



For a Better Quality of Life...MRD.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTROSE RECREATION DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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The Montrose Rec. District Board of Directors recently voted unanimously to purchase 26 acres of land for future public recreation amenities. The purchase was made entirely from existing cash savings from the Rec District Conservation Trust Fund. Conservation Trust Fund dollars are the proceeds from Lottery sales, which are distributed to local governments to support parks and recreation infrastructure. They are not tax dollars. The land MRD has acquired is located at 16350 Woodgate on the corner of Woodgate and Ogden (see enclosure #1 for an aerial photo). The total purchase price was \$299,888. The property was last purchased on January 14th, 2006 for \$985,000 prior to the economic downturn.

"This land allows us to better meet the recreation needs of our community. The last time we added outdoor recreation amenities was in 1995 when McNeil fields were constructed. Since then the population of Montrose has increased 71% from 11,161 to 19,090," said Ken Sherbenou, MRD Executive Director.

"We know from last spring's election on Measure A that while there was a huge amount of support and excitement for a community recreation center, the majority of voters did not want to see an increase in their taxes. That is why we are so excited to acquire this land at such a discounted price as it allows us to grow within our existing budget," said Board Member Barbara Bynum.

The Community Recreation Center process that concluded a year ago included a thorough site selection analysis by the architectural firm Barker Rinker Seacat, who designed the Recreation Centers in Gunnison and Cortez, among others. Over 30 potential sites for future recreation facilities were evaluated. When the 26 acres of land south of Ogden and east of Woodgate recently became bank owned and reduced in price greatly, these sites were re-ranked based on this development. This property emerged as the #1 site. During the due diligence phase, the MRD confirmed that a Recreation Center is buildable and would work well on the site.

Board President Kevin Davis summarized the move by stating: "the size, location and cost just made a whole lot of sense".

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Enclosure #1: Ariel photo Woodgate and Ogden Site

