



SPECIAL MEETING

CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

A G E N D A

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.

AMEDEE O. "DICK" RICHARDS JR. COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET, SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030

South Pasadena Commission Statement of Civility

As your appointed governing board, we will treat each other, members of the public, and city employees with patience, civility and courtesy as a model of the same behavior we wish to reflect in South Pasadena for the conduct of all city business and community participation. The decisions made today will be for the benefit of the South Pasadena community and not for personal gain.

NOTICE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The South Pasadena Community Services Commission Meeting will be conducted in-person from the Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr. Council Chambers, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena.

Public participation may be made as follows:

- In Person – Council Chambers, 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030
- Via Zoom – **Webinar ID: 824 1689 5308**
Passcode: 547050
- Written Public Comment – written comment must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting by emailing to lhakobian@southpasadenaca.gov.
- Via Phone – +1-669-900-6833 and entering the Zoom Meeting ID listed above.

Meeting may be viewed at:

1. Go to the Zoom website, <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the Zoom Meeting information; or
2. Click on the following unique Zoom meeting link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82416895308?pwd=0VfsfiZWN1WUhYY3PSJMpwbVaXZDGB.1>

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Bryan Samuels

ROLL CALL:

Chair	Bryan Samuels
Vice Chair	Stephen L. Plotkin
Commissioner	Leslie Albe Field
Commissioner	Anne Bagasao
Commissioner	Anthony W. Lai
Commissioner	Lauren Weinberger

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Leslie Albe Field

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES (*Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes*)

The City welcomes public input. Members of the public can comment on a non-agenda subject under the jurisdiction of the Community Services Commission or on an agenda item, you may participate **by one of the following options**:

Option 1:

Participate in-person at the Council Chambers.

Option 2:

Public Comment speakers have three minutes to address the Commission, however, the Chair and Commission can adjust time allotted as needed. Participants will be able to "raise their hand" using the Zoom icon during the meeting, and they will have their microphone un-muted during comment portions of the agenda to speak.

Option 3:

Email public comment(s) to lhakobian@southpasadenaca.gov

Public Comments received in writing will not be read aloud at the meeting but will be part of the meeting record. Written public comments will be uploaded online for public viewing under Additional Documents. There is no word limit on emailed Public Comment(s). Please make sure to indicate:

- 1) Name (optional), and
- 2) Agenda item you are submitting public comment on.
- 3) Submit by no later than **12:00 p.m.**, on the day of the Commission meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: The Chair may exercise the Chair's discretion, subject to the approval of the majority of the Commission to adjust public comment(s) to less than three minutes.

NOTE: Pursuant to State law, the Commission may not discuss or take action on issues not on the meeting agenda, except that members of the Commission or staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising public testimony rights (Government Code Section 54954.2). Staff may be asked to follow up on such items.

PUBLIC COMMENT**1. PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

General Public Comment will be limited to 30 minutes at the beginning of the agenda. If there are speakers remaining in the queue, they will be heard at the end of the meeting.

Only Speakers who sign up in the first 30 minutes of public comment will be queued up to speak.

ACTION/DISCUSSION**2. CONSIDERATION TO PROVIDE A RECOMMENDATION ON PREFERRED SHOW FORMAT FOR THE 2026 FOURTH OF JULY EVENING SHOW****Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Commission provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding the preferred show format for the 4th of July evening show:

1. Traditional Fireworks Show;
2. Drone Light Show; or
3. Hybrid Fireworks and Drone Light Show.

COMMUNICATIONS

3. **CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**
4. **COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS**
5. **STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**

PUBLIC COMMENT – CONTINUED

6. **CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL**

This time is reserved for speakers in the public comment queue not heard during the first 30 minutes of Item 1. No new speakers will be accepted at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FUTURE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 9, 2026	REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING	6:30 P.M.
APRIL 13, 2026	REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING	6:30 P.M.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGENDA DOCUMENTS AND BROADCASTING OF MEETINGS

Commission meeting agenda packets, any agenda related documents, and additional documents are available online for public inspection on the City's website:

<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/government/boards-commissions>

AGENDA NOTIFICATION SUBSCRIPTION

If you wish to receive an agenda email notification, please contact the City Clerk's Division via email at CityClerk@southpasadenaca.gov or call (626) 403-7230.

ACCOMMODATIONS

 The City of South Pasadena wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. If special assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Division at (626) 403-7230 or CityClerk@southpasadenaca.gov. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

I declare under penalty of perjury that I posted this notice of agenda for the meeting to be held on January 20, 2026, on the bulletin board in the courtyard of City Hall at 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030, and on the City's, website as required by law, on the date listed

below.

01/18/2026	/S/
Date	Melissa Snyder, Community Services Deputy Director



Community Services Commission Agenda Report

ITEM NO. 2

DATE: January 20, 2026

FROM: Lucy Hakobian, Community Services Director

PREPARED BY: Melissa Snyder, Community Services Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION TO PROVIDE A RECOMMENDATION ON PREFERRED SHOW FORMAT FOR THE 2026 FOURTH OF JULY EVENING SHOW**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding the preferred show format for the 2026 Fourth of July evening show:

1. Traditional Fireworks Show;
2. Drone Light Show; or
3. Hybrid Fireworks and Drone Light Show.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fourth of July Celebration is one of the City's most visible annual events. In March 2025, City Council directed staff to evaluate alternative evening show formats for the 2026 celebration in response to considerations related to noise, environmental impacts, wildfire risk, and community expectations. This report summarizes the evaluation of three (3) show formats: 1) traditional fireworks show, 2) drone light show, and 3) hybrid option. The evaluations presented herein are intended to inform and support the Commission's review and recommendation to City Council.

