Conejo Recreation & Park District

GENERAL MANAGER
Jim Friedl

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DATE: November 5, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jim Friedl, General Manager

SUBJECT: **Old Boney Mountain Foundation for Kids Oakheart Country Music Festival - 2027 Annual Agreement and Permit Conditions, Conejo Creek Park**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Determine that the Old Boney Mountain Foundation for Kids Oakheart Country Music Festival (OAKHEART) for 2027 is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

2. Authorize the General Manager to execute the OAKHEART Agreement for 2027.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

For the Board consideration and approval, District staff believes the event qualifies for a Class 23 Categorical Exemption, pursuant to Section 15323 of the CEQA Guidelines. Class 23 exemptions include normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed, where there is a past history of the facility being used for the same or similar kind of purpose. In this instance, the facilities at the Conejo Creek Complex, specifically the event at Conejo Creek South and parking at Conejo Creek West and Conejo Creek Northwest (and potentially off-site at Thousand Oaks High School), were designed to hold large-scale community-wide events and parking for such events. A shuttle bus system traveling along Janss Road, Moorpark Road, and Avenida de las Flores will connect the main venue at Conejo Creek South with Thousand Oaks High School and Conejo Creek West and Northwest.

The facilities have been used in various combinations, including all of them together, to support similar size events (historical data gathered from Placer.ai (visitation software), newspaper reports, self-reporting, and staff estimates - see the following Historical Large Event Visitation Table which includes Conejo Valley Days, Chili Cook-off, Persian New Year, Arbor Earth Day, Bark in the Park, and Wild Oaks / OAKHEART Country Music Festival. OAKHEART as proposed with 10,000 maximum tickets per day, fits within the scope and scale of these traditional and annual large-scale community events.

HISTORICAL LARGE EVENT VISITATION

Event	2025*	2024*	2023*	2022*	Pre 2020
Conejo Valley Days (10 days)	29.4K	35.2K	41.1K	60.5K	10-72.6K
Chili Cook-Off	10K	12K	10K	12.2K	5-7K
Persian New Year	3K	n/a	6.8K	4.8K	8-10K
Arbor Earth Day	2.8K	2.9K	n/a	n/a	5K
Bark in the Park	2.8K	3.9K	4.2K	4.1K	3K
Wild Oaks / Oakheart Country Music Festival	d/o	d/o	9.6K	d/o	8-12K

**Data provided by Placer.ai*
n/a denotes no data available for that year
d/o denotes the event did not occur that year

Thus, based on the foregoing, staff finds and recommends the board determine that OAKHEART is a usual community event and that there are no "unusual circumstances" presented by the event as proposed (10,000 maximum ticket sales per day with related off-site parking) that would affect the determination that OAKHEART qualifies for a categorical exemption.

DISCUSSION

The initial OAKHEART (formerly known as Wild Oaks / Oakheart) event took place in the summer of 2012 and generated little to no complaints from neighbors.

However, noise concerns resulting from the 2013 OAKHEART event were raised by residents, and corrections and adjustments have been made to provide a better experience for both the patrons and the surrounding neighborhood, resulting in successful events each year from 2014 to 2019. Unfortunately, due to COVID and other issues, OAKHEART did not take place in 2020, 2021, and 2022; however, a 2023 music event was held at the park site.

To balance the impact of significant financial investments in youth sports improvements to the site with the overall community benefit of OAKHEART, and to balance resident input and OAKHEART requests, staff has communicated with OAKHEART representatives to discuss the Annual Agreement and Permit Conditions for 2027 OAKHEART (attached). The goal of the discussions was to provide a venue at a reasonable fee while minimizing damage to the sports fields and downtime at the site.

The attached 2027 OAKHEART Agreement and Permit Conditions are substantially similar to the past years' agreements. Highlights from the 2027 OAKHEART Agreement and Permit Conditions include:

- Event to be conducted Saturday, June 5th, from 1:00pm to 11:00pm (music off at 10:00pm) and Sunday, June 6th, from 1:00pm to 11:00pm (music off at 10:00pm).
    - set-up days on Thursday, June 3rd and Friday, June 4th
    - clean-up days of Monday, June 7th and Tuesday, June 8th

- Maximum ticket sales are limited to 10,000 per day.

- Payment to the District is a total of $17,100 as follows:
  - $2,750 per day at Conejo Creek South (6 days)
  - $300 per day at Conejo Creek West (2 days)

- The noise levels are set at 75 dBA and 90 dBC at the property line. Noise is to be monitored on the day of the event, and results will be provided to the District.

- Each act/performer may experience one (1) violation without penalty. A second violation of any act/performer shall result in a $500 penalty to OAKHEART. A third violation or any subsequent violation of any act/performer shall result in a $1,000 penalty to OAKHEART.

Staff recommends executing this Agreement because the community benefits from this well-run, organized event; past events have raised funds for various local charities.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPLIANCE

Meets 2026 Strategic Plan Goal 4.6: Build, maintain, and support relationships with local organizations engaged in activities consistent with the District's mission. Look for collaborative opportunities to expand services and fill unmet needs.

Respectfully submitted by,

Andrew J. Mooney, Director
Parks & Planning