

**From:** People 4 Upland Parks People 4 Upland Parks  
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**Sent:** Wednesday, June 9, 2021 6:00 PM  
**To:** Michael Poland <[mpoland@ci.upland.ca.us](mailto:mpoland@ci.upland.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** Please Vote "NO" on the IS/MND for Memorial Park Plan

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Dear Mr. Poland:

Please accept People for Upland Parks' comments below on the initial study/mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND) for the new 2021 Memorial Park master plan. We ask that you vote "NO" on this IS/MND for a variety of reasons, one of which is the lack of a detailed biological analysis and appropriate mitigation.

We are an organization that embraces open green space, multipurpose open spaces, environmental sustainability, wildlife habitat, and public accountability and transparency of our public parkland in Upland. Therefore, we are very appreciative of some of the additions being proposed in the new park plan such as the walking trail, new open park spaces, oak tree plantings, a native garden, bioswales, as well as upgrades to existing structures like the bathrooms and Atwood Kitchen. In fact, our organization supported some of these ideas for the current park plan before any final plans were drawn up. We even supported an open (un-fenced) multi-sports field at the old Rotary field location that would contain natural drought-tolerant turf, instead of artificial turf, for the entire community to enjoy.

In this letter we would like to explain how the biological analysis does not truly describe the natural resources that we would lose from the proposed project (please see the attached 6/9/2021 bird survey memo provided by Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc.). The IS/MND claims that biological resources section 4.4d will be "less than significant with mitigation" but does not consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for verification that their only mitigation measure (BIO-1) will suffice in mitigating for "impeding the use of native wildlife nursery sites." Placing the project plans over the aerial photo of the project site clearly shows that many mature trees, including many invaluable mature oaks and sycamores that provide consistent nesting sites for native birds, will be permanently removed. Pre-construction nesting bird surveys (BIO-1) will not mitigate for the permanent loss of nesting sites, and thus must be addressed. As Dan Cooper recommends, please ensure the preservation of mature sycamores and oaks in the park.

Thank you for your time and considerations.

Sincerely,

Natasha Walton

Cofounder, People for Upland Parks

[www.People4UplandParks.org](http://www.People4UplandParks.org)