BACKGROUND

The City of South Pasadena annually hosts a Fourth of July Celebration to commemorate Independence Day and provide a safe, family-oriented community event.

In March 2025, the City Council directed staff to evaluate options for future Independence Day evening shows, including a traditional fireworks show, a drone light show, or a hybrid format, and to present those options to the Community Services Commission, Natural Resources and Environmental Commission, and Public Safety Commission for review and recommendation prior to consideration by the City Council.

In response, staff conducted a comprehensive review that included community feedback from the 2025 event, a vendor market analysis through a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) process, and an assessment of financial, operational, environmental, and regional

considerations. The results of these efforts are presented to the Commission for review and recommendation to the City Council.

ANALYSIS

The City's Fourth of July Celebration is designed to provide a safe and accessible community event. The evening show is a central program element and requires consideration of public safety, fiscal constraints, environmental impacts, operational feasibility, and community feedback.

To evaluate potential evening show formats for 2026, staff undertook the following steps:

- **Community Feedback:** Conducted a post-event survey following the 2025 Fourth of July Fireworks Show to assess overall satisfaction and gauge interest in alternative formats, including drone and hybrid shows. The City received 101 survey submittals.
- **Financial Review and Vendor Market Analysis:** Gathered historical event costs, current budget allocations, and projected costs for each show format. Staff also issued a RFP and reviewed four qualified vendor submissions for fireworks, drone light shows, and customizable options to provide actual costs for each format rather than estimates.
- **Environmental and Operational Review:** Assessed noise, air quality, wildfire risk, FAA requirements, technical complexity, and visibility considerations.
- **Regional City Review:** Examined how comparable jurisdictions have implemented drone shows and the context in which those events occur. Cities contacted include: Alhambra, Arcadia, Cerritos, Culver City, Duarte, Los Angeles County, Pasadena, Monrovia, Pico Rivera, San Gabriel, and San Marino.

Community Feedback

Community survey results (Attachment 1) demonstrate a high level of satisfaction with the 2025 Fourth of July Celebrations (average rating of 4.8 out of 5), which included comments expressing satisfaction with the fireworks show, live music, food vendors, and other aspects of the event. Survey respondents also expressed varying levels of interest in future event formats consisting of a drone light show (2.2 out of 5) or a hybrid show with fireworks and drones (2.8 out of 5). The community survey data are one factor to consider alongside fiscal, operational, environmental, and regional considerations.

Financial Review and Vendor Market Analysis

Traditional fireworks shows have historically involved established cost ranges and known operational requirements (Attachment 2). Drone light shows offer scalable design options, but may involve variable costs related to customization, staffing, and logistics. Hybrid formats combine elements of both approaches and may require additional coordination.

To support the financial estimates and feasibility for each format, staff release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for each format (Attachment 3). The table below provides a summary of the vendor responses with costs for each format:

Option	Vendor	Estimated Cost	Show Elements
Fireworks	Pryo Spectaculars, Inc.	\$40,000	20-minute show
Drones*	Open Sky Productions LLC	150 Drones = \$58,500 200 Drones = \$76,000 250 Drones = \$92,500 300 Drones = \$108,000 350 Drones = \$122,500 400 Drones = \$136,000	150 Drones = 20-24 animations 200 Drones = 20-24 animations 250 Drones = 20-23 animations 300 Drones = 20-21 animations 350 Drones = 20-21 animations 400 Drones = 19-20 animations Standard show runs for 13 minutes. <i>*Custom quotes are available for additional time or added pyrotechnics.</i>
Drones	Grizzly Entertainment LLC	150 Drones = \$20,000 350 Drones = \$40,000 500 Drones = \$55,000	Standard show runs for 10-12 minutes featuring 8-10 animations.
Drones	Skyworx Drone Show LLC	150 Drones = \$45,000 350 Drones = \$105,000 500 Drones = \$150,000	Standard show runs 12-13 minutes. Bid does not include hotel rooms for crew.

Environmental and Operational Review

Fireworks involve noise and air quality impacts and require wildfire risk mitigation measures implemented by licensed operators under established safety protocols. Drone light shows eliminate combustion-related impacts and reduce noise, but introduce other considerations, including equipment manufacturing, battery use and disposal, FAA coordination, and limitations on viewing area. Attachment No. 4 provides a summary of published peer reviewed studies that evaluate environmental impacts of traditional fireworks and, to a lesser extent, drone light shows (there are fewer studies as drone shows are a newer format).

Regional City Review

City staff contacted staff from surrounding cities to receive qualitative feedback regarding their respective experiences (Attachment 5). This review from surrounding cities indicates that drone light shows are frequently used in conjunction with longer-duration or destination-style events, while traditional fireworks remain a common format for municipal Independence Day celebrations of similar scale.

Next Steps

This analysis summarizes community feedback, fiscal and operational considerations, environmental factors, and regional practices. The 2026 celebration also represents a significant national milestone as it is the 250th anniversary of Independence Day. The information is intended to support the Commission's discussion and formulation of a recommendation to the City Council regarding the preferred evening show format

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for the Fourth of July Celebration is included in the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Community Services budget, with a total allocation of \$175,000.

