



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Johnny Khamis

SUBJECT: GENERAL PLAN FOUR-YEAR
REVIEW SCOPE OF WORK

DATE: June 6, 2019

Approved

Date

6/10/19

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Accept Staff Recommendations with the following addition:

Direct staff to include in the General Plan update consideration of making modifications to the urban growth boundary and General Plan text to allow the dedication of approximately 1,000 acres of public open space and construction of up to 10 miles of trails connecting four parks along the Santa Teresa Ridge.

2. Direct staff to work with the County of Santa Clara to submit an application to the State of California to seek funding for the planning and environmental review necessary to make these changes.

BACKGROUND

This General Plan amendment would facilitate the implementation of trails and parks connections and dedication of publicly accessible open space along the Santa Teresa Ridge that has been a goal since the Preservation 2020 Task Force in 1987. The vision is described in the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint, adopted in 2014:

“The Santa Teresa Foothills offer great opportunity for public access adjacent to surrounding neighborhoods, and the Open Space Authority – in partnership with the City of San José, Santa Clara County Parks Department, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and groups like the Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association – will continue to pursue opportunities for open space protection, trail connections, and public access.”
(Greenprint p.63)

This Amendment would set the stage to build up to 10 miles of trails, to connect four parks (Santa Teresa County Park, Almaden Lake Park, Foothill Park, Century Oaks Park) and to dedicate approximately 1,000 acres of land to permanent public uses.

The result will be to provide many neighborhoods in Santa Teresa and Almaden with easier and better access to neighborhood and regional parks and the City and County trails network.

“Closing gaps in trails provides safe routes between neighborhoods and parks, and is vital for public health as well as to facilitate access to nature and inspire the next generation of land stewards and environmental leaders.” (Greenprint p.88)

This trail system is likely eligible for funding under the Active Transportation Program included in Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) (Chapter 2031, statutes of 2017) and has the support of Senator Jim Beall.

The purpose of this program is to encourage an increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking, by achieving the following goals:

- Increasing the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking.
- Increasing the safety and mobility of non-motorized users.
- Advancing the active transportation efforts of regional agencies to achieve greenhouse gas reduction.
- Enhancing public health, including the reduction of childhood obesity through the use of programs including, but not limited to, projects eligible for Safe Routes to School Program funding, such as the Walk-and-Roll program.
- Ensuring that disadvantaged communities fully share in the benefits of the program.
- Providing a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of active transportation users.