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January 15, 2021

MERCED COUNTY TARGETS WESTSIDE PARK GRANT, NEEDS COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

MERCED—Merced County is applying for a State grant to improve O'Banion Park in Dos Palos. A workshop will be held at the park on Saturday, January 30 at 10 a.m. to ask for residents' opinions on the type of safety and beautification features that would be best for the park.

The grant can provide as much as \$8.5 million for park renovations.

"This is the last in a series of eight public meetings we have held about this grant for O'Banion Park", said Supervisor Scott Silveira, whose District 5 includes Dos Palos. "The grant reviewers look for community participation in choosing how their park would be improved, so we need residents to let us know what they think."

If grant funds are awarded for O'Banion Park, priorities include new picnic shelters and tables, upgrades for the soccer fields and baseball fields, and building a new outdoor stage and a new splash pad. There is also potential to renovate Del Hale Hall with an addition for the Dos Palos Library.

The grant can also pay for art or landscaping in the park, such as a tile mural or an expanded rose garden; and for safety items such as additional lighting and security cameras.

The grant is due in March, and award announcements are expected by September 2021.

The January 30 workshop will be held outside, in front of Del Hale Hall. Attendees are asked to wear a mask and social distancing measures will be in place. For more information, call Merced County Grant Writer Patti Dossetti at 385-7637 ext. 4467.

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