Cost Estimates			
	<i>Fireworks Show</i>	<i>Drone Show</i>	<i>Hybrid Show</i>
Show	\$40,000	\$20,000-\$150,000	\$60,000-\$150,000
Sound, Stage & Lighting	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Band	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
SPUSD Permit	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
People Ready*	\$700	-	\$700
Estimate Total	\$54,700	\$34,000-\$164,000	\$74,700-\$164,700

**People Ready provided additional staffing that was used to clean up debris left from the firework show.*

COMMISSION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION

The item was reviewed by the Natural Resource and Environmental Commission on December 16, 2025, and the Public Safety Commission on December 23, 2025. After discussion, both Commissions provided the following recommendation of a drone light show for the 2026 Fourth of July evening show for City Council consideration.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The public was made aware that this item was to be considered this evening by virtue of its inclusion on the legally publicly noticed agenda, posting of the same agenda and reports on the City's website and/or notice in the *South Pasadena Review* and/or the *Pasadena Star-News*.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment No. 1 – Fourth of July Post Firework Show Survey Results
- Attachment No. 2 – Table of Historical Firework Show Event Costs
- Attachment No. 3 – Fourth of July Evening Show RFP Vendor Responses
- Attachment No. 4 – Environmental Analysis Supporting Data Sheet
- Attachment No. 5 – Summary of Feedback from Surrounding Cities
- Attachment No. 6 – Fourth of July Festival of Balloons Budget

ATTACHMENT 1

Item No. 2 – Fourth of July Post Firework Show Survey Results

Run By Melissa Snyder
Activities Fireworks Show
Sessions 2025 Fireworks Show Tickets

Survey Response Summary By Activity

Activity: Fireworks Show 2025 Fireworks Show Tickets

Question	Type	Response Summary
On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your overall experience at the 4th of July Firework Show? (1 = Very Poor, 5 = Excellent)	Rating	Average Rating: 4.8 Stars
What did you enjoy most about the show?	Comment	<p>Being able to sit up on the stands.</p> <p>5</p> <p>accessibility to local fireworks and community</p> <p>Being able to see the show on the field and the family feel.</p> <p>Community. Music beforehand. Show itself.</p> <p>Cool fireworks</p> <p>Ease of arriving, and getting seats to the show right before the show. The show itself was better than expected! We'll be back.</p> <p>Everything was great! The show was terrific and it's a fun community event.</p> <p>Everything.</p> <p>Fireworks</p> <p>Fireworks show was amazing</p> <p>Fireworks!</p> <p>Great band and long fireworks show</p> <p>Great fireworks and great length of show. High school stadium was an outstanding venue.</p> <p>Great fireworks, I like having the open space on the high school field.</p> <p>great show, but not too long. easy in, pretty easy out.</p> <p>Great view. Great music. Wholesome.</p> <p>Honestly, what I enjoyed was being with my family and having the ability to get to the field (sit on the field) and enjoy the fireworks with no hassle. It was such an easy in and also an easy out experience. We were able to have our own space on the field amongst other families. We missed the concert, but the music was great. I truly enjoyed myself, as our family just moved to the LA area and had much anxiety about finding a location to enjoy fireworks.</p> <p>How long the fireworks show was.</p> <p>How easy it is to find a spot to sit with a family of 4 and how clear the view is.</p> <p>I love the fireworks and the small town atmosphere.</p> <p>It is local</p> <p>It was just a great show.</p> <p>It was lowkey but at the same time very fun.</p> <p>It was my first time attending the show and I brought my family. I loved experiencing a small, local gathering with families spread across the lawn. The fireworks were also amazing. (The band was great, too.)</p> <p>It was such a vibrant fireworks show</p> <p>It was the best fireworks in recent years!</p> <p>It was very convenient to be able to sit on the field and have a great view</p> <p>Length of show was perfect.</p> <p>Length of the show, quality of fireworks</p> <p>light and sound</p> <p>Like how the overall show is short and sweet !</p> <p>Liked the family friendly vibe !</p> <p>Local community event</p> <p>Local to South Pas, safe, and not too crowded.</p> <p>Long</p> <p>Long fireworks show and good band.</p> <p>Long show and good band.</p> <p>Loved the community feel, music was really good, and of course the fire work show was great.</p> <p>Music and fireworks were awesome</p> <p>Open seating on the field</p>

Real fireworks in a pleasant, family friendly environment
Seeing friends
Small town feel
The breadth and length of the show was amazing! Timing was impeccable! Best show ever!
the classic small community feel
The community and the fireworks
The community coming together
The firework display and designs chosen
The firework show was phenomenal!! It had a small town feel but was super grand. We loved it and were already planning to return next year.
The fireworks
The fireworks !
The fireworks are great!
The fireworks show itself was just fine.
The fireworks themselves were wonderful, but the ease and organization of the event is truly what it made it so enjoyable.
The fireworks were amazing
The fireworks were so amazing! Great music and a great show
The fireworks!
The fireworks, the music, and the neighbors.
The grand finale was great!
The quality of the show and the very neighborhood small town feel of the presentation we Have been attending for over 20 years
The variety of fireworks
The visual AND audio aspects of the show combined. Also, the venue and atmosphere are great.
This year's show was well done, better than previous shows.
What i enjoyed most about the show was that it was kid friendly . There was lots of space with a small town vibe . Great organization !

