



NEWS FROM

PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

CONTACT: Jeanne Zastera

(510) 238-7252

Oakland Levels the Playing Field *and scores a \$1 Million Grant for Girls' Softball from Proposition 40!*

Oakland, Calif. - The City of Oakland wins a \$1 million grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation for the "Leveling the Playing Field" project to renovate seven Oakland sports fields for girls' softball (one in each Council district). Because girls in Oakland have traditionally had fewer opportunities to be involved in team sports, the City will literally and figuratively level the playing fields when it repairs and re-sods sports fields for female athletes so they can play softball in greater numbers.

The grant is funded from the Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Program, by Proposition 40, California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002. The fields to be renovated are:

Golden Gate	1075 62 nd Street
Franklin Field	1010 E. 15 th Street
Poplar Field	3131 Union Street
Brookdale Field	2535 High Street
Central Reservoir	2506 East 29 th Street
Arroyo Viejo	7921 Olive Street
King Estate Field	8251 Fontaine Street

"This unique concept to submit a gender-centered project proposal for State funding consideration could not have happened without the input of community organizations and City staff," said Raul Godinez II, Director, Oakland Public Works Agency. "This was a very competitive grant and the City received \$1 million out of only \$23 million available State-wide. We appreciate the State's selection of this project and the City Council's support of our application. Once completed the project will provide equal sports opportunities for girls in the Oakland community," said Godinez.

#