



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Sergio Jimenez

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT

DATE: February 12, 2019

Approved

Date

2/12/19

Subject: Status Report on Measure T - Disaster Preparedness, Public Safety and Infrastructure Bond.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Accept the status report on Measure T and agendize the following recommendations for the City Council meeting on February 26, 2019;

LED LIGHTING

1. Direct staff to prioritize replacement of LED lights in City Parks as part of the Light replacement work for City Facilities;

COYOTE VALLEY

2. Allocate \$50 million for land acquisition in North Coyote Valley for purposes of environmental protection.
3. Direct staff to work with Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), who will purchase key properties, to develop a binding legal agreement or equivalent instrument to secure the City's interest in the expenditure of the Measure T funds.

BACKGROUND

LED LIGHTING

Upgrading lights in our City is essential to energy efficiency and cost savings. San Jose has over 200 parks, of these parks only 28 have been retrofitted with LED lights and 10 have controls that allow for programming, this is not nearly enough. Voter approved Measure T allocates funds for LED streetlights and lighting at outdoor City owned facilities. It is common knowledge that LED lights are better for the environment because they use less energy, are made from less dangerous

materials and last significantly longer than other lights on the market. The City has been attempting to make the switch to full LED lights for many years. Now that we have the funds available, I suggest we prioritize lighting in our City parks.

Our parks are arguably our most utilized City resource. Parks are a place where residents meet as equals, irrespective of their status in society. Parks are places for recreational activities and community gatherings. Parks are places where nature and wildlife coexist within urban settings. Our parks are essential to our communities and should be considered first when upgrade opportunities are available.

Although parks are closed at sunset, most parks within our communities are often used by residents to take leisurely walks with their families or other recreational uses, irrespective of the time of day. Poorly lit parks are a haven for criminal activity and do not allow residents to see and report criminal activity. As we transition from sodium lights to LED lights we must take every effort to diminish biological disruption by considering light intensity and temperature when choosing lighting options.

COYOTE VALLEY

On many occasions I have made it clear that industrial development in the green open space of North Coyote Valley is something that I cannot support. Development in this nature rich area would be detrimental to the environment and the cost of urban sprawl exorbitant and unsustainable. Building in Coyote Valley goes against the goal of increasing density in the urban core. Voter approved Measure T states that bond funds will be used to “[p]revent flooding and water quality contamination”. The best way to accomplish this goal is to allocate \$50 million for environmental protection of lands in Coyote Valley.

Measure T has provided our City a unique opportunity to acquire land and preserve it into perpetuity for flood prevention, water quality, wildlife connectivity, agriculture, recreation and more. Organizations like the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and the Open Space Authority (OSA) are ready and willing to support the City in efforts to preserve North Coyote Valley. The time to act is now.

POST is poised, in partnership with the City, to purchase properties and provide assurances to the City such as conservation easement or other agreements that will protect land parcels and relieve the City from liabilities of ownership and the expense of management and infrastructure investment. In addition to the City’s funds from Measure T, these same conservation organizations have pledged over \$80,000,000 to leverage the City’s investment for additional land purchases through funding from more than a dozen private, local and state public agencies. Conservation groups are willing to provide funds for ongoing management, public access improvements, restoration, floodplain management, and wildlife infrastructure, which, when combined with funding for the pledged acquisition campaign, is estimated at roughly \$200,000,000. This is a unique opportunity that we must take.

We now have the financial resources of a voter approved measure, full support from organizations to take on additional cost and long term management and unified community support for the preservation of Coyote of Valley. I urge my colleagues to confirm by vote to allocate the full \$50 million from Measure T and allow our partners at POST and OSA to move forward now with timely purchase and preservation of key properties North Coyote Valley.