

OCSD/OPARC Press Release

Miners Hardware donation to Oceano Community Track and Soccer Fields Project

The Oceano CSD's Parks and Recreation Committee (OPARC) was recently notified that Miners Hardware granted \$5,000 to support the building of a walking/jogging track and soccer fields at Oceano Elementary School (OES).

In the award announcement, Miners' spokesperson Tahirih Ellison said, "We have a history of strong interest in supporting our communities, emphasizing our youth. This project aligns with our vision of support and for this reason, I am pleased to share that Miner's would like to donate \$5,000.00 to the Oceano School Community Track and Soccer Fields Project Fundraiser."

The project was first conceived in 2021 by the "Safe Routes to Schools Committee" of the Oceano PTA. Inland Oceano has no external public recreation facilities other than the Oceano School playground. The track and soccer fields will be a legacy project for the community, providing recreational opportunities for decades to come.

In 2024 OCSD/OPARC, Lucia Mar Unified School District (LMUSD) and Habitat for Humanity agreed to work together to build a track at Oceano school. LMUSD is the lead agency and provider of land for the track and field; OPARC is helping to lead the fundraising for construction; and Habitat for Humanity is helping to provide labor and materials. The track will be open to the public anytime school is not in session and students will use it for physical education during school.

OPARC wrote a grant to the County's Preventative Health Fund and LMUSD was awarded \$25,000 for design, engineering, and permitting of the project. Later in 2024, an Oceano resident donated \$25,000 towards the project. All of these funds are in a dedicated account at LMUSD and the design and engineering work has been completed. Groundbreaking for the project is expected in June of 2025. When built, the track will be part of the school, available to the community, and maintained by LMUSD.

The fundraising goal for the track and fields is \$100,000 and currently \$57,000 has been raised. The generous donation from Miner's Hardware is the first from a local business. Local construction companies have offered to review the track plans and see where they can support our efforts. Working together, we can make this hope a reality for our community.

Donations are tax deductible and more information on the project along with donation forms are available at: oceanocsd.org/oceano-community-track-and-field-project