

# New publicly owned skateboard facility on tap for Aptos

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**SANTA CRUZ** — A proposal to build the first publicly owned skateboard park in Santa Cruz County outside the city of Santa Cruz is now winding its way to the Board of Supervisors. The County Parks Commission placed their seal of approval on an idea put forward by Aptos parks commissioner Jeanel Montero, who said the proposed park would occupy about an 8,000 square foot section of the Polo Grounds Park.

Montero said her son likes to skateboard, "but with the new law (prohibiting skateboarding in a number of public places) it's difficult for him to do it in an area where it is legal." The commission unanimously agreed to send the proposal to the Board of Supervisors even though Principal Planner Martin Jacobson said in a report to the commission that such a project might require a revised environmen-

tal impact report, because the issue is likely to draw a high level of interest.

Presently, anyone wishing to work out on a skateboard must use Derby Park in West Santa Cruz. A new skateboard park is planned for San Lorenzo Park next to the County Government Center.

Commission Chairman Tim Jenkins called the proposal, "a very positive thing. It's difficult for kids to ride their skateboards anywhere (in the mid-county area)."

Montero's proposal called initially for a modest skateboard area, but Jenkins said he urged the wording be left out of the motion saying, "the sky's the limit... Our real intention is to throw this idea out to the neighborhoods of Aptos for their input."

"We can study the size later," Montero agreed following the meeting. The Commission took the action after an estimated group of 30 to 40 people, most of them under 18, urged the Commission to support

Montero's idea, and send it to the Board of Supervisors.

Montero said when she first approached planners with the idea they said the skateboard area could be added to the Polo Grounds without making any major adjustments. However, as the time for consideration drew near, planners apparently changed their minds. Jacobson said the skateboard park would require a lot more work and study that probably will require new environmental documents.

Montero believes there is "widespread support for the skateboard facility." She has also won support from the county's top fundraiser — Marc Monte, head of the Monte Foundation, who said he would be glad to work on fundraisers to develop cash to help pay for the facility. Monte and a group of baseball enthusiasts raised \$50,000 for baseball fields at the park earlier this year. The fields will be ready for play in 1999.