What could be improved about the fireworks show? Comment

1. Music was a little hard to hear. 2. Exit from the show --huge bottleneck
5
a prior year didn't have music during the show—that felt odd. last year's preshow sound also felt off—unclear if volumes were too low for those in the back
A second concession stand closer to the stage would have been convinient
allow outside food and drinks on the field
Bathroom line too long. Not enough bbathrooms available
Better food
Better food?
Better music list during the show. The music needs to be more fun and modern.
Change to drone show
could use more help at the snack stand. needed more drinks - cold cans of diet coke, etc. No gouging though!!
Entrance and exit options- people funneling oin and out of one gate to check in and leave was slow, frustrating and annoying.
Food
Food - quality, and selection. I think it's time to bring in some outside vendors to bring the food on par with the fireworks/rest of the experience.
I can't think of anything!
I liked the playlist of more patriotic songs before and after the live band from previous years
I think it's a very high-quality presentation as it is
I've recently learned about how fireworks are hard on birds and other wild animals, so while I loved the fireworks show, and loved seeing how excited my daughter was to experience them, I'm concerned about fireworks in general now.
it was perfect !
Long food lines
Long lines for food/drinks.
Longer
Longer, lol
Make it cheaper to enter!
Maybe have food trucks there.
Maybe some games for kids to occupy time since many families come in early with very little to do. Band was a great idea.
More activities for pre-show participants
More food vendors so lines are shorter.
Music accompanying the fireworks should be louder.
No suggestions.
None
Not enough food vendors

Nothing
nothing that I can think of
Nothing!
Nothing, I thought it was great
Nothing.
Nothing. It was great!
Perhaps people at the parking lot waving in if there is space or noting if there is no space.
Please do actual ID checks and bag checks for safety. Because the people who take tickets at the actual doors in person don't verify ID so it makes it seem like the safety measures of the online registration system aren't being applied properly. Also wondering if the price could be lower to make it more accessible to the community. Thank you.
Please play some music over the speakers while the fireworks are going.
Possibly the music . Likes how they had some hip hop and pop type of beats in the show .
The traditional music just felt a bit too old at times
Pre-show entertainment.
Some more pre-show engagement for guests
Street parking for handicap
The actual show itself is perfect ! It's not quite on an Arose bowl level but it's close enough .
Duration was good too .
The entertainment
The food could have been a bit better . They ran out of certain items and it wasn't quite clear where to stand when paying
the music for the fireworks.
The music for the the shoot was muffled? Not sure why.
The music would be nice to change up a bit. Seems like the same songs each year.
The sound system- hard to hear the music for the firework show when you're on the lawn but far away
There wasn't much that I would improve. I was satisfied for what I invested financially.
Ticketing... there was a huge long line and was very clunky
Vendor lines too long
We really miss all the community events that used to happen at the fireworks. We miss the big bounce slide, the "awards" presented for entries in the parade, introducing the "Grand Marshall", lots of music and dancing, being able to come early and eat dinner on a big blanket, etc. It used to be a true community event that was packed. Now we just come a little early, play a game as a family then watch the fireworks.

On a scale of 1 to 5, how interested are you in a drone light show in the future? (1 = Not Interested, 5 = Very Interested)	Rating	Average Rating: 2.2 Stars
On a scale of 1 to 5, how interested are you in a hybrid show (fireworks + drones) in the future? (1 = Not Interested, 5 = Very Interested)	Rating	Average Rating: 2.8 Stars
On a scale of 1 to 5, how interested are you in a traditional firework show in the future? (1 = Not Interested, 5 = Very Interested)	Rating	Average Rating: 4.8 Stars
Do you have any other comments, suggestions, or ideas for future 4th of July events?	Comment	<p>A hybrid show sound great, the best of both worlds. Always a wonderful event. I look forward to it every year. Better food options, and possibly activities for kids in a small area on the field in the late afternoon. Bring back how it used to be. Stuff for kids to do. Make it something they are excited to attend. That will keep them coming back their whole lives. Carnival type games or activities for children Drone shows are cool and all, but I prefer a traditional fireworks show for the Fourth of July holiday. BUT, i understand that it comes with environmental & psychological impacts, unfortunately. Easy parking, easy accessibility! fix the sound in the music Good job everybody! I enjoy the show, especially the tradition, and would not pay for a drone show. I think the South Pasadena fireworks show is one of the best on the area. I want to keep my firework show tradition! I've grown up in south pas my whole life and now</p>

share the fun with my own kids! We want traditional fireworks and music! It's safe place to be on the 4th, don't take it away from us community members!

I would not go to the event if it was changed to Drones or was a hybrid.

Is this about the air quality after the fireworks show? It is bad. I'd try a drone show, but hard to be enthusiastic about something I don't really know about.

It was good being able to have food available.

Its a great event for July 4th and we prefer a traditional show

Its very expensive

Keep it traditional!

Keep the fireworks old school ????

Keep up the good work ! Maybe some small improvements on the flow of the the concessions and placement of signage . Other than that great job ????

Love how easy and accessible the show is. Simple sand easy

Maybe if they were open earlier with food trucks so he or that we could bring food in to have dinner

n/a, we'll be back next year!

No

No drone show, we want our classic traditional fireworks show!

Please continue the traditional fireworks show. A drone show cannot provide the same experience.

Please do not do drone show, we community members want traditional fireworks show.

Please do not ruin the 4th of July show with drones.

Please don't eliminate the traditional fireworks! I've seen a pure drone show and while interesting, it's not the same impact as the "shock and awe" of traditional fireworks. Thanks!

Please play some music over the speakers while the fireworks are going.

Thanks for putting it on!

The kings of 88 that played many previous years put on a more fun pre show

The lighting was terrible. No one to facilitate the event was a poor decision. Lights switched off with NO notice. At the end, lights switched up and blinded everyone. Terribly annoying.

Also, the firework display was louder than the music being played. Couldn't hear anything.

