


# Livermore Area Recreation and Park District

## Staff Report

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TO: Chair Pierpont and Facilities Committee

FROM: Mat Fuzie, General Manager 

PREPARED BY: Bruce Aizawa, Parks and Facilities Manager

DATE: April 18, 2019

SUBJECT: Proposed Lighting at Robertson Park Dog Park

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**BACKGROUND:** At the March 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Director's meeting, representatives from a dog park user group requested that the District consider installing lighting at the Robertson Dog Park so it may be used after dark. A suggestion by one of the residents was to use solar lighting that would amount to about \$10,000 dollars for the lighting equipment. Lighting would allow parents to bring their dogs to the dog park while they have children participating in sports at the adjacent lighted sports field.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Staff does not recommend installing lighting at Robertson Dog Park for the following reasons:

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) would require a study of the effect of increased lighting on residents during the evening hours. Comments received informally from neighboring residents show an inconsistency in the desire for additional lighting.
- Other larger cities have studied the issue and have chosen not to take this action based on their analysis of unintended costs and consequences.
- Increased maintenance costs due to an increase in infrastructure and potential unintended uses of the area.
- Solar lights are far less effective than standard electric lighting and more will be needed to light the area. Liability would require a standard level of lighting consistent with walkways.
- "Cal Lighting", a local vendor that the District uses for lighting projects, quoted (based on light levels consistent with park walkways) at \$ 62,931 for material only not including labor, engineering and permit fees. Standard estimate is to double the materials cost which would probably bring the total to \$124,000. We believe this to be a conservative estimate.

**CONCLUSION:** Staff does not recommend the addition of lights at Robertson Park Dog Park for the reason that it is unclear that the benefits outweigh the expenses and potential negative impacts.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Increased maintenance costs, estimated \$124,000 for solar lighting for dog park area.