



Memorandum

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Councilmember Jimenez

DATE: October 17, 2017

SUBJECT: Riparian Corridor and Bird-Safe Design

APPROVED

DATE

10/17/17

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend the bifurcation of the Riparian Corridor and Bird Safe Design by considering Bird Safe design under Council Priority 14 "Update Urban Design Guidelines."

BACKGROUND

As part of the Knight Foundation grant, a position will be created this fall that will develop a work plan and begin the process of updating the guidelines on Urban Design. To streamline the workload for our Planning Department, I would like to recommend including Bird-Safe Design into the guidelines on Urban Design.

San Jose has been a leader in environmental stewardship and as such has in place many practices that protect birds and wildlife species in the City, including participation in the Habitat Plan, a Riparian Corridor ordinance providing protective setbacks, and an Outdoor Lighting policy for Private Development.

In 2015, San Jose prepared voluntary Bird Safe Design Guidelines and a checklist to help protect birds from collision with glass surfaces and windows. In 2016, the City adopted citywide riparian corridor protections that include requirements for bird-safe design for buildings north of State Route 237.

Because riparian corridors and open space provide vital habitat for most bird and wildlife species in San Jose, a study of bird safe design requirements near these habitats is important. Also, synergistic effects with energy efficiency and reduction of glare are likely and worthy of consideration. Our recommendation above advises the Administration to explore the possibilities.