



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Mayor Matt Mahan
Councilmember Bien Doan
Councilmember Omar Torres
Councilmember Peter Ortiz
Councilmember Dev Davis

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 12/05/2023

APPROVED

Date: 12/05/2023

**SUBJECT: SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES SOCCER COMPLEX COMMUNITY
FIELDS**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Direct the City Manager to initiate negotiations with the San Jose Earthquakes and Santa Clara County for the purpose of developing four public fields within the planned Santa Clara County Fairgrounds Soccer Complex and bring forward potential costs to the full Council before, or during the FY 2024-2025 budget process.
2. Direct the City Manager to work with Santa Clara County officials to explore CEQA streamlining for the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds Soccer Complex development as part of the negotiations.

BACKGROUND

Santa Clara County and the San José Earthquakes have been negotiating the details to develop the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds Soccer Complex for several years. Negotiations are anticipated to culminate at an upcoming Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Hearing.

This 26-acre site holds significant potential for the community, with a particular focus on enhancing access to desperately needed public soccer facilities alongside four lighted, state-of-the-art, durable, artificial turf public soccer fields and the San José Earthquakes' training facility.

If constructed expeditiously, the fields could be used during the FIFA World Cup in 2026, as Bay FC practice fields, and as a regional draw for soccer teams of all ages across Northern California.

Santa Clara County plans to contribute approximately 12 acres of land to the San José Earthquakes development of the community fields. The City of San José is requested to contribute funding towards the four, new exclusive public fields and towards ancillary infrastructure costs associated with the project.

The City of San José has the potential to significantly benefit from this collaboration by obtaining four new exclusive public fields in a low-income census tract on a portion of the underdeveloped County Fairgrounds. To support underserved community groups, 250 hours of free public field use will be preserved for public benefit.