Half the fun is the music paired with the fireworks display. Also, very little patriotic music was played. I realize that this town is extremely liberal, but we wanted more patriotic tunes.

TRADITIONAL FIREWORKS PLEASE!! No drone show

While I love fireworks, I realize they are very bad for air quality and would be OK with drones or a combo if that makes sense for the City.

would be curious to see drones incorporated but please don't entirely replace fireworks, having a local show is a great option for families with young kids

ATTACHMENT 2

Item No. 2 – Table of Historical Firework Show Event Costs

Fourth of July Historical Firework Show Event Costs

Table 1
Summary of 2023 Firework Show Event Costs

Event Element	Cost
Firework Show	\$30,590.00
Sound, Stage & Lighting	\$6,050.00
Band	\$1,500.00
SPUSD Permit	\$3,504.15
Misc.	\$79.96
TOTAL	\$41,724.11

Table 2
Summary of 2024 Firework Show Event Costs

Event Element	Cost
Firework Show	\$35,590.00
Sound, Stage & Lighting	\$6,200.00
Band	\$1,500.00
SPUSD Permit	\$9,916.00
Misc.	\$98.40
TOTAL	\$53,304.40

Table 3
Summary of 2025 Firework Show Event Costs

Event Element	Cost
Firework Show	\$36,620.00
Sound, Stage & Lighting	\$6,100.00
Band	\$1,500.00
SPUSD Permit	\$4,937.26
People Ready	\$700.00
TOTAL	\$49,857.26

ATTACHMENT 3

Item No. 2 – Fourth of July Evening Show RFP Vendor Responses

Fourth of July Evening Show RFP Results

Table 1
Summary of RFP Results

Option	Vendor	Estimated Cost	Show Elements
Fireworks	Pryo Spectaculars, Inc.	\$40,000	20-minute show
Drones*	Open Sky Productions LLC	150 Drones = \$58,500 200 Drones = \$76,000 250 Drones = \$92,500 300 Drones = \$108,000 350 Drones = \$122,500 400 Drones = \$136,000	150 Drones = 20-24 animations 200 Drones = 20-24 animations 250 Drones = 20-23 animations 300 Drones = 20-21 animations 350 Drones = 20-21 animations 400 Drones = 19-20 animations Standard show runs for 13 minutes. *Custom quotes are available for additional time or added pyrotechnics.
Drones	Grizzly Entertainment LLC	150 Drones = \$20,000 350 Drones = \$40,000 500 Drones = \$55,000	Standard show runs for 10-12 minutes featuring 8-10 animations.
Drones	Skyworx Drone Show LLC	150 Drones = \$45,000 350 Drones = \$105,000 500 Drones = \$150,000	Standard show runs 12-13 minutes. Bid does not include hotel rooms for crew.

VENDOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

(To be completed and submitted with proposal. Attach additional paper if necessary)

#	Requirement	Included (✓) or Fill In
1	Company contact information	Company Name Pyro Spectaculars, Inc. Contact Aaron Beargeon Phone 909-938-6635 Email abeargeon@pyrospec.com
2	Indicate which options(s) you are proposing: Check all that apply	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Option A- Fireworks Display Show <input type="checkbox"/> Option B- Hybrid Show <input type="checkbox"/> Option C- Drone Light Show
3	Option A- Fireworks Only Include a description of shells to be used in the show, along with total number of each type of shell, size of shell (circumference) and its unit price. Proposals should include all costs, including labor, cost of materials, required permits, etc. Safety plan, pyrotechnic license, and proof of insurance shall be included.	See Product Synopsis in Attached Proposal. All Shell Selection to be based on show design and music. Total Price: \$40,000.00
4	Option B- Hybrid Only Include a description of shells to be used in the show, along with total number of each type of shell, size of shell (circumference) and its unit price. Include number of drones and displays and/or provide options for 150 drones, 350 drones and 500 drones. Concept design and choreography, drone programming and simulation included. Proposals should include all costs, including labor, cost of materials, required permits, etc. Safety plan, pyrotechnic license, and proof of insurance shall be included.	Hybrid Only (Fireworks and drones) and include show length: <input type="checkbox"/> # of fireworks _____ <input type="checkbox"/> # of fireworks _____ <input type="checkbox"/> # of fireworks _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Drones _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Drones _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 500 Drones _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Drones _____
5	Option C- Drone Light Show Include number of drones and displays and/or provide options for 150 drones, 350 drones and 500 drones. Concept design and choreography, drone programming and simulation included. Include show length for each option.	
6	Proposed show duration (in minutes) for each option	Approximately 20 Minute

7	Number of years of experience producing shows (indicate which type of show)	49 years of Shows all over the world. More than 30+ years doing City of South Pasadena
8	Confirmation of availability for July 4, 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
9	Total estimated cost for each selected show option (itemized, if possible)	\$ 40,000.00 plus South Pasadena Fire Department Permit Fees, If applicable
10	Optional: Links to video/photo samples of previous show	South Pasadena 2025 Fireworks https://youtu.be/gOEheyxmU3k?si=g1XUXj9c_OBKX-Oc

VENDOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

(To be completed and submitted with proposal. Attach additional paper if necessary)

