



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Katy Allen
James R. Helmer

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 05-26-09

Approved

Date

6/2/09

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 3

**SUBJECT: DOWNTOWN SAN JOSÉ PROPERTY-BASED BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010**

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of a resolution:

1. Approving the Downtown San José Property-Based Business Improvement District Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 as filed or modified by Council;
2. Confirming the individual assessments as proposed or modified by Council, including the assessment on City owned property of approximately \$313,000 and the assessment on Redevelopment Agency property of approximately \$68,000;
3. Directing that the City baseline services contribution in the amount of \$356,726, and assessment payment be made;
4. Directing the Director of Finance to deliver the assessment roll to the County for collection with the property taxes.

OUTCOME

The desired outcome is the continued enhanced cleaning, ambassador, image enhancement services, and beautification projects funded through the levy of special assessments for Downtown San José.

BACKGROUND

The City of San José established its first Property-Based Business Improvement District (PBID) in 2007 to fund specific enhanced services and improvements above those provided by the City

from generally available funds. Since the enhanced services directly benefit individual parcels within the district rather than the City as a whole, the costs are assessed to these same parcels.

The Downtown San José Property-Based Business Improvement District (Downtown PBID) was approved by property owners and adopted by Council on August 7, 2007 to raise funds for enhanced cleaning, ambassador and image enhancement services for the Downtown area. This district was formed in response to declining maintenance levels in the Downtown area at the request of numerous stakeholders. The voter approved assessment formula provides for an annual inflation adjustment at the rate of the Bay Area CPI for all urban consumers and/or other changes in program costs, but not to exceed 5%. The district has an initial term of five years and can be renewed for ten year term increments. Attachment A provides a map and boundary of the district.

ANALYSIS

As required by Part 7 of Division 18 of the California Streets and Highways Code “Property and Business Improvement District Law of 1994” for reporting, and in accordance with the agreement between the City and the San José Downtown Property Owners’ Association (POA), the POA has submitted the *San José Downtown Property –Based Improvement District Report* (Report) to the San José City Council, dated May 1, 2009 (Attachment B). This Assessment District Report, which is the first of two reports for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, will be on file in the City Clerk’s Office prior to the Council Meeting. A second report, the 2008-2009 Financial Report, will be submitted in October to the Council from the POA. This first report contains:

1. Property-Based Improvement District boundaries
2. FY 2009-2010 improvements and activities
3. Cost estimates for improvements and activities in FY 2009-2010
4. Method and basis for levying FY 2009-2010 assessment
5. Revenue to be carried over
6. Non-assessment revenue

The enhanced cleaning program includes sidewalk and street furniture cleaning and scrubbing, power washing and sweeping, portering and trash collection, and reporting/cleaning of graffiti. In addition, ambassadors patrol within the boundaries of the Downtown PBID daily offering assistance to employees, visitors and residents. Image enhancement projects include the installation and maintenance of flower pots, decorative lighting, directional way-finding signs and street furniture. The services have been well received and the overall condition of the area within the boundaries of the Downtown PBID is cleaner and better supported from a visitor and customer standpoint. Attached is the Spring 2009 edition of The Sparkler, the newsletter of the San José Downtown PBID, which further describes some of the recent accomplishments and highlights of the PBID. For FY 2009-2010, the Downtown PBID will continue to implement its beautification improvement plan enhancing the aesthetics of the downtown area.

The POA Board, at their April 28, 2009 board meeting, unanimously approved and requested that the City impose an assessment increase of 5%, which is the maximum allowable in the PBID Management Plan/Engineers Report. The annual change in the applicable Consumer Price Index (CPI) is 3.11% for the cleaning and ambassadorial program service agreements that the PBID has in place. The supplemental increase beyond the CPI will accommodate the increased maintenance costs of the PBID streetscape beautification elements due to plant failures and vandalism and the SoFA district improvements being coordinated by 1stACT and the Redevelopment Agency. The SoFA district improvements, scheduled to be in place by June 2009, calls for the installation of 160 planters over three blocks and sidewalk extensions on one block. The SoFA district improvements project is consistent with the Image Enhancement services outlined in the PBID Management Plan.

