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From: Bob Mack [mailto:BMack@CycleCalifornia.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2006 7:32 AM

To: sunshine\_reform\_task\_force@sanjoseca.gov

Subject: proposal

The best ways to increase public input and participation is to require more advanced notice for all meetings, hearings, and other similar procedures. The current rules do not give the public adequate time to review materials and attend meetings. Public hearing agendas should be announced at least seven days prior to the meeting (longer for complex issues and those with EIRs, Air Quality studies, or other complex materials are involved. These types of documents can take weeks to read and understand, even for a trained expert. the general public needs even more time.

Public comment periods for permits and other administrative procedures should be extended. Notice of permit requests (building, new business, etc.) should be sent to the entire neighborhood, not just people who live 500 or 1000 feet from a project. Most projects have an impact on much larger areas than this usually the entire zip code (if near the zip code border maybe two zip codes).

This should apply to the Council, all departments, agencies, commissions, and committees. At the time the agenda is published all background materials (reports, prior meeting or hearing minutes, staff and consultant recommendations, etc.) should be made available. These background items should be made available as soon as they are typed, or completed.

If the City truly wants public input and participation, more time needs to be given for the public to ask questions of the experts (consultants, staff, or others) who prepare reports about items the Council, all departments, agencies, commissions, and committees will be deciding or voting on.

This requires more public time at meetings, longer advance notice of meetings and meetings scheduled at times when most people are not at work (i.e. evenings and weekends). It also requires that meeting agendas are not so over loading that meetings run until late at night, when most people have to leave to go home. It may mean that two meetings are required rather than one to cover all items. It also may mean that city staff work schedules be altered so staff can attend meetings without overtime.

Thans you,

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