



Emily Wood <parksdirector@bluelake.ca.gov>

New version of proposal

Julie Vinum <vinumjulie@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 8:11 AM

To: Blue Lake Parks and Rec <parksdirector@bluelake.ca.gov>

Emily I added one more part to this letter if you could please read this version I would be grateful. Thanks again!

> Dear Members of the Blue Lake City Council,

>

> I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recently increased and proposed fees for use of the public horse arena.

>

> I have been a member of the Blue Lake Saddle Club for the past 12 years and have served as the leader of our mounted archery group for the last four years. The proposed fee increases would make it financially unfeasible for me to continue hosting regular practices at the arena.

>

> These practices are entirely volunteer-led. I personally donate both time and resources, including providing insurance coverage, bows, arrows, and targets. I also offer instruction to participants on how to safely and properly shoot from horseback. Our group's primary goal is to prepare and perform at the Medieval Fair, which serves as a fundraiser for Coastal Grove Charter School PTO as well as other schools and non-profits including Blue Lake School, Blue Lake Horse Archers, and Blue Lake Parks and Recreation.

>

> When compared to nearby facilities, such as the McKinleyville Rodeo Arena and the Orick Rodeo Grounds, the proposed fees appear disproportionate—especially given the current lack of amenities at the Blue Lake arena. At present, the arena does not provide basic infrastructure such as restrooms, lighting, or electricity. In contrast, the Orick Rodeo Grounds offer overnight pens, restrooms with showers, free camping, a full rodeo facility, an announcer's booth, bleachers, and accessible water throughout the grounds. Similarly, the McKinleyville facility includes restrooms, a full-sized arena, a large grass area for free parking and camping, a snack shack, and an announcer's booth.

>

> Given these comparisons, the proposed fees for the Blue Lake arena are difficult to justify. At the current rates, it is unlikely that the facility will be used for community events such as ours.

>

> Additionally, I would like to highlight the significant contributions made by the Saddle Club over the years. Members have invested thousands of dollars and countless hours of labor to maintain and improve the arena, ensuring it remains open, accessible, and enjoyable for the public.

>

> I respectfully ask that the Council reconsider the proposed fee increases in light of these factors. Continued community use of the arena depends on maintaining reasonable and accessible pricing.

>

> Thank you for your time and consideration.

>

> Sincerely,

> Julie Vinum

Sent from my iPhone