

August 25, 2009

Honorable Mayor Chuck Reed

Councilmembers Pete Constant, Ash Kalra, Sam Liccardo, Kansen Chu, Nora Campos, Pierluigi Oliverio, Madison Nguyen, Rose Herrera, Judy Chirco, Nancy Pyle.

The Greenprint Sub-Committee commends staff on the completion of the Draft 2009 Greenprint Update. This high quality document will serve as an excellent reference for many years, with the inclusion of nearly 400 projects since the original Greenprint was released. This draft Greenprint Update includes the Council-adopted United Nations Urban Environmental Accords and Mayor Reed's Vision for 100 miles of Trails. Work from the Sports Fields and Aquatic Master Plans are also seamlessly integrated within this comprehensive document. As an "Update" it used the existing General Plan Level of Service policies.

The Sub-Committee thanks staff for its many hours of collaborative dialogue as the document evolved from the previous Greenprint to the current Draft Update. Because this document used the best available data, we believe it will serve as an excellent information baseline for the development of future policies within the Envision 2040 General Plan.

**The Greenprint Subcommittee submits the following for inclusion in the Executive Summary of the Final Greenprint 2009 Update. We also request that these concerns be addressed in the Envision 2040 process and other Council priority discussions.**

The Greenprint 2009 Update contains many facets that are at risk due to the economic downturn and possible growth patterns that will be determined by the Envision 2040 General Plan process. Specifically,

- The Greenprint Update and existing General Plan Level of Service depend upon public elementary schools for park space. With costs of maintenance and stretched resources, schools may choose to close access to protect their investment and to capture additional revenue. It is also important to consider the increasing numbers of conversions to Charter schools which may result in less access as Charter schools are not required to comply with prior school district public use agreements.
- The Greenprint Update is based on the 2020 General Plan, while the Envision 2040 General Plan is expected to place hubs and villages of increased density in new areas not identified in this Greenprint, which may result in additional parkland deficiency.
- The Construction and Conveyance Taxes are dependent on the real estate market, which has been profoundly reduced by the economic downturn. The current allocation formula was designed in a robust economy. In a downturn the smaller amounts allocated to each district may be too small to move projects forward or to respond to opportunities and challenges that appear. The Greenprint does not include a mechanism for review of this policy. Further, C & C dollars

are prioritized for deferred capital maintenance, limiting opportunities to reduce parkland deficits.

- In identifying the underserved areas, the size and amenities of existing parkland was not a factor. In some areas, large populations are served by very small parks or undeveloped parks. The Greenprint Update should focus on providing a balanced parks system.
- The dependence on the Park Trust Fund (PDO/PIO) for most land acquisition perpetuates the park deficit in many areas because little or no growth is expected in those areas. Affordable housing developments are exempt from PDO/PIO fees, contributing to parkland deficits.
- There are no strategies to resolve the significant current and future park acreage and facility deficits because the Greenprint Update focuses on underserved areas using a “1/3 mile” goal for access (an improvement over the prior 3/4 mile goal). Most remaining underserved areas are located in fully developed areas or near former or current county pockets. The focus on underserved areas-- which will be difficult to resolve and likely to be small acreage-- does not address the parkland and facility deficit that is throughout the City. The Envision 2040 General Plan process should look at how to address this.
- The difficult economic environment will increase the rate of deferred maintenance, leading to shorter structure life. Future site renovations will use capital improvement dollars to compensate for this operational problem. Site renovations made necessary by deferred maintenance bring the risk of costly upgrades in facilities adding to stretched operating budgets.

This Greenprint Update focuses analytical efforts to strategically address the underserved area problem. Strategies to address the enormous parkland deficiency, the absence of needed facilities, park development, and ongoing maintenance and operation remain unresolved.

Sincerely,

The Greenprint 2009 Update Subcommittee