#	Requirement	Included (✓) or Fill In
1	Company contact information	Company Name Open Sky Productions LLC Contact Kevin Ranta Phone 949-525-5706 Email Kevin@openskypro.com
2	Indicate which options(s) you are proposing: Check all that apply	<input type="checkbox"/> Option A- Fireworks Display Show <input type="checkbox"/> Option B- Hybrid Show <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Option C- Drone Light Show
3	Option A- Fireworks Only Include a description of shells to be used in the show, along with total number of each type of shell, size of shell (circumference) and its unit price. Proposals should include all costs, including labor, cost of materials, required permits, etc. Safety plan, pyrotechnic license, and proof of insurance shall be included.	
4	Option B- Hybrid Only Include a description of shells to be used in the show, along with total number of each type of shell, size of shell (circumference) and its unit price. Include number of drones and displays and/or provide options for 150 drones, 350 drones and 500 drones. Concept design and choreography, drone programming and simulation included. Proposals should include all costs, including labor, cost of materials, required permits, etc. Safety plan, pyrotechnic license, and proof of insurance shall be included.	Hybrid Only (Fireworks and drones) and include show length: <input type="checkbox"/> # of fireworks _____ <input type="checkbox"/> # of fireworks _____ <input type="checkbox"/> # of fireworks _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Drones _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Drones _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 500 Drones _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ____ Drones _____
5	Option C- Drone Light Show Include number of drones and displays and/or provide options for 150 drones, 350 drones and 500 drones. Concept design and choreography, drone programming and simulation included. Include show length for each option.	150 Drones = 20-24 animations 200 Drones = 20-24 animations 250 Drones = 20-23 animations 300 Drones = 20-21 animations 350 Drones = 20-21 animations 400 Drones = 19-20 animations We also have pyro add on available for our drones, however this is also a custom quote.
6	Proposed show duration (in minutes) for each option	Our standard show is 13 minutes. We can do a dual launch for a longer show (24 minutes) however that is a custom quote.

7	Number of years of experience producing shows (indicate which type of show)	4 Years Professionally Producing Drone Light Shows.
8	Confirmation of availability for July 4, 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (Currently) <input type="checkbox"/> No
9	Total estimated cost for each selected show option (itemized, if possible)	<p>\$ 150 Drones = \$58,500</p> <p>200 Drones = \$76,000</p> <p>250 Drones = \$92,500</p> <p>300 Drones = \$108,000</p> <p>350 Drones = \$122,500</p> <p>400 Drones = \$136,000</p>
10	Optional: Links to video/photo samples of previous show	See Proposal Deck

VENDOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

(To be completed and submitted with proposal. Attach additional paper if necessary)

#	Requirement	Included (✓) or Fill In
1	Company contact information	Company Name GRIZZLY ENTERTAINMENT Contact THEOFANIS CHATZIDIMITRIOU Phone 9295638290 Email fanos@grizzlyglobal.net
2	Indicate which options(s) you are proposing: Check all that apply	<input type="checkbox"/> Option A- Fireworks Display Show <input type="checkbox"/> Option B- Hybrid Show <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Option C- Drone Light Show
3	Option A- Fireworks Only Include a description of shells to be used in the show, along with total number of each type of shell, size of shell (circumference) and its unit price. Proposals should include all costs, including labor, cost of materials, required permits, etc. Safety plan, pyrotechnic license, and proof of insurance shall be included.	
4	Option B- Hybrid Only Include a description of shells to be used in the show, along with total number of each type of shell, size of shell (circumference) and its unit price. Include number of drones and displays and/or provide options for 150 drones, 350 drones and 500 drones. Concept design and choreography, drone programming and simulation included. Proposals should include all costs, including labor, cost of materials, required permits, etc. Safety plan, pyrotechnic license, and proof of insurance shall be included.	Hybrid Only (Fireworks and drones) and include show length: <input type="checkbox"/> # of fireworks _____ <input type="checkbox"/> # of fireworks _____ <input type="checkbox"/> # of fireworks _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Drones _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Drones _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 500 Drones _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ____ Drones _____
5	Option C- Drone Light Show Include number of drones and displays and/or provide options for 150 drones, 350 drones and 500 drones. Concept design and choreography, drone programming and simulation included. Include show length for each option.	150 Drones: \$20,000 350 Drones: \$40,000 500 Drones: \$55,000
6	Proposed show duration (in minutes) for each option	Each option includes a show of 10-12 minutes with 8-10 animations

7	Number of years of experience producing shows (indicate which type of show)	5 years of doing drone light shows
8	Confirmation of availability for July 4, 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
9	Total estimated cost for each selected show option (itemized, if possible)	\$ 150 Drones: \$20,000 350 Drones: \$40,000 500 Drones: \$55,000
10	Optional: Links to video/photo samples of previous show <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Independence Day Week 2025 - https://youtu.be/VHeN5gEigLs 2. Independence Day Week 2024 - https://grizzlyglobal.net/projects/4th-of-july-independence-day-drone-shows-2024/ 3. Independence Day Week 2023 - https://grizzlyglobal.net/projects/independence-day-week-across-usa/ 4. City of Perris July 3rd 2024 Drone Show, 300 Drones - https://youtu.be/P1TnhNXvLHI 5. City of Ontario July 4th 2024 Drone Show, 500 Drones - https://youtu.be/NYDiNL3d08U 6. City of Corona Tree Lighting, 200 Drones - https://youtu.be/e2iGaPW3ZQE 7. More projects - www.grizzlyglobal.net/projects 	

VENDOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

(To be completed and submitted with proposal. Attach additional paper if necessary)

