



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Jeffrey L. Clet
Katy Allen
Sara Hensley

SUBJECT: FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION -
SILVER CREEK LINEAR PARK
BALLOT MEASURE

DATE: February 8, 2006

Approved

Date

2/9/06

Council District: 8

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution ordering, on the Council's own motion, the submission to the electors of the City, at the Municipal Election to be held on June 6, 2006, a measure entitled "Fire Station Construction – Silver Creek Linear Park".

BACKGROUND

Since the passage of Measure "O" by San José voters in March 2002, the first effort to optimize use of Public Safety Bond funding was accomplished with Council approval of the 2004-2005 Capital Budget and 2005-2009 Capital Improvement Program. This included a modified program of fire station relocations and reconstruction to improve performance. Station 24 is sub optimally located in relation to the service demand within the Eastside Communities. Council's adoption of Manager's Budget Addendum #8 in 2004 approved the relocation of Station 24 and combining it with new Station 36. Strategically located fire station sites are central to improving response time performance and capability, thus improving fire suppression and emergency medical service (EMS) delivery. As part of its station relocation strategy, the fire department has identified a site on the most western portion of Silver Creek Linear Park as an optimal location for fire station 24/36.

City Charter Section 1700 (regarding parks) states: "...public parks of the City shall be inalienable unless otherwise authorized by the affirmative votes of the majority of the electors voting on such a proposition in each case." Charter Section 1700 allows the City to enter leases on parks, provided that the term is three years or less. Therefore, any decision to use a portion of the Silver Creek Linear Park for a long-term use requires voter approval.

ANALYSIS

The fire department conducted an exhaustive analysis using deployment software tools to identify fire station location to improve the efficient and effectiveness of fire apparatus deployment. Undeveloped parcels within a defined search area were identified for further evaluation to minimize impacts to private property owners and potential relocation costs. Following site identification, the Department of Public Works and the City's geologist performed an initial analysis of site suitability and geological stability of each parcel. Three properties, in addition to the Silver Creek Linear Park site, received a more extensive evaluation. Sites other than the Silver Creek Linear Park site were found to be unsuitable due to:

- Seismic instability
- Grading requirements
- Poorer resource deployment efficiency
- Poorer access to major thoroughfares

Based on the results of the analysis, the fire department has identified the western most portion of the Silver Creek Linear Park as being the optimal location for construction of new Fire Station 24/36. The proposed location of the fire station will not reduce recreational uses of the park nor impede access to existing facilities.

In addition, the City would be amending an easement agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric to use a parcel adjacent to the subject park property for parking for the fire station.

OUTCOME

Voter approval and construction of Fire Station 24/36 on the western boundary of Silver Creek Linear Park will improve response time performance and thus reduce loss of life and property within Evergreen and East Hill communities. The proposed construction of a fire station; its designation as a "Safe Place" and "Safe Surrender" location; 24-hour emergency medical staffing; as well as, storage of park maintenance equipment will add to the safety and utility of the park as a community resource.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The department in partnership with Council District 8 Office, City Manager's Office, and Department of Public Works has conducted three community meetings to date to describe the scope of the project and receive community input; and presented at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on February 1st, 2006. The Parks and Recreation Commission subsequently recommended the use of Silver Creek Linear Park for Fire Station 36 at their February 1, 2006 commission meeting. If the ballot measure passes, additional public outreach will be undertaken in accordance with design and public art components of the project.

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COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with Council District 8; Departments of Public Works; Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services; Planning Building Code Enforcement; the City Manager’s Office; the City Attorney’s Office and City Clerk’s Office.

COST IMPLICATIONS

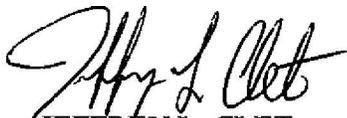
The cost of putting this measure on the ballot is estimated at \$250,000. Existing non-personal/equipment funding is in the City Clerk’s 2005-2006 General Fund budget to fund this election.

BUDGET REFERENCE

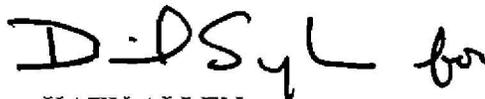
Fund #	Appn #	Appn Name	RC #	Total Appn.	Amt. For Contract	2005-06 Adopted Operating Budget Page	Last Budget Action (Date, Ord. No.)
001	0452	Non-Personal/Equipment		\$1,479,169	\$250,000	VIII-20	10/18/2005, Ord. No. 27580

CEQA

Exempt, File No. PP06-009


JEFFREY L. CLET
Fire Chief


SARA HENSLEY
Director
Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services


KATY ALLEN
Director
Department of Public Works

Attachment

Attachment A

DRAFT BALLOT MEASURE

Fire Station Construction – Silver Creek Park

To improve fire suppression, emergency medical services and increase essential emergency facilities available for disaster response within the Evergreen and East Hills area, shall the City be authorized to construct a two-company fire station on one acre in Silver Creek Park?