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PRESS RELEASE

SURVEY FINDS SUPPORT FOR MID-VALLEY RECREATION CENTER

A recently completed survey sponsored by the Crown Mountain Park and Recreation District shows that a majority of local residents support the development of a recreation center in the mid-valley area. The survey, which was designed and analyzed by RRC Associates of Boulder, was sent to 3,400 residents within the Crown Mountain Park and Recreation District. There were 713 responses, or 21%, which provided a statistically valid sample with accuracy estimated to be within a 3% margin of error.

The survey's important findings include:

> 64% of the respondents said they would either definitely or probably vote yes for a bond issue to construct a "core facility". A similar proportion (65%) would vote yes for an ongoing mill levy to help pay for operations and maintenance. A core facility would consist of gymnasium and multi-purpose rooms, a public event hall, meeting and party rooms, a game room, a climbing wall, a child-watch facility and an indoor swimming facility including both leisure and lap swim configurations. Fitness and dance studios, exercise equipment and an indoor running/walking track would also be included. The construction bond issue was estimated to be for \$20,000,000 resulting in a new property tax levy of \$24 per \$100,000 of market value annually. The operations and maintenance fund was estimated to be \$500,000 annually and would result in a new ongoing mill levy of \$8/year per \$100,000 of market value.

> 37% of the respondents said they were very or extremely concerned about the tax impact of a new mill levy with another 30% somewhat concerned. Based on the comments of the respondents, this concern was generally based on the uncertain economy, recent increases in property taxes, and fear that ongoing operational subsidies will be higher than projections.

> The survey measured support for various add-on facilities that have been proposed during the recreation center planning process, including an ice rink, indoor tennis, competitive swimming facilities and an anti-gravity aerial training center. None of these potential additional facilities garnered the support of a majority of those responding. The most support went to a competitive swimming facility (41% would use it once a month or more) and the least support went to indoor tennis (30% usage).

> Most respondents were willing to pay a usage fee for specific facilities or activities, including fitness, swimming, cardio and weight training and dance. The survey included information on usage fees at other local recreation facilities such as Aspen, Glenwood Springs and Breckenridge to provide some benchmarks of possible fee amounts.

These results will be discussed in detail at a public meeting to be held at the Eagle County building in El Jebel at 6 PM on Wednesday, June 30. The conceptual building layout and location will also be discussed in detail, as will the future process for completing the plans and bringing the funding issues to a vote.

For more information, please contact Mark Fuller, 970 963-4959 or see the Crown Mountain Park website, www.crownmtn.org.