



Memorandum

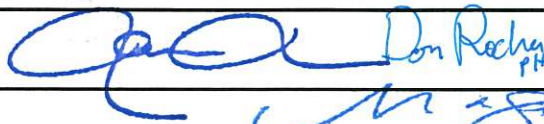
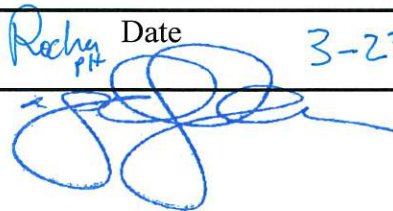
TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Vice Mayor Carrasco &
Councilmembers
Rocha & Peralez

SUBJECT: PUBLIC ART AUDIT
RECOMMENDATION

DATE: March 23, 2018

Approved

 Date  3-23-18

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the recommendation of both the Administration and the Arts Commission to close out the City Auditor's recommendation that the City Council amend the public art ordinance to eliminate the public art requirement for certain capital projects.

ANALYSIS

With this memo, we propose approving the recommendation of both the Administration and the Arts Commission to close out the audit recommendation pertaining to the public art requirement for certain capital projects. We appreciate the Auditor's perspective on this matter, but am convinced by the Administration's argument that the public art program involves a relatively small amount of money and yields a great benefit to our community.

The many public art projects completed over the last decade amply demonstrate the power of art to express the uniqueness of our community and to make our public facilities truly special places. Some might argue that while art is appropriate at libraries and parks, it's unnecessary to set aside art funding from underground utility projects that cannot be seen. We would point out that just because public infrastructure cannot be seen doesn't mean that it isn't vital to the environment and to our quality of life. It's lack of visibility in comparison to other City services only makes it more important to educate the public about it. The public art project detailed in the Administration's report, including projects at the Discovery Museum, Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge, and other public facilities, show the ways in which art can help explain our water quality infrastructure and raise awareness about important environmental issues.

It goes without saying that the Council is committed to ensuring that the Sewer Service Charge and other fees assessed on residents are spent responsibly and remain at reasonable levels. As the Council sets fee levels over the coming years it will need to continuously evaluate the capital program to ensure that money is being spent wisely. We believe that ongoing oversight is sufficient to ensure that the public's interests are protected, and that we don't need to begin from an assumption that the public art program should be eliminated. Thus, we proposed approval of the Administration's recommendation.