



# REPORT TO LAW & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE City of Sacramento

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Staff Report  
June 16, 2009

Honorable Members of the  
Law and Legislation Committee

**Title:** Parks and Recreation Commission Membership and Representation

**Location/Council District:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Review and provide direction on options relating to membership requirements of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and determine any recommendation to the City Council to amend City Code Section 2.62.020 relating to membership.

**Contact:** Lori Harder, Parks and Recreation Support Services Manager, 808-5172  
Stephanie Mizuno, Assistant City Clerk, 808-7200

**Presenters:** N/A

**Department:** Parks and Recreation Department and City Clerk's Office

**Division:** N/A

**Organization No:** 19001011/04001011

## **Description/Analysis**

**Issue:** On May 26, 2009, Councilmember Cohn requested that Councilmembers have the ability to give input on applicants to the Parks and Recreation Commission residing in his/her Council District. The City Clerk responded that applicant review for the Parks and Recreation Commission had always been through the Personnel and Public Employees Committee (P&PE), and that input from Councilmembers who are not serving on P&PE was not permissible under the Brown Act as opined by the City Attorney. An option that would provide for Council District input would be to modify the City Code regarding membership requirements. This report provides options and pros and cons in the background section for the Law and Legislation Committee to consider.

**Policy Considerations:** Should the membership requirements be modified to require Commission members be appointed by Council Districts, as opposed to the current membership requirement which is by Community Plan Area with one at-large member. The current membership structure requires review and consideration of applicants by the Personnel and Public Employee Committee as opposed to all Councilmembers.

**Environmental Considerations:** None.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):** None.

**Sustainability Considerations:** None.

**Commission/Committee Action:** None with this item.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** To provide information and request direction of this Committee regarding the membership requirements of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

**Financial Considerations:** None.

**Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):** Not applicable.

Respectfully Submitted: Lori Harder  
Lori Harder  
Support Services Manager

Respectfully Submitted: S. Mizuno  
Stephanie Mizuno  
Assistant City Clerk

Approved by: [Signature]  
James L. Combs  
Director of Parks and Recreation

Approved:  
[Signature]  
Shirley Concolino  
City Clerk

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**ATTACHMENT 1****Background:**

In 2004, the City Council formed the Parks and Recreation Commission. This Commission replaced the Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Committee formed in 1999. As originally constituted, the Commission consisted of 11 members, appointed by the Mayor with the approval of a majority of the City Council, with the requirement that one resident be appointed from each of the City's 11 Community Plan Areas (CPAs).

On March 3, 2009, the City Council adopted the 2030 General Plan which reduced the number of CPAs from 11 to 10 and modified some CPA boundaries. On May 12, 2009 the City Council adopted an ordinance modifying the membership requirements for the Commission to align with the new CPA boundaries and replaced the eliminated 11<sup>th</sup> CPA seat area with an at-large seat.

Prior to the approval of the 2030 General Plan and modification of the CPA boundaries, the City Clerk's Office was soliciting applications for Commission seats expiring in February of 2009. As the new CPA boundaries were not available to the Clerk's Office at the time, the application process was put on hold until the new boundaries could be verified against the residential addresses of the applicants (and standing members). Once the boundaries and addresses were reviewed, it was determined that two incumbent members of the Commission no longer qualified under the CPA residency requirements. To ensure that the displaced incumbent members had an opportunity to continue service, and to allow other residents an opportunity to apply under the revised CPAs, a second application period was opened for Plan Area 4, 5, and at-large seats. This application period has since closed and all applications have been reviewed to determine in which CPA each applicant resides. Depending on the direction of this Committee, the application process could again be put on hold until the details of the membership requirements are finalized.

**Options to modify membership:**

The following is presented to describe potential membership scenarios. Pros and cons analyzed by staff have been included for consideration.

**1. Keep membership the same - (11 seats total: 10 by CPA and 1 at-large)****Pros:**

- a. Maintains continuity and momentum of current membership
- b. Maintains an alignment between CPA representation and park and recreation policy development, master planning, park funding allocation and prioritization of projects, public needs assessment and facilities inventory
- c. Applications on file since February can be processed to fill terms expirations and vacancies

