Debbie Sipos
[redacted]
May 21, 2026

Board of Directors
Conejo Recreation and Park District
403 W. Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Plan for the Conejo Creek West Equestrian Park

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposal to replace the Conejo Valley West Equestrian Park with pickleball courts and remote-control racetracks.

The equestrian park is a valuable and increasingly rare community asset that serves riders, trainers, families, youth programs, and residents who appreciate open space and the unique equestrian heritage of the Conejo Valley. Once this type of facility is removed, it is unlikely it will ever be restored. Preserving equestrian infrastructure should be a priority, especially in a region historically known for its horse community and trail systems.

While pickleball and remote-control racing may appeal to certain groups, those activities can be accommodated in other locations far more easily than an equestrian facility can. Horse facilities require specialized land, footing, fencing, and access to trails, making relocation extremely difficult and expensive. In contrast, courts and racetracks can often be integrated into existing recreational spaces or underutilized park areas without eliminating a long-standing community resource.

The proposed change would also significantly alter the character of the area. Equestrian parks provide open space, natural scenery, and a quieter recreational environment that contributes positively to neighborhood character and quality of life. Replacing it with higher-noise, higher-traffic recreational uses risks creating conflicts with nearby residents and undermining the rural and equestrian identity that many community members value.

In addition, the equestrian park supports intergenerational recreation and educational opportunities. Young riders learn responsibility, discipline, and animal care through equestrian activities. These programs contribute meaningfully to youth development and community engagement in ways that should not be dismissed.

I respectfully urge the Conejo Recreation and Park District to reconsider this proposal and instead explore alternatives that preserve the equestrian park while identifying other suitable locations for additional pickleball courts and remote-control racing facilities. Community

recreation should expand in a balanced manner that does not come at the expense of existing recreational groups and long-standing traditions.

Please protect this important community resource and preserve the Conejo Valley West Equestrian Park as it is for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Debbie Sipos, MT-BC, NMT-F, NICU MT