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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOUNTAIN LION ACTIVITY REPORTED AT TEICHERT PONDS

Chico, CA, July 6, 2010 – City of Chico Park Rangers responded to a report of a possible mountain lion sighting at Teichert Ponds. A couple observed what they described as a juvenile mountain lion near the boundary with the Kohl's parking lot.

After a site visit, Park Rangers also reported that an angler had observed what appeared to be about 50-60 pound mountain lion in the area. Neither report indicated that the mountain lion behaved aggressively toward them.

Although mountain lions have been seen in the Chico area, especially in the winter and spring, the sighting is unusual in that it was observed during the day in a very busy area.

The chance of meeting a mountain lion is extremely small, however, the City would like to remind citizens that mountain lions are a part of the natural environment and offers the following precautions:

- Do not hike or run alone, especially from dusk to dawn. While mountain lions are not likely to approach humans, they are even less likely to approach a more threatening larger group.
- Be cautious in well vegetated brushy areas.
- Keep children in sight, and talk to them about mountain lions and what to do if they encounter one.
- If you encounter a mountain lion, stay calm, maintain eye contact, and do not run. Try to appear larger than the lion by raising and waving your arms, or opening your jacket. Pick up small children, and throw stones, branches or whatever is in reach without crouching or turning away from the lion. Speak firmly in a loud voice so that it begins to understand that you are not prey, but that you actually pose a danger.

The Park Division Rangers note that they have notified the local Department of Fish and Game. If you encounter a mountain lion, or experience property damage or the loss of a pet or livestock that you believe may be associated with one, please contact the Park Division at 530-896-7800 or the Police Department at 530-897-4900.

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The Parks, Open Spaces, Greenways, and Preserves Division is within the General Services Department, and is responsible for maintaining and operating City parks, open space, and recreation areas including Bidwell Park, Children's Playground, Depot Park, City Plaza, Lindo Channel, Little Chico Creek Greenway, Teichert Ponds, and other preserves. Park Division programs include: Maintenance, Ranger, Lifeguard, and Volunteer Programs.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact the Park Rangers at 530-896-7800.