

August 9, 2006

Peter Tucker
Hermosa Beach City Council
1315 Valley Drive
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Dear Mr. Tucker,

I am writing to you today on behalf of all of the participants of the Hermosa Little League. It has become increasingly difficult due to our growing league for us to operate with limited field time during our 5 month season. We are at a critical mass and quite possibly next year we will have to begin turning kids away due to time allocations on the field. In plain English, we are approaching more teams than there is field time and we have no other alternate fields available for use. We need your help.

Here are our current statistics that include baseball and softball:

T-ball - 10 teams, 120 kids
Farm - 9 teams, 108 kids
Minor - 7 teams, 76 kids
Major - 4 teams, 46 kids
Junior - 1 team, 17 kids
Softball American - 1 team, 12 kids
Softball Pacific - 1 team, 10 kids
Softball National - 2 teams, 24 kids

Total number of teams: 35
Total number of players in league: 413
Total number of players from Hermosa Beach: 400

Attached is a spreadsheet that has all of the allocated field time during our regular season. As you can see, there is no place for us to grow without more field time.

National Little League guidelines prohibit kids from outside the city boundaries to play in other leagues. Therefore, Hermosa Beach kids only have one choice, Hermosa Little League. The only exception is if you have participated in the league prior to leaving the city and the new league will give you an exemption. During soccer season, we have limited access to field use due to the number of soccer teams that need field time. Clark Stadium is the ONLY baseball field in Hermosa Beach for our league to use. The number of kids who use the field for baseball during the course of a weekend is far greater than any league around here and it continues to grow due to the number of games we need to fit into a schedule to accommodate all divisions. Over the past couple of years, we have had to utilize the backstop in the Southeast corner, without any type of bleacher seating, for our T-Ball division.

Hermosa Little League has been around for 50 years. Many of your children have participated in it and some of you are former Board Members of the league. As a league, the 5 months we use the field, we contribute many hours of field and park improvements. As many of you know, we are considering using League funds to build a new concession stand. We continue to use League funds for field improvements and infield repairs that greatly reduce the risk of injury because of over use.

The Hermosa Little League Board of Directors would like to continue to provide all of the volunteer time, league money and continue to be able to offer the boys and girls of Hermosa Beach a rewarding experience. The answer is NOT putting more kids on a team. How fun would that be for the kids? How many kids would sign up to play half a game? Would you sign your son or daughter up for that? If you think that is the answer, then suggest that to AYSO. Maybe then they would not need as many fields as they use now.

In order for us to do this, we need your help by allowing Hermosa Little League full-time use of the park, Sunday thru Saturday from February thru July, during our regular season. Adult softball would have to be eliminated during our season. In addition, we also need part-time use during our off-season, September thru November to allow us to run a successful Fall Ball program as well. From September thru November, we would anticipate needing Clark Field a couple of nights during the week and Sunday afternoons for games.

This would allow us the field time necessary to run a quality program for the young baseball players of Hermosa Beach. Without this privilege, we will soon hit our critical mass during our regular season and begin turning away the children of Hermosa Beach from participating. Without the use of the field during the Fall, the children of Hermosa Beach are without a baseball option since soccer monopolizes our only field.

We would appreciate your help in resolving this matter and allowing the League to grow as necessary. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We will be more than happy to come and discuss this with you.

Sincerely,

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Hermosa Little Board of Directors

