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**Maintenance &
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Staff Report

ITEM 2-4

To: Lemoore City Council

From: Joe Simonson, Parks and Recreation Director

Date: April 30, 2015 **Meeting Date:** May 5, 2015

Subject: Discontinuance of 4th of July Celebration

Discussion:

The City of Lemoore Parks and Recreation department has participated in the 4th of July celebration in one form or another beginning in 1989. For the first few years it was at Hickey Park and was referred to as the City of Lemoore/ Navy picnic. The event moved to City Park in 1992 and was then known as the Lemoore/Navy 4th of July celebration. At that time there was a community panel with much interest and participation from the Chamber of Commerce, Fil-Am, Navy, local church choir, many other entities and vendors were plentiful.

There have been numerous changes in recent years beginning in 2009: the Chamber stopped the 4th of July parade, the Palace began fireworks and the Navy has their own free activities which includes fireworks. Also, the Pizza Festival has moved their three day event to City Park with a very similar layout to the 4th of July celebration. Additionally, the community choir was not involved with last year's event.

The one event that continues to fill a need in the community is the Firecracker 5K Run and the 3K Walk. This event begins at 7:00 am and draws approximately 140-150 participants.

This item has been on the agenda and discussed at the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings and it is the Commission's opinion that there is no longer the need in the community to continue the 4th of July celebration. The Commission feels the costs associated for recreation staff, maintenance staff and activity expenses are too high and do not warrant such a celebration with so little a turnout.

Budget Impact:

None

Recommendation:

That the City Council, by motion, approve the continuance of the Firecracker 5K Run / 3K Walk and discontinue the 4th of July celebration / event activities.