The Administration has reviewed the POA board's proposal and concurs with the recommendation that assessments be increased 5% for FY 2009-2010 in order to provide sufficient funding for the increased costs for the cleaning and ambassadorial services and for maintenance of the beautification and enhancement projects in the PBID. The total maximum aggregate assessment for FY 2009-2010, including approximately \$35,000 in additional funds from assessments on new developments, is anticipated to be approximately \$1,877,000. It is possible that less than this amount will be collected due to delinquencies, property transfers and other non-payments. The City will pursue any non-payments. The PBID budgeted revenue is reflected in attachment B-5.

As a property owner within the district, the City's assessment will be approximately \$313,000 and the San José Redevelopment Agency's (RDA) assessment will be approximately \$68,000. The City's baseline cleaning contribution for services provided prior to the formation of the PBID would be adjusted by the applicable CPI annually with an estimated baseline funding contribution of \$356,726 in FY 2009-2010. Funds are included in the City's and RDA Proposed 2009-2010 budgets for these purposes.

The assessment roll and diagram for FY 2009-2010 will be on file with the City Clerk's Office prior to the Council meeting for public review.

Approval of the proposed resolution by the City Council will:

1. Approve the PBID annual report as filed or modified by Council;
2. Confirm the individual assessments as proposed or modified by Council;
3. Direct that the City baseline services contribution and assessment payment be made;
4. Direct the Director of Finance to deliver the assessment roll to the County for collection with the property taxes

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The attached annual report by the POA sets the budget and proposed assessments for FY 2009-2010 consistent with the approved Management Plan/Engineer's Report. The current agreement

between the City and the POA, and PBID law, also requires the POA to submit an Annual Financial Report, containing an independent Certified Public Accountant Review Report in October of each year. If the 2009-2010 Downtown PBID Annual Report is approved with the 5% increase, staff will bring forward appropriation and funding sources recommendations for Council approval at a later date as appropriate.

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Not applicable.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

Although the recommendation in this memorandum does not meet the \$1 million threshold under Criterion 1, this memorandum will be posted on the City's website for the June 16, 2009 Council Agenda. The Annual Report is filed in the City Clerk's Office for public review and will also be made available to the property owners within the district upon request. A notice of assessment and map of the district will be recorded with the County Recorder for public viewing and for title purposes. This will allow the district to be referenced in title searches to inform property owners of the district and the accompanying assessment. Staff is also available to respond to any public inquiries. Finally, the San José Downtown Property Owners' Board of Directors approved the proposed FY 2009-2010 assessment increase and budget at its publicly noticed and held meeting on April 28, 2009 at 28 N. First Street.

COORDINATION

This memorandum and related documents and resolutions were coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and the City Manager's Budget Office.

FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT

This action is consistent with the Council-approved Budget Principle in that it utilizes special assessments for enhanced services.

COST IMPLICATIONS

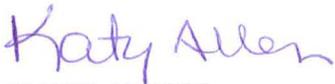
If the 2009-2010 Downtown PBID Annual Report is approved with the 5% increase, the City's assessment will be approximately \$313,000 and the San José Redevelopment Agency's assessment will be approximately \$68,000. The City's adjusted baseline cleaning services contribution will be \$356,756. Appropriation and funding sources adjustments, if necessary, will be brought forward for Council approval if appropriate.

BUDGET REFERENCE

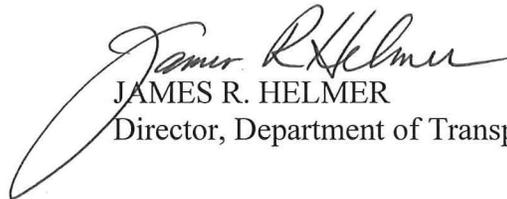
Not applicable.

CEQA

Exempt: File No. PP09-120



KATY ALLEN
Director, Public Works Department



JAMES R. HELMER
Director, Department of Transportation

For questions please contact Timm Borden, Deputy Director of Public Works at 535-8300 or Kevin O'Connor, Deputy Director of Transportation at 277-3028.

