
CITY OF SAN RAMON
PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMISSION



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

A team of staff from Parks and Community Services, Police Services, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Engineering Services and Public Services will provide information regarding the proposed Independence Day [4th of July] fireworks aerial display plan as well as provide an opportunity for questions and comments from the public on the proposed shoot site location.

Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road

Saturday, February 1, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.
Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road

The same information will be presented and discussed at both meetings and residents can provide input at one or both meetings. However the February 1st meeting will also include a recap of the questions and answers from the January 15th meeting.

Since 2011, the City has been reviewing the annual Independence Day (July 4th) event priorities and goals as part of assessing the past events and future event considerations.

- The Independence Day events and firework shows are rooted in the City's celebration of America's independence, as well as the incorporation of San Ramon as a City [July 1, 1983].
- The event was the first large community event that the Parks and Community Services Department developed and offered the residents of the new City starting on July 4, 1985 and as such is an identifiable source of civic pride and tradition for the City.
- The event provides tradition for San Ramon families and neighborhoods.
- As a significantly large event, the City's responsibility is primarily focused on the safety of the public [its residents], the staff and visitors to the City. As such, security [for the firework shoot site and for the public viewing the fireworks], traffic control, emergency access, crowd control, parking, protection of private and public infrastructure are key objectives prior to, during and after the event.

The staff analysis of the event which includes all of the background material gathered in 2011 and updated through December 2013 is available on the City's website at www.sanramon.ca.gov/fireworks.

At the December 11, 2012 meeting, the City Council confirmed the recommendation of the Parks & Community Services Commission which directed staff to hold a 2013 event with no aerial fireworks display and directed staff to develop a long range event plan to celebrate the Independence Day [4th of July] beyond 2013. The adopted 2013/14 budget includes an action item for the Parks & Community Services Department to work with San Ramon Police Department and San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District to research options, including alternative locations, for an aerial display with no attached event for the 2014 and beyond July 4th celebration that will meet the goals developed by the 2012 July 4th Committee.

A team consisting of Police, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Engineering Services, Public Services, Parks and Community Services and a Pyrotechnical Expert was formed to research alternative locations within the City. This investigative team reviewed various sites throughout the City using the following criteria:

1. Safety
2. Security (for public access)
3. Traffic Control (including necessary road closures)
4. Emergency Access
5. Crowd control
6. Affected property ownership and regulatory restrictions
7. View-ability for residents from neighborhoods
8. Maximum fireworks height (shell size) and drop zone
9. Overall Fireworks show rating

For purposes of this review, there are three terms that sometimes are interchangeable, but are separate and distinct concepts. They are:

1. Event location: Previously an event, including an aerial fireworks display and viewing of the display was held in San Ramon Central Park. *It is not proposed that Old Ranch Park site be an event location.*
2. Viewing location(s): Sites throughout the City where the aerial fireworks display can be viewed. Previously, San Ramon Central Park was a viewing location due to its size and its proximity to the shoot site as well as available parking. As identified from San Ramon residents, other viewing locations were Memorial Park, Valley View Park, Canyon Lakes area, Iron Horse Trail, various parks and neighborhoods along Alcosta Blvd, Davona Drive, Broadmoor, Bollinger Canyon Road. Many residents expressed that they did not attend the event in Central Park but viewed the fireworks from their homes or neighborhoods. *It is not proposed that Old Ranch Park or adjacent neighborhoods in Old Ranch Estates, Summit View Estates, or Bent Creek be viewing locations for the general public.*
3. Shoot Site Location: A location that is highly secured and only contains the fireworks personnel and other safety personnel including police and fire, and where the fireworks are shot from. *It is proposed that Old Ranch Park be a shoot site location only.*

After thorough review of the criteria above, the investigative team narrowed the list of possible sites to use as a shoot site location only at **Old Ranch Park/Summit View Trails**. The investigative team concluded that **Old Ranch Park/Summit View Trails** provides the best opportunity for excellent views from both sides of the City which meets the goals of the 4th of July Committee. It is a location where Old Ranch Road can be secured from the east and west during the fireworks aerial display with limited impact on traffic flow. The property within the radius of the shoot site is owned by the City. The team considers this site to provide the most ideal opportunity for dispersed viewing areas throughout the City rather than a concentrated viewing area such as Central Park.

We recognize that there will be questions and concerns about this proposal and we want to provide as much information as we can to address comments, questions and concerns. If you cannot attend the meetings, we will post the information, FAQ's and updates to the process on the city website at www.sanramon.ca.gov/fireworks.

You can also email us at Fireworks@sanramon.ca.gov with your questions or comments. Your email address will then be included in the email list to receive ongoing information about this proposal and the process.

I hereby certify the attached public meeting notice was posted five days prior to the noted meeting:



Renee Beck, Interim City Clerk

Dated: January 3, 2014