



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR MAHAN

FROM: Councilmember Domingo Candelas

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: 5/22/25

Approved

Date: 5/22/25

RECOMMENDATION

Modify the City Manager's 2025-2026 Proposed Budget to incorporate the following budget proposal, including any required funding allocation adjustments.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Equity in Sports and Recreation Fees for Youth

Amount of City Funding Required: \$10,000

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): N/A

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

Investing in fee waivers for youth access to public sports and recreation facilities and programming is a vital step toward expanding opportunities for underserved populations and promoting equity in sports and other forms of recreation. Access to sports and recreation, offers unique benefits including physical activity, personal discipline, and the development of lifelong skills such as teamwork, patience, focus, and strategic thinking. However, the cost of access remains a significant barrier for many families. By allocating \$10,000 toward fee waivers, we aim to remove this barrier and open the doors of participation to youth who may otherwise be excluded due to financial constraints. This proposed pilot program aims to alleviate financial barriers by waiving rental fees for general sports and recreation facilities and programming fees related to various sports and recreation. This funding may also support schools and organizations that seek to start sports and recreation programs for the youth.

This initiative will allow more young people to experience sports and recreation, increasing exposure to activities that not only supports physical well-being but also offers mentorship, community connection, and pathways to scholarship and career opportunities. It aligns with the city’s commitment to promoting health, wellness, and social connection through accessible recreational opportunities. Increased youth engagement in all sports and recreational activities can diversify the base and nurture the next generation of professionals, players, coaches, and leaders. Exposure at an early age is critical as youth who gain access now are more likely to stay engaged in the sport or recreational activity long-term and potentially return as mentors and advocates in their communities.

In summary, the requested \$10,000 for youth fee waivers for sports and recreation facilities and programming is more than a financial line item—it is a strategic investment in the future of our youth and our community. By ensuring that financial limitations do not hinder participation, we can create a more diverse, vibrant, and equitable environment for all.

In FY 24-25, we submitted a similar budget document that helped fund several organizations that hosted sports and recreational programs in District 8. This critical funding allowed them to invest their own dollars in other areas that bolstered those programs and improved the overall experience for their youth and families.

This funding would include but is not limited to fee waivers and support for sports and recreation facilities and programming such as golf, soccer, baseball, football, dancing, softball, tennis, lacrosse, track & field, and other after-school programming. This funding would support sports and recreational programs at schools that include but are not limited to: Overfelt High School, Silver Creek High School, and Evergreen Valley High School.

We would partner with the Bay Area Women’s Sports Initiative (BAWSI) to receive, handle, and disburse these funds. Their mission to foster and promote early youth access to sports is perfectly aligned with our goals and outcomes.

Funding Source

X Essential Services Reserve: \$10,000

Other (Please specify program/project/fund):

Department or Organization Contact

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

Name and Title: Kathy Arena, Chief Operating Officer

Department or Organization: Bay Area Women’s Sports Initiative (BAWSI)

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Email: bawsi@bawsi.org