

# Residents ideas sought on planning

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**ROSAMOND** —Attention, Rosamond residents: Local leaders want your help in creating a parks and recreation “master plan.”

Experts say Rosamond’s population is going to double in the next 10 years. With that in mind, members of the Rosamond Community Services District decided they needed to come up with a long-term plan for the development of parks in the area.

In August, the RCSD hired a consulting firm. Then they put together a committee of community members to work on the project.

Now they are asking residents to help out. A meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the district office building. Members of the community are asked to contribute ideas and a list of things they want to see over the next decade.

“We are hoping to get more people out to the meeting ... so we can get a sense of what the public wants or needs,” said Sherry DeLano, RCSD general manager.

She posed some hypothetical questions: What kind of parks do they want? Baseball fields? What equipment do they want in the parks?

“Perhaps (it will be) a wish list of things we can’t have today, but that we are working toward getting,” DeLano said.

This plan is important because Rosamond has some catching up to do, said Roy Imai, a senior project manager for Foothill Associates, the consulting firm that the RCSD hired a couple months ago.

“Unfortunately, the community has not had the parks and recreation amenities that a community of their size should’ve had,” Imai said.

After mapping out the community’s resources, Imai said Rosamond’s population could be 40,000 by 2015. The community needs a master plan, Imai said, to work with developers to

accommodate that population boom.

For example, to prepare for development, land needs to be acquired and set aside for parks and recreation facilities. After the plan is adopted, developers will have to adhere to building standards outlined in the plan. They may also have to pay an “impact fee” to help offset the cost of park construction in the area.

The master plan could help Rosamond get park funding from another source as well. Once it has been adopted by the RCSD, the organization will present the plan to Kern County along with a budget request.

“With the hopes that when they see the planning, they (the county) will be willing to help build,” DeLano said.

But a lot has to happen before the report reaches that stage. The Nov. 1 meeting will be the second public forum and perhaps the last one open to the public. After that, surveys will be sent out to residents in the 93560 zip code to gather as much public input as possible. Imai expects the whole plan will be done in May 2006.

Until then, Foothill Associates will continue to work on the project with the committee, which is composed of 13 people from the Rosamond community.

“We tried to get a good cross section of the community represented in the group,” DeLano said. Included on the committee are an insurance representative, a building specialist, an ex-board member, the honorary mayor and a woman who has worked with a citizens’ patrol for years, she said.

Imai, who has met with this group for months, said the mix is a good way to harvest public input.

“It’s been delightful working with the committee,” Imai said. “The people living there have a unique stake in the community. They really want to make it as lovely as they can.”

The district is at 3179 35th Street West. For details, call (661) 256-3411.