Attachments

PD:TMB

09cmemoPBID downtown.doc

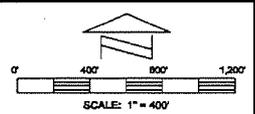


LOCATION MAP

CITY OF SAN JOSE
 CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY
 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

LEGEND

-----	ZONE A (Premium)	---	PROPERTY LINE
---	ZONE B (Basic)	- - - -	PRIVATE STREET
---	STREET RIGHT OF WAY		



CITY OF SAN JOSE, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
 STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE
PROPERTY-BASED BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
 FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010

ATTACHMENT B

Downtown San Jose Property-Based Improvement District

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009-10 by the Downtown San Jose Property Owners' Association

May 1, 2009

1. Property-Based Improvement District

The Downtown San Jose Property-Based Improvement District (PBID), formed in August 2007, as a special benefit assessment district (District) that conveys special benefits to the properties located within the District boundaries. No changes are proposed to the District's boundaries, benefit zones, or classification of properties for fiscal year 2009-10. The PBID encompasses the core of the downtown area bounded approximately by Fourth Street and City Hall complex to the east, St. James and Devine streets to the north, Highway 87 and the HP Pavilion to the west and Market and First streets south to Reed Street.

2. Improvements and Activities to be provided in FY 2009-10

Having completed a full year of providing enhanced services to the district, the PBID conducted a member survey in March 2009 to assess progress over the past year. The Members overwhelmingly approved all three facets of the program: cleaning, ambassador and beautification. Cleaning program changes incorporated in 2008 have paid dividends as evidenced by a 93.6% approval rating. Minor adjustments to scheduling, cleaning routes and reporting may be made in 2009 to accommodate the dynamic and ever-changing needs of the downtown streetscape.

The ambassador program received an approval rating of 96% and will generally remain the same, but additional emphasis will be placed on social services, specifically connecting the homeless population to available resources.

The PBID will produce another beautification project in FY 2009-10, focusing its efforts on First Street, between San Fernando and San Carlos streets. The new project will be similar to the demonstration area on First Street, between Santa Clara and San Fernando streets featuring planters, decorative plants and lighting. The current beautification area received a 96% approval rating from members.

The Downtown San Jose Property Owners' Association (POA) Board of Directors has recommended a total assessment increase of five percent for fiscal year 2009-10. The PBID/City of San Jose service agreement includes a 3% annual increase in wages and the additional two percent increase will be used to cover increasing program costs, such as maintenance of the PBID streetscape beautification elements and SoFA district improvements being coordinated by 1stACT and the Redevelopment Agency. The initial SoFA design package, scheduled to be in place by June 2009, calls for the installation of 160 planters over three blocks and sidewalk extensions on one block.

Based on the maintenance needed for the PBID's initial beautification efforts, a minimum of two days a week landscape service will be necessary in the next phase. Maintenance of the planters consists of watering, which will be essential upon installation, and plant care including but not limited to pruning, fertilization and replacement. A complete maintenance plan is currently being developed. All Bay Landscaping provides maintenance service for the PBID's current beautification effort on First Street and will also provide similar services in SoFA.

SoFA sidewalk extensions will require regular maintenance in the form of pressure washing and supplemental litter pick up. As with all streetscape infrastructure placed in the public right of way, both the

ATTACHMENT B

planters and sidewalk extensions will be prime targets for graffiti and vandalism. Regular monitoring and graffiti removal will be needed and these duties will fall to the District clean team and ambassadors.

The table below reflects clean team and ambassador services for 2009-10, including the proposed service output in the District management plan (Management Plan).

Clean	Management Plan	Proposed FY 09-10
Maintenance F.T.E.	13 to 22	13 to 22
Average weekly coverage	5 to 7 days	7 days
Litter Removal/Vacuuming	Daily All Downtown	Daily All Downtown
Litter Removal/Pan & Broom	One to Two Shifts in Premium Area	Two Shifts in Premium Area
Machine Sweeping/Scrubbing	Daily All Downtown	Daily All Downtown
Transit Stop Maintenance	Yes	Yes
Steam Cleaning/Pressure Wash: Basic	Two to Four times per year	325 hours
Steam Cleaning/Pressure Wash: Premium	Four to Six times per year	2,784 hours
Graffiti Reporting/Cleaning	Daily as Needed	Daily as Needed
Light Landscape/Weeds	As Needed	As Needed
SWAT Patrol or "emergency cleaning"	As Needed	As Needed
Safe (Information and Safety Ambassadors)		
Ambassadors F.T.E.	9-12	9-12
Coverage in all areas	8 hours	8 hours
Coverage in Premium areas	12-16 hours	12-16 hours

PBID administrative costs account for 9.1% of revenue received, as approved by the POA Board of Directors and reflected in the Management Plan. Administrative costs include one full time Operations Manager, additional support staff from the San Jose Downtown Association, office supplies, postage, professional services, dues and other miscellaneous costs. An increase in administrative duties is anticipated for management of the expansion of image enhancement projects and SoFA beautification maintenance in FY 2009-10.

