

**TEMECULA COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Community Services Commission

FROM: Kevin Hawkins, Director of Community Services

DATE: November 4, 2019

SUBJECT: Permitted Use of Wind or Low Speed Electric/Battery Model Craft at Harveston Community Lake Park

PREPARED BY: Sergio Raya, Community Services Supervisor II

RECOMMENDATION: That the Community Services Commission receive and file a presentation on model craft at Harveston Community Lake Park.

BACKGROUND: In July of 2008, the Community Services Commission heard from a delegation of Temecula residents who sought to allow the use of model sail craft at Harveston Community Lake Park. Director Herman Parker met with the individuals and then approved only electric powered model sailboats on the lake. The departmental policy of allowing the model sailboats complies with the City of Temecula Ord. 93-19 § 17, which states “*No person shall swim, fish in, bathe, wade in, release pet animals in or pollute the water of any fountain, pond, lake, stream or reservoir within any city park except by permission of the commission*”. Since 2008, patrons have been permitted to operate model sail craft, while staff enforces the prohibition of gas operated model craft, particularly speed boats, for the following reasons:

- Collision risk to both patrons and wildlife.
- Increased potential of fuel leaks that pollute the water. (TMC 12.04.160)
- Noise of the vehicles may cause disturbance to other patrons and residents.

In response to a citizen request, staff has evaluated the suitability of permitting the use of model motorized boats at Harveston. Due to their similarity to the electric/battery powered sail craft, it is the recommendation of the Community Services staff that model motorized boats of any type be allowed at Harveston Lake Park, provided that said model craft adhere to the following requirements

- Craft does not exceed a maximum speed of 5 mph, or cause any wake in the water.
- Model craft must only be powered by wind or low-speed electric/battery.
- Does not exceed 3ft in length and 3ft in height.

- Does not use any gas or nitro fuels.

In addition, staff recommends the following modifications to the park:

- Establishment of designated zones within the lake for model boat use that do not conflict with existing fishing areas.
- Creation and installation of new signs (to replace existing signs) that list model craft criteria.
- Creation of permitting process, similar to that of fishing permitting system, wherein which all applicants are required to review and acknowledge understanding of the rules prior to being granted their model craft use license.

The Community Services Director supports this change.

FISCAL IMPACT: Minimal revenue generated by annual permit fees will partially offset administrative costs. Annual maintenance costs are included in the Service Level L (Lake Park Maintenance) FY19-20 Operating Budget.

ATTACHMENTS: Presentation