#	Requirement	Included (✓) or Fill In
1	Company contact information	Company Name Skyworx Drone Shows LLC Contact Scott Linzer Phone 850-759-9679 Email Scott@skyworx.com
2	Indicate which options(s) you are proposing: Check all that apply	<input type="checkbox"/> Option A- Fireworks Display Show <input type="checkbox"/> Option B- Hybrid Show <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Option C- Drone Light Show
3	Option A- Fireworks Only Include a description of shells to be used in the show, along with total number of each type of shell, size of shell (circumference) and its unit price. Proposals should include all costs, including labor, cost of materials, required permits, etc. Safety plan, pyrotechnic license, and proof of insurance shall be included.	
4	Option B- Hybrid Only Include a description of shells to be used in the show, along with total number of each type of shell, size of shell (circumference) and its unit price. Include number of drones and displays and/or provide options for 150 drones, 350 drones and 500 drones. Concept design and choreography, drone programming and simulation included. Proposals should include all costs, including labor, cost of materials, required permits, etc. Safety plan, pyrotechnic license, and proof of insurance shall be included.	Hybrid Only (Fireworks and drones) and include show length: <input type="checkbox"/> # of fireworks _____ <input type="checkbox"/> # of fireworks _____ <input type="checkbox"/> # of fireworks _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Drones _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Drones _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 500 Drones _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Drones _____
5	Option C- Drone Light Show Include number of drones and displays and/or provide options for 150 drones, 350 drones and 500 drones. Concept design and choreography, drone programming and simulation included. Include show length for each option.	Flat \$300 per done with a 150 drone minimum commitment. All design and choreography included. Show length depends on launch location and other factors.
6	Proposed show duration (in minutes) for each option	Approximately 12-13 mins depending on location

7	Number of years of experience producing shows (indicate which type of show)	5
8	Confirmation of availability for July 4, 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
9	Total estimated cost for each selected show option (itemized, if possible)	\$ All inclusive bid with the exception of hotel rooms for the crew (typically 3 rooms for 3 people for 3 nights).
10	Optional: Links to video/photo samples of previous show	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Kh92fVhxs4

ATTACHMENT 4

Item No. 2 – Environmental Analysis Supporting Data Sheet

Summary of Environmental Research: Fireworks and Aerial Drone Shows

Summary Conclusion

Fireworks Displays: Multiple peer-reviewed studies and regional air agency reports document that traditional fireworks result in significant short-term increases in particulate air pollution (PM2.5/PM10) and contribute to heavy metal deposition in ambient air. These pollutants have established links to respiratory and cardiovascular health effects in sensitive populations and reduce local air quality for hours to days following events. These findings are based on large-scale monitoring networks and chemical analysis of ambient aerosols.

Drone Light Shows: While formal academic research on drones' *full lifecycle environmental impacts* is still emerging, reputable science communication sources and industry analyses consistently state that drone shows generate minimal direct airborne pollutants during operation because they do not rely on combustion. This makes them a useful contrast in environmental evaluations where air quality considerations are a factor.

This summary was developed using the following published reports:

1. Fireworks and Air Quality — National & International Evidence

Seidel et al. (2015) — *Effects of Independence Day fireworks on atmospheric PM2.5*

Summary: Analysis of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) from 315 U.S. monitoring stations showed that Independence Day fireworks lead to significant short-term increases in PM2.5 concentrations. On average, 24-hour PM2.5 levels were ~42% higher on July 4th compared to surrounding control days, with spikes especially notable around show times. Localized peaks near display sites were far more pronounced.

Reliability: Published in *Atmospheric Environment*, this study uses broad, multi-site EPA-comparable monitoring data across the U.S., making it highly relevant for municipal air quality planning.

Link: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1352231015301369> (ScienceDirect)

Mousavi et al. (2021) — *Impact of 4th of July Fireworks on Spatiotemporal PM2.5*

Summary: This research found that firework-related PM2.5 increases were associated with both population density and urban location, and that areas with higher rates of respiratory vulnerability (e.g., asthma prevalence) experienced greater exposure to elevated PM2.5 during Independence Day festivities.

Reliability: Peer-reviewed research published in *PMCID/NCBI* highlighting not just pollution levels but implications for sensitive populations.

Link: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/> (search "Mousavi 4th of July PM2.5") (PMC)

Rocco et al. (2024) — *Fireworks and Particulate Metal Concentrations*

Summary: Measurements of ambient air during July 4th celebrations in the Los Angeles area detected elevated levels of fine particulate matter containing heavy metals such as barium, chromium, copper, lead, and strontium — elements commonly associated with pyrotechnic compositions.

Reliability: Published in *Atmosphere (MDPI)*, a peer-reviewed environmental science journal, this study assesses real ambient atmospheric samples over consecutive years.

Link: <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4433/16/1/17> (MDPI)

Ambient Air Quality & Health Agency Reports (AQMD, 2023 & 2025)

Summary: Regional air quality management agencies (e.g., South Coast AQMD) consistently report that fireworks emit high levels of PM2.5 and metal pollutants, which are linked to respiratory and cardiovascular effects and can degrade air quality for hours to days after displays.

Reliability: Agency reports are based on local monitoring and established health science linking PM2.5 exposure to health outcomes.

Link: <https://www.aqmd.gov/.../fireworks-impact-health> (AQMD)

2. Scientific and Public Health Context for Fireworks Emissions

Scientific Consensus & Regulatory Reviews

Fireworks combustion releases sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, CO, fine particulate matter, and trace metals — all of which are known criteria pollutants under U.S. air quality standards and documented in peer-reviewed environmental science literature as contributors to short-term degradation of air quality. This is reflected in the *Fireworks* entry on Wikipedia, which cites multiple studies on environmental impacts.

Link: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fireworks> (Wikipedia)

3. Environmental and Wildlife Context (Supplementary)

National Geographic — *Why drones are replacing fireworks shows*

Summary: National Geographic, while not a peer-reviewed journal, synthesizes scientific and expert views that drones are currently less polluting than fireworks because they do not generate combustion emissions and can be reused, reducing waste and chemical inputs into the environment.