3. Estimate of Costs for Improvements and Activities in FY 2009-10

The estimated cost for improvements and activities for FY 2009-10 is \$2,106,168. This includes services similar to the ones provided in FY 2008-09, and other needs that have increased costs, including the following: 1) Clean team and ambassador service contract calls for an inflationary increase based on the CPI in January 2010 which is anticipated to result in an increase of \$62,812; 2) the cost for maintaining two beautification areas and the SoFA project will be approximately \$70,000. The total of these new costs is \$132,812, which is greater than the \$49,981 that would be generated by an increase of only the 3% CPI. As a result, the POA recommends an increase of 5%, the maximum allowed by the Management Plan to cover program costs in excess of the CPI.

The table below summarizes the total estimated costs for providing the services to meet the needs of the District in FY 2009-10:

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Improvements & Activities	Estimated costs
Cleaning	\$999,030
Information/Safety Ambassadors	\$612,309
Image Enhancements	\$300,000
Administration	\$194,829
TOTAL	\$2,106,168

In order to cover total costs associated with District needs, property owner assessments need to be raised by 5% to generate sufficient revenue.

Revenue Source	Projected Revenue
Collections*	\$1,718,906
City of San Jose Baseline Agreement	\$346,901
Contracts	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$2,116,000

*The collections amount in the table above represents the full assessment revenue of \$1,877,818 minus delinquencies, property transfers and non-payment.

The attached district budget provides detailed estimates of revenues and expenses as approved by the POA Board of Director's at its public meeting on April 28, 2009.

4. Method and Basis of Levying FY 2009-10 Assessments

The methodology for levying District assessments will remain the same for FY 2009-10. Service benefits are distributed to lot and building square footage through a "cost allocation" approach – the costs of specific services are allocated to the assessment variables that benefit most from services. The table below reflects the 5% increase in assessments for FY 2009-10.

Area	Per square foot of Lot FY 2009-10	Per square foot of Building FY 2009-10
Basic Zone: Commercial, Enterprise Government	\$ 0.0481	\$ 0.0481
Premium Zone: Commercial, Enterprise Government	\$ 0.0830	\$ 0.0830
Basic Zone: Residential, Traditional Gov't, Other Non-Commercial (image enhancement assessment not included)	\$ 0.0349	\$ 0.0349
Premium Zone: Residential, Traditional Gov't, Other Non-Commercial (image enhancement assessment not included)	\$ 0.0700	\$ 0.0700

The sum of lot and building square footage are the primary assessment variables for cleaning, information, and beautification/image enhancement costs. Benefits from all District activities are designed to improve ease of use, image, occupancy, and sales that are distributed to all properties and those using and occupying those buildings. The inclusion of lot square footage in the calculation acknowledges the greater benefits of these services to the ground level of property.

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5. Amount of Surplus Revenue to be carried over from previous fiscal year

The district estimates a \$9,832 revenue surplus, which equals 0.05% of the revenue. This surplus may be used to cover any unanticipated needs of the district, such as supplementing the streetscape maintenance budget.

6. Contributions from non-assessment revenue

The City of San Jose will contribute baseline service funding in the amount of approximately \$346,901 for FY 2009-10.

The downtown San Jose PBID anticipates renewing the agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority (VTA) to maintain the transit mall. The contract with VTA is for \$50,000.

