



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Dev Davis

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 05/03/2021

Approved

Date 05/03/2021

RECOMMENDATION

Approve staff recommendations with the following modifications:

1. San Jose Light Tower Corporation (SJLTC) will pay for City staff time spent preparing a work plan and any future work on the project with staff providing a clear description of services rendered.
2. City Staff and SJLTC will work together to establish a pay/fee schedule to ensure that the City's budget is not encumbered or at risk by the Urban Confluence Silicon Valley project.
3. Staff will return to the City Council with ideas for how to mitigate light impacts on wildlife, airport operations, and nearby neighborhoods when the EIR comes to the City Council for certification.
4. Staff will provide updates about the progress of this project to the Neighborhood Services Committee quarterly and Parks Commission periodically.

DISCUSSION

Thank you to the San Jose Light Tower Corporation for their visionary leadership on this proposed gift of an iconic structure to the City.

Many thanks to the Community Competition Panel for all their hours spent reviewing submissions and making recommendations to the Jury. To members of the Jury, thank you for your lending your expertise to the review of the overwhelming number of submissions from 6 continents. A special thanks and congratulations to Fernando Jerez and Belén Pérez de Juan for their winning design.

Last but certainly not least, thank you to City Staff for the many hours of work to advance this project while simultaneously responding to the pandemic and advancing Downtown West.

As we emerge from the pandemic, City Staff must be focused on the recovery and the tasks we prioritized in the Recovery Roadmap. At the same time, we must acknowledge the need for long-

term economic stability of the city. While the Diridon Station area is transforming into a bustling extension of our Downtown, this new structure holds the promise of drawing new visitors into San Jose.

A project of this size will continue to require a large degree of attention in planning, environmental review, and continued public outreach. Like the Downtown West project, this project will require staff coordination across multiple city departments and will likely need a designated project manager.

The concerns from our environmental community that the potential use of lighting in the structure could have an impact on wildlife is real and should not be overlooked. Negative effects on bird and riparian life as well as negative impacts of light pollution on human health should be thoroughly studied in the Environmental Impact Report.

CONCLUSION

We must continue to encourage ideas that will bring recognition and bold landmarks to our community.

Our intent should be to make this the best project that it can be while recognizing its potential impact on wildlife, airport operations, nearby neighborhoods, and City Staff's workload. By working together, we can receive a truly wonderful gift that will live on to symbolize our willingness to shape our future.