Reliability: National Geographic is widely respected for evidence-based reporting and interviews with subject matter experts.

Link: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/fireworks-drones-swarm-danger-health-technology> (National Geographic)

Multiple Industry & Environmental Analyses on Drone Shows

Summary: Technical and industry sources consistently note that drone light shows avoid direct emissions of particulate matter and heavy metals, substantially reducing local air pollutants and noise compared to fireworks.

Reliability: While not academic studies, these analyses summarize environmental mechanisms supported by combustion vs. electric-powered technology differences; they can be used to support comparative framing.

Links:

- <https://tmec.com.au/articles/drone-fireworks-environment/> (Tasmanian Minerals Council)
- <https://lumasky.show/journal/are-drone-light-shows-better-for-the-environment/> (Lumasky Drone Show)

ATTACHMENT 5

Item No. 2 – Summary of Feedback from Surrounding Cities

Fourth of July Evening Show Regional City Review

Table 1
Summary of Feedback

City/Event Producer	Type of Show	Estimated Cost	Show/Event Elements
Alhambra	Fireworks	\$40,000	30-minute show
Arcadia (Downtown Arcadia)	Drones	-	Live music, food trucks, carnival games, parade, drone show
Cerritos	Fireworks	\$35,000	20-minute show
Culver City (Downtown Business Association)	Drones	\$40,000 (City sponsored \$30,000)	Live entertainment, patriotic tributes, 200 drone show
Duarte	Fireworks	-	Live music, food trucks, family play area, 20-minute show
Gloria Molina Grand Park (Los Angeles County)	Drones	-	Art activities, sports games, food trucks, DJs, a Ferris wheel, 800 drone show
Foodieland (Rose Bowl/Pasadena)	Drones	-	200+ vendors, live music, shopping, activities, 750 drone show
Monrovia	Fireworks		Concert and firework show 20-minute show
Pico Rivera	Fireworks	\$35,000	30-minute show
Rosemead	Fireworks	\$33,000 24	
San Gabriel	Drones	\$71,000	Parade, Kid's Day 500 drone show
San Marino	Fireworks	\$44,000	20-minute show

ATTACHMENT 6

Item No. 2 – Fourth of July Festival of Balloons Budget

4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL BALLOONS BUDGET

FY2025-2026		\$102,052.63
Description	Expense	
Poster Contest	\$ 148.16	
Poster paper & supplies	\$ 148.16	
Parade	\$ 27,489.83	
Radios	\$ 480.95	
Power washing	\$ 885.00	
Sound (Opening Ceremony & Parade Route)	\$ 1,300.00	
Meridian Barricades	\$ 22,431.50	
Opening Ceremony Décor	\$ 650.00	
Event t-shirts	\$ 1,742.38	
Party in the Park	\$ 4,440.06	
DJ	\$ -	
Inflatables	\$ 957.80	
United Site Services	\$ 1,441.82	
Prizes	\$ 474.80	
Health Department Permit	\$ 910.00	
Power washing	\$ 495.00	
Health Department Permit Service Fee	\$ 20.20	
Dick's Sporting Goods	\$ 140.44	
Firework Show	\$ 49,157.26	
Pyro-Spectacular Inc.	\$ 36,620.00	
Sound, lighting, stage	\$ 6,100.00	
Band	\$ 1,500.00	
SPUSD 2026 Permit	\$ 4,937.26	
Miscellaneous Items	\$ 5,129.32	
Miscellaneous Items	\$ 372.00	
People Ready (Staffing)	\$ 700.00	
Cantu Printing/Advertising	\$ 1,431.56	
Cantu Printing/Advertising (Flyers & Banner)	\$ 1,496.17	
Amazon	\$ 483.72	
Joker Balloon Supplies	\$ 237.41	
Smart & Final (Staff water)	\$ 21.72	
Cantu Printing/Advertising	\$ 386.74	
Staffing Expenditures	\$ 15,688.00	
Miscellaneous Items	\$ 15,688.00	

FY2026-2027 ESTIMATES		\$136,250.00
Description	Expense	
Poster Contest	\$ 150.00	
Poster paper & supplies	\$ 150.00	
Parade	\$ 30,500.00	
Radios	\$ 500.00	
Power washing	\$ 900.00	
Sound (Opening Ceremony & Parade Route)	\$ 1,300.00	
Meridian Barricades	\$ 25,000.00	
Opening Ceremony Décor	\$ 800.00	
Event t-shirts	\$ 2,000.00	
Party in the Park	\$ 5,600.00	
DJ	\$ 600.00	
Inflatables	\$ 1,000.00	
United Site Services	\$ 2,000.00	
Prizes	\$ 500.00	
Health Department Permit	\$ 1,000.00	
Power washing	\$ 500.00	
Firework Show	\$ 54,000.00	
Firework Show	\$ 40,000.00	
Sound, lighting, stage	\$ 7,000.00	
Band	\$ 2,000.00	
SPUSD 2026 Permit	\$ 5,000.00	
Miscellaneous Items	\$ 6,000.00	
Miscellaneous Items	\$ 1,500.00	
People Ready (Staffing)	\$ 1,000.00	
Printing/Advertising	\$ 3,500.00	
Event Planning Firm	\$ 20,000.00	
Eventing Planning Firm	\$ 20,000.00	
Staffing Expenditures	\$ 20,000.00	
Miscellaneous Items	\$ 20,000.00	