ATTACHMENT B

San Jose Downtown Property Business Improvement District
FY 09-10 Budget

	A	B	C	D
1	4/28/09	FY 08-09	FY 09-10	<i>Fiscal Year begins July 1</i>
2		Revised	Approved *	
3		BUDGET	BUDGET	NOTES for 09-10 Budget
4				
5	REVENUE			
6				
7	Assessments			
8	Assessments - thru SCC	1,264,062	1,328,685	PBID property assessments ***
9	less assessment charges SCC	(12,641)	(13,287)	Santa Clara County (1%)
10	Assessments - exempt thru SJ	401,984	413,508	Exempt property assessments ***
11	less assessment charges SJ	(10,000)	(10,000)	City of San Jose (per city management contract)
12				
13	Net Assessments	1,643,405	1,718,906	
14				
15	City baseline	337,443	346,901	per city baseline agreement (3% Feb. 2010)
16	Contracts	47,260	50,000	fee for service contract (VTA)
17	Grants	1,500	-	Keep America Beautiful grant
18	Miscellaneous	229	193	
19				
20	TOTAL REVENUE	2,029,838	2,116,000	
21				
22				
23	EXPENSES			
24				
25	CLEAN TEAMS			
26	Contract PBID	619,223	652,129	
27	Contract Baseline	340,863	346,901	
28	Subtotal	960,086	999,030	SGL - (3% CPI Jan. 09 plus an additional 7% contract adds)
29				
30	GREET (SAFETY AMBASSADOR) TEAMS			
31	Contracts	588,440	612,309	
32	Subtotal	588,440	612,309	SGL - (3% CPI Jan. 09 plus an additional 7% contract adds)
33				
34	Total SGL Contract **	1,548,526	1,611,338	inclusive of baseline
35				
36	IMAGE ENHANCEMENTS			
37	Demonstration project	250,300	-	Demo project installed 11/08, include KKA plan
38	Beautification projects	55,000	225,000	First St. between San Fernando and San Carlos
39	Maintenance	7,700	70,000	Demo, SoFA, Others TBD
40	Hwy 87	5,000	5,000	freeway clean-up with City, Caltrans and SJDA
41	Subtotal	318,000	300,000	
42				
43	ADMINISTRATION			
44	SJDA Management	184,715	192,556	Operations Manager, SJDA support staff, rent, dues/meetings
45	Insurance	3,720	9,000	directors and officers, general liability, crime package
46	Professional Services	10,000	11,000	CPA, payroll processing, legal
47	Marketing	-	6,500	website, brochure
48	Misc	5,000	8,000	postage, office supplies, utilities, telephone, internet, copier
49	less 2% prepay contracts	(30,971)	(32,227)	discount applied to SGL payments
50	Subtotal	172,465	194,829	9.1% target in mgmt plan of total revenue
51				
52				
53	TOTAL EXPENSES	2,038,990	2,106,168	
54				
55	REVENUE NET OF EXPENSES	(9,151)	9,832	
56				
57				
58	Beginning Fund Balance	96,513	87,360	
59				
60	Projected Ending Fund Balance	87,360	97,192	reserve/contingency
61				
62				
63	* Approved by Board 4/28/09			
64				
65	** Total FY 07-08 SGL contract of approx \$1.51 million began Jan. 28, 2008; FY 09-10 contract is approx \$1.58 million.			
66				
67	***Assessment revenue for FY 09-10 includes 5% adjustment plus 1% projected district growth beginning Jan. 2010.			



The Sparkler

Promoting a cleaner and friendlier downtown San Jose
Newsletter of the San Jose Downtown Property-Based Improvement District

Call 287-1520 for service

Spring 2009
Vol. 1, No. 4

Members give high approval ratings

Results of a recent survey of Property-Based Improvement District (PBID) members indicate streets are cleaner and friendlier since the implementation of Groundwerx in January 2008. According to the survey:

- * 87.9 percent of the 160 respondents said that downtown cleanliness has significantly improved after one year. In 2007, before Groundwerx crews took over the task of cleaning downtown, 46.3 percent believed downtown cleanliness was improving;
- * 93.7 percent indicated the overall conditions improved, compared to 78.6 percent in 2007.

In addition, nine out of 10 downtown property owners monitoring their investment in the PBID generally favor Groundwerx enhanced services – friendly ambassadors, clean teams and street beautification projects. The streetscape beautification improvements included planters, hanging flower baskets, bamboo wall and mural – on First Street between Santa Clara and San Fernando streets.

“It’s great to get recognized from our property owners,” said Chuck Hammers, president of the downtown Property Owners’ Association. “Considering the report that citywide graffiti is up 800 percent over the past two years, we started this program none to soon. Without Groundwerx, our downtown would be a disaster right now.”

