

## **Angels Camp receives \$3 mil state grant to expand Utica Park**

**By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News / August 26, 2022**

Angels Camp beat the odds and was one of the fortunate few to receive a state grant that will be used to expand and improve Utica Park.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation evaluated more than \$400 Million in funding requests for \$46.2 million in available grants and the city of Angels will receive \$3 million of that pie.

“This is a huge opportunity for our city bringing tourism and boosting our economy with this expansion,” City Administrator Rebecca Callen said Monday when grant recipients were made public. “Utica Park becomes a regional park to be enjoyed, not just by our residents, but by visitors from other parts of the county, state and country. The additions and updates will commemorate our history and traditions in addition to adding updates for today’s day and age – a park for all ages and physical abilities.”

With the \$3 million, the city will acquire 3.82 Acres to expand and improve Utica Park by constructing a new amphitheater, interpretive hiking trail and parcourse, Mark Twain statue, trailhead kiosk, pavilion, bocce courts, outdoor gym and equipment, basketball court, playground and restrooms.

In addition to the state parks department, Callen thanked city staff and the Angels Camp Community Club in their efforts to help secure the funding.

“Congratulations to the 25 communities receiving the grant funding,” said State Parks Director Armando Quintero. “I look forward to seeing the projects come to fruition and for Californians to start enjoying them. Spending time in the outdoors not only helps us connect with our communities, but it can also support our mental and physical health. A healthier California is good for all of us.”

“These park improvements are an exciting development as we invest in communities across our diverse state,” said California Secretary of Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot. “All Californians deserve access to recreational opportunities, so that they can enjoy the outdoors and the cultural, historic, and natural resources California offers.”