



Memorandum


TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo

**SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
WITH ADOBE SYSTEMS INC.**

DATE: October 20, 2017

Approved



RW

Date

10.20.17

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the recommendation outlined in the staff report dated October 13, 2017 to authorize the City Manager to execute a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Adobe Systems, Inc.

BACKGROUND

I applaud Adobe for its catalytic role in driving innovation in the Silicon Valley over the last quarter century, and greatly value its global headquarters presence in Downtown San José. Many thanks are extended to CEO Shantanu Narayen, Director of Real Estate Strategy and Planning Scott Ekman, Director of Global Workplace Solutions Jonathan Francom, Senior Counsel Global Real Estate and Finance Kenton Walker, and Vice President of Corporate Communications Holly Campbell, and all of the employees of Adobe for their strong ethos of corporate responsibility, environmental sustainability, and community engagement. I also thank them for their creative spirit and for working diligently with the City team, week after week throughout the summer months to bring this discussion to a public hearing.

This past summer, we celebrated the announcement of Adobe's bold expansion and investment plans to acquire land at 333 West San Fernando for a fourth high-rise tower to accommodate an additional 3,000 employees. Adobe continues to set a high bar for architectural design and placemaking for thousands of brilliant engineers, scientists, product teams, contract employees, customers, and visitors.

Pedestrian bridges currently connect its magnificent three-building headquarters towers at Park Avenue and Almaden Boulevard. This MOU details Adobe's interest in pursuing a pedestrian bridge suspended over San Fernando Street to link its existing campus to the proposed new expansion tower. The City looks forward to a design that will create an iconic gateway which will greet the thousands of daily commuters coming from Diridon Station into our Downtown core.

I congratulate and thank the team from the City Attorney's Office, the Office of Economic Development, and City Departments of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement and Public Works for their navigation of complex issues of state law to develop the provisions outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding.

City Council approval and direction to staff to push forward on the associated encroachment permits and easement agreements will facilitate Adobe's decision to close on the purchase of the land and begin construction. I urge my Council colleagues to move forward now, in the anticipation that the City and Adobe will negotiate binding commitments over the months ahead, prior to the issuance of entitlements and permits for the Adobe expansion and pedestrian bridge.