The clean crews use environmentally friendly equipment to remove stains and pressure-wash sidewalks and pedestrian areas; pick up litter; maintain receptacles; report and remove graffiti; paint and maintain public spaces; and beautify streetscapes. In Groundwerx first year of operation, clean teams removed 52 tons of debris, collected 73 tons of trash and cleaned more than 12,000 graffiti tags.

Also of note, two out of three respondents preferred that leaf-blowers continue to not be used in cleanup efforts. The PBID board of directors consciously made the decision not to use leaf-blowers when Groundwerx was formed. Even though cleanup efforts cost a bit more, members

thought the extra expense was more valuable than the dust and noise created by leaf blowers.

“The survey feedback will help us fine tune our efforts to increase responsiveness to our members,” said PBID Operations Manager Eric Hon. “We can achieve a higher level of cleanliness, hospitality and beauty.”

Downtown residents completed half of the surveys, with downtown commercial property and business owners comprising the other half of the responses. To view the complete results of the 2009 PBID member survey, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/PBID09Results>.

Groundwerx Employee of the Year



Raul Gomez

Clean team member Raul Gomez is Groundwerx’s first Employee of the Year. Gomez, a native of Jalisco, Mexico, who has worked downtown for six years, received his award March 18 after rising to the top of Groundwerx’ employee ranks through incredible work ethic, efficiency and positive attitude.

Gomez is one of Groundwerx’ “go-to” people, doing whatever is necessary, from popping gum off sidewalks to caring for plants. One of his primary responsibilities is keeping the various downtown light-rail platforms clean.

Gomez brings his personal values to his job. “I like to be a father figure; a responsible role model to my family and others,” he said.

In recognition of his achievements, he was given a standing ovation at the San Jose Downtown Association semi-monthly meeting of Business Improvement District members on April 10. The Employee of the Year receives a cash bonus and other gifts. Gomez and his wife, Adrianna,

continued on page 2

The Sparkler*

"If everyone swept in front of his house, the whole town would be clean."

Polish Proverb

Spring 2009

Groundwerx Awards (continued)

are parents to Jessica 15, Genesis, 14, and Jonathan, 11.

Three other employees, were also honored:

Ambassador of the Quarter – Patricia Byrum. Byrum, of South San Jose, was recognized for her constant smile, friendliness, approachability and for her ability to build rapport with people in need of assistance, some of whom request her specifically.

Service Awards – Bob Martins. Martins, also from South San Jose, started as an M20 operator, was promoted to equipment manager, and now serves as interim operations manager. Mike Thibodeau. Thibodeau, a Seattle native and now downtown resident, started as a pan and broom cleaner before becoming a machine operator. Currently, he is connected to pressure-washing in every way, from scheduling and planning to execution.

Homeless Census and Outreach

Groundwerx will emphasize its work with the downtown homeless population during its second year of service.

During its first year of service, ambassadors got to know and develop relationships with about 50 "regulars," most



Outreach at St. James Park.

of who utilize available community resources. Ambassadors this year are looking to connect this group with housing services that will get and keep them off the street.

Bear in mind – not all homeless want homes. During a survey of downtown homeless individuals in March, 41 of 49 knew about

nearby services and shelters available. Some reasons they don't use shelters: distrust of the services; complaints of too many rules; and because shelters cannot accommodate the individual and his or her belongings. As part of its expanding role to address downtown homeless issues, Groundwerx participated in several events, including:

- * On Jan. 27, Groundwerx took part in the 2009 Homeless Census, collecting data for a Housing

and Urban Development (HUD) grant to bring extra money into the community to assist the homeless. Full reports will be available in June from the city and Santa Clara County.

- * On Feb. 5, Groundwerx attended a collaborative meeting with Santa Clara County service providers at EHC Boccardo Reception Center. This was the first of many proposed meetings where agencies work together to address homeless issues.

Spring beautification efforts

Foxglove and Cosmos were planted to add vibrant spring color just in time for Easter weekend. These plants add a dramatic new look to the planters along South First Street.



Corner of First and San Fernando Street.

Beautification efforts even found their way to Highway 87. The PBID coordinated litter pickup and vegetation control on Highway 87 between Interstate 280 and Highway 101 took place the end of March, making the freeway entrances to downtown more inviting.



Removing weeds at Hwy 87 on ramp.

Call 287-1520 for service. Contact Eric Hon at 590-0241 or ehon@sjdowntown.com with suggestions.

Edited by Rick Jensen