON, Mayor  
JOHN R. (Randy) SNIDER  
Mayor Pro Tempore  
DAVID M. HINCHMAN  
JAMES W. PINKERTON, Jr.  
FRED M. REID

# CITY OF LODI

CITY HALL, 221 WEST PINE STREET  
CALL BOX 3006  
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241-1910  
(209) 334-5634  
TELECOPIER (209) 333-6795

THOMAS A. PETERSON  
City Manager

ALICE M. REIMCHE  
City Clerk

RONALD M. STEIN  
City Attorney

October 22, 1987

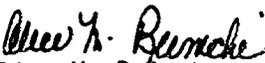
Mr. Dean Devine  
Chairman  
Lodi Parks and Recreation Commission  
420 West Turner Road  
Lodi, CA 95240

Dear Mr. Devine:

This letter will confirm action taken by the Lodi City council at its meeting of October 14, 1987, whereby Council adopted the Lodi Lake Park Development Master Plan concept as prepared by landscape architect Richard Bigler.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call this office.

Very truly yours,

  
Alice M. Reimche  
City Clerk

AMR:jj

cc: Ron Williamson Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

11/19/87 File # 112

CITY COUNCIL

EVELYN M. OLSON, Mayor  
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City Clerk  
RONALD M. STEIN  
City Attorney

February 1, 1988

Larry Simfenderfer, O.D.  
1187 Northwood Drive  
Lodi, CA 95240

Dear Larry:

I received your letter of January 12, 1988. I am not sure I can make you any happier by answering your letter, but I feel it does need to be answered.

In the course of your letter you have made certain allegations against the Council and the City which are at best inaccurate or incorrect. First the statement: "The public was not given any warning of this action." The Parks and Recreation Commission held at least two separate public hearings on the master plan for Lodi Lake Park and the use of power boats thereon. In each case the agenda was published at least 72 hours in advance, as required by the "Brown Act." The recommendation made to the Parks and Recreation Commission, and ultimately the Commission's recommendation to the City Council was to ban all power boating on the lake and river.

The City Council in turn held a public hearing on June 17, 1987. Again this hearing was published in accordance with the law at least 72 hours in advance and there was a short article in the Lodi News Sentinel about the upcoming public hearing. The Council, after hearing much testimony by a number of persons present, returned it to the Parks and Recreation Commission to devise a compromise plan and rules for the use of Lodi Lake only by motorized and non-motorized/leisure boating.

The Parks and Recreation Commission agendized this and again considered the use of motorized boats on Lodi Lake at their July 7, 1987 meeting. They reported back to the City Council at its July 15, 1987 meeting and the Council again placed this matter on its regular agenda of the August 19th meeting. Again there was much public input at this meeting. After due consideration the Council voted to limit power boating on Lodi Lake to certain days and hours, as well as to close access to the river effective March 1988.

A point not resolved was any limitations on types of boats. The City Council asked the Parks and Recreation Commission for a recommendation. The Commission's response to the Council was a recommendation to prohibit such boats as jet and V-drive boats. This was approved by the Council in September.

LARRY SIMPFENDERFER

PAGE NO. TWO

The City Attorney was asked for a ruling on possible liability the City could be exposed to by allowing access to the river by boats that were launched at a City ramp. His answer was that there is a liability risk and he cited a recent case of a person being injured while water skiing in the river and the City was held partially liable.

Your next point was the acceptance of the master plan for Lodi Lake Park. Again, there were a series of public meetings held by both the Parks and Recreation Commission as well as the City Council. In every case these meetings were open to the public. Attendance varied and the public was afforded the opportunity to speak to the subject. Many people had questions and/or opinions to express. This resulted in some changes in the proposed master plan before its acceptance by the City Council at its meeting of October 14, 1987. At no time in this process was a boat ramp directly into the river proposed.

The City Council is required by state law to conduct its business in the light of public scrutiny, which this Council has done. You as a private businessman are not required to operate in a like manner, which does not say that you operate in other than an open and ethical manner. You have not been "railroaded" as you stated in your letter by the City or the City Council as there have been ample opportunities for you to speak and express your views. The choice to avail yourself of such opportunities rests with you.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor and  
Council Members  
by

Evelyn M. Olson  
Mayor

1117 Northwood Drive  
Lodi, CA 95240  
January 12, 1988

1988 JAN 22 AM 11:24

Councilman Fred Reid  
Lodi City Hall  
221 West Pine Street  
Lodi, CA 95240

ALICE M. REAGAN  
CITY CLERK  
CITY OF LODI

Dear Councilman Reid:

I am very unhappy with the action taken regarding boating on the river, and I'm unhappy with the way in which that action was taken. I followed the boating issue, but I was completely taken by surprise with the vote to deny boaters access to the river from Lodi Lake.

The public was not given any warning of this action. I went to the Parks Commission meeting held last May or June at which the boating issue and the Lodi Lake plan was presented and discussed. I was concerned that boating on the river might be banned. Boating on Lodi Lake was discussed, but no mention was made of limiting boating on the river. I was pleased to find that the Lodi Lake plan included a ramp to launch directly into the river. At the September council meeting, as I understood it, restriction of boating on Lodi Lake was to be limited. No mention was made of restricting boating on the river. When I turned on my television and found that the council was banning access to the river, I was shocked.

I went to the council meeting at which the Lodi Lake plan was discussed and approved. On the new diagram there was no launch ramp into the river. The public was never given an opportunity to speak to the issue. The plan was presented and passed without allowing the public to comment. I feel we have been railroaded.

You have made it a private river for the exclusive use of the Willow Glen and Rivergate residents. The people of the Willow Glen area have their own ramp. Rivergate residents will find ways to get their boats into the water in the spring and out again in the fall. I bought my home in the Lakewood area because of its proximity to Lodi Lake and the river. I am a native Lodian, and I have enjoyed the river over the years. I recall very few accidents in all those years. The river is part of the Lodi heritage. It has been a delight for guests to see and experience. Apparently only certain citizens are to be allowed to use this wonderful resource. The majority of the citizens will be excluded.

Please reconsider your action.

Sincerely,

  
Larry Simpfendorfer, C.D.