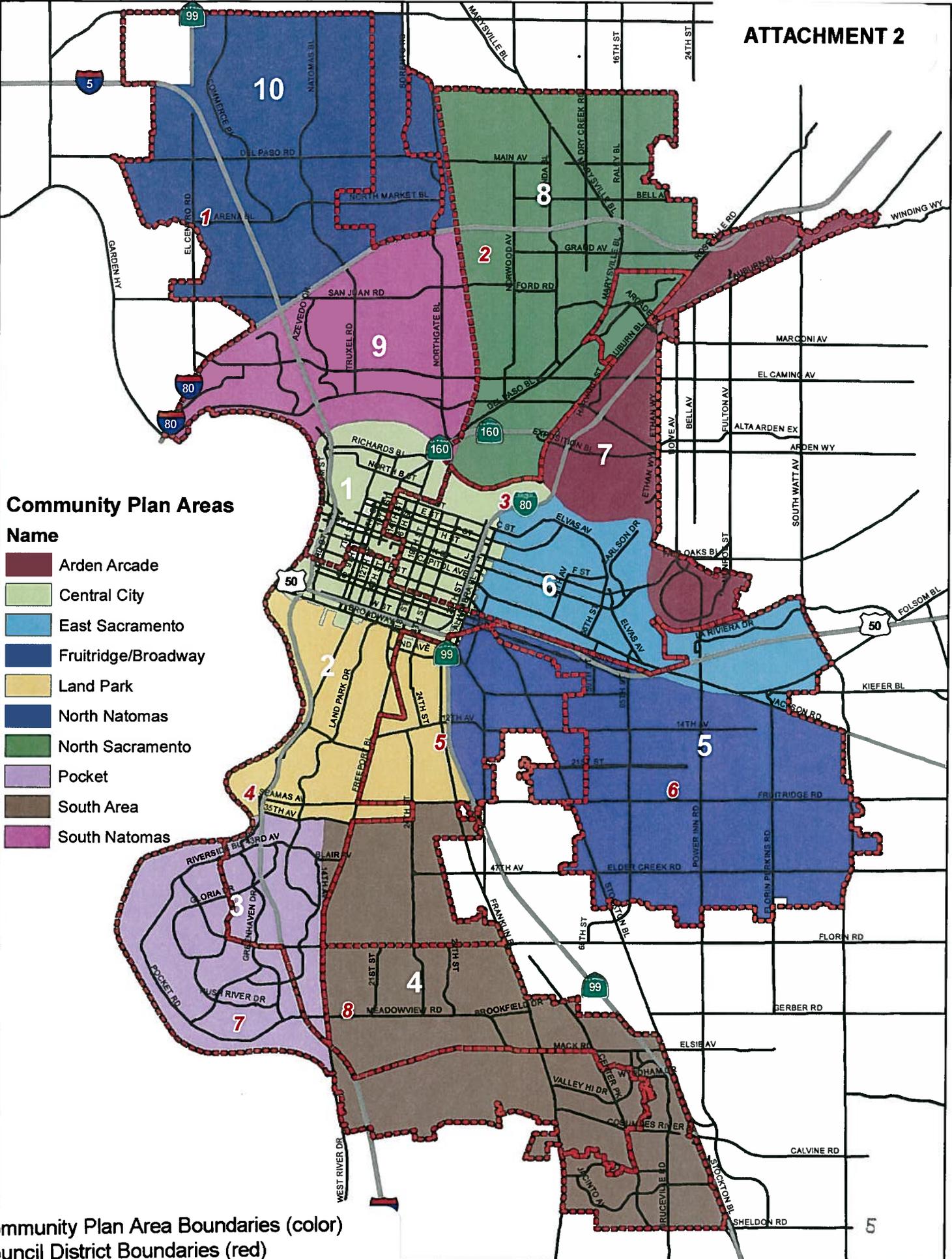
<p><b>Cons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Does not align representation by Council District</li> <li>b. May not provide for as strong a working relationship with each Council Office and knowledge of a specific Council District</li> </ul>
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2. Change membership to Council Districts with an at-large seat – (Either 9 or 11 seats total: 8 by Council District and 1 to 3 seats at-large to maintain a total odd number of seats)

<p><b>Pros:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Incorporates Council Districts into the review process</li> <li>b. Includes P&amp;PE in the review process for at-large seats</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Commissioners would no longer represent an area that aligns with park and recreation master planning, park funding and prioritization of projects, public needs assessment and facilities inventory</li> <li>b. Pending applicants subjected to additional delays in process</li> <li>c. Current members may be displaced or will compete for same seats</li> <li>d. Turnover of membership would result in reduced institutional knowledge</li> <li>e. Delay in final appointments may delay activities of the Commission</li> <li>f. Ordinance pass for publication/approval process would not start until July</li> </ul>

3. Change membership to all at-large – (5 to 11 seats total)

<p><b>Pros:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. None identified. Current Commissioners have demonstrated their interest and ability to advise on citywide park and recreation matters.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Would lose diversity of applicants offered by CPA residency</li> <li>b. Pending applicants subjected to additional delays in process</li> <li>c. Current members may be displaced or will compete for same seats</li> <li>d. Turnover of membership would result in reduced institutional knowledge</li> <li>g. Delay in final appointments may delay activities of the Commission</li> <li>e. Ordinance pass for publication/approval process would not start until July</li> <li>f. Does not address Councilmember's request for input in review process</li> </ul>



**Community Plan Areas**

- Name**
- Arden Arcade
  - Central City
  - East Sacramento
  - Fruitridge/Broadway
  - Land Park
  - North Natomas
  - North Sacramento
  - Pocket
  - South Area
  - South Natomas

Community Plan Area Boundaries (color)  
Council District Boundaries (red)