

To: Honorable Mayor
City Council members

From: Vice Mayor Pat Dando

Subject: Coyote Disbursement

Date: October 25, 2004

Approved:

RECOMMENDATION

1. Accept the staff report on short and long-term methods to expel coyotes from residential areas.
2. Direct staff to work in partnership with the residents of the Villas of Almaden and the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley to implement a long-term plan for deterring coyotes from returning to the residential neighborhoods.
3. Direct staff to work with the Villas of Almaden Homeowners Association to identify alternative landscaping material that may be used in the future that would deter coyotes from returning to the Villas.
4. Direct staff to add additional dog leash signage in Guadalupe Oak Grove, Jeffery Fontana and T.J. Martin Parks and provide additional enforcement of the dog leash ordinance.

BACKGROUND

Over the past 18 months, residents of the Villas of Almaden and nearby neighborhoods have experienced threatening coyote behavior. In a letter dated September 21, 2004 Santa Clara County Vector Control (attachment A) stated "extraordinary circumstances exist necessitating the use of padded leg-hold traps to protect human health and safety in the vicinity of the Villas of Almaden." In addition, attached is a letter from Department of Fish and Game (attachment B) reiterating their support of Santa Clara County Vector Controls findings per Department of Fish and Game code 3003.1.

As way of background, I held a community meeting on September 15, 2004 where over 60 people attended. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum to allow a variety of options to be discussed regarding expelling coyotes from residential neighborhoods. The community heard from a panel of experts which included: Jon Cicirelli, Deputy Director Animal Care and Services; Mary Paglieri, President, Little Blue Society; Don Kelly, Department of Fish and Game Department; Dr. Noor Tietze, Scientific Technical Services Manager, SCC Vector Control; Mike Philips, Wildlife Biologist, SCC Vector Control; Janet Alexander, Manager, Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley; and the San Jose Police Department.

At the end of the meeting, it was decided that we would work together to develop a short-term and long-term solution in order to remove the existing coyotes, and prevent any future coyote dens in the Villas.

In reference to the landscaping, the Villas of Almaden hired an arborist regarding 9 trees. The San Jose City and the Villas arborist declared the 9 trees dead and decayed which allowed for removal. However, the City required that the residents plant 9 trees for each tree removed totaling 90 additional trees. The residents decided not to remove the trees because they felt this would only complicate the current existing challenges of wildlife in the area.

Establishing a short and long-term plan to allow residents to co-exist with wildlife without the threat of danger to human public safety is the goal of these recommendations.