



March 11, 2019

Mayor Liccardo and City Councilmembers
City of San Jose

Re: March 12 Agenda Item 5.2: Please do not give Arena Green away

Honorable Mayor Liccardo and San Jose City Council members,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, the California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter, the Committee for Green Foothills and Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful are local organizations that protect and promote open space, parks, riparian corridors and the species that live in these important landscapes. Together, we have engaged in support of good planning in the City of San Jose (Measures C, T) and in opposition of bad planning (Measure B). We now write to ask council to reject the development of a monumental structure in Arena Green, and to ask the Light Tower Corporation (LTC) to look for an alternative location for their project.

Arena Green is an extremely sensitive habitat at the confluence of two major riparian waterways, the Guadalupe River and the Los Gatos Creek. The two streams provide habitat and critical riparian corridors for endangered steelhead anadromous fish and other wildlife negotiating through an urban center. The rivers also create a migratory birds flyway. **Arena Green is the biological gateway to the Guadalupe and Los Gatos watersheds** - It provides birds, fish and other animals the means for dispersal on the valley floor, and into the foothills and the Santa Cruz mountains.

In a site as important as this, space around the creek is the most critical element. Without a significant buffer between human activities and the creek, the corridor will cease to function as a pathway for animal movement and migratory birds, and will become a hazard instead.

San Jose is already lacking sufficient park space for its residents. With projected increases in our population, committing park space for a structure of unknown size doesn't make sense. Building on Arena Green decreases the availability of public open space. A different site should be selected.

We are troubled that the site selection study conducted by Steinberg Hart on behalf of LTC concluded that there would be no un-mitigable impacts to the environment at this site. Given that there was no analysis of the harm the proposed development could impose to Arena Green, such a conclusion is baseless. It seems that this study focused on the potential impacts that the environment could have on the development of the project—the exact opposite of what environmental analysis should be. This is critical flaw in the initial site selection study. **The San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission also found the site selection study to be flawed, and declined to recommend Arena Green.**

The selection of Arena Green exacerbates the complications of the LTC development proposal. The structure's form is to be determined by a design competition—one where the winning project is not selected by the public but instead by jurors selected by LTC. The name "Light Tower Corporation" and the light-themed branding of their website will surely invite night-lighted structures. In both public and private meetings, LTC has not backed off of the possibility that this structure will be illuminated at night. Artificial light at night has been scientifically proven to be extremely harmful when placed in riparian habitats. It can also affect the movement of the salmon that travel through the waterways of Arena Green. These impacts will only further complicate the political and design process of the proposed development. It is in the interest of both LTC and the citizens of San Jose that this development be constructed in an area where it does not pose such a serious risk of causing ecological damage and conflicts.

Public art is often fraught with controversy, and a development as complicated as this must start off on a solid foundation. The selection of Arena Green puts this project on very shaky grounds. The trajectory is a situation where conflicts cloud the possibility of a successful iconic project for San Jose. We ask you to direct LTC to consider an alternative location, a location that garners the support of the entire community.

Respectfully,

Katja Irvin
Co-Chair, Conservation Committee
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Shani Kleinhaus
Environmental Advocate
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Linda Ruthruff,
Conservation Chair
California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Deb Kramer,
Executive Director
Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

Julie Hutcheson,
Director of Impact
Committee for Green Foothills



March 8, 2019

San Jose City Council
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: San Jose Light Tower

Dear San Jose City Council Members:

I am writing to you to express my support and approval of the Arena Green site, so the Ideas Competition can move forward. I have spoken to the leaders of the Iconic Structure team (SJLTC), and I know that their intentions, integrity, and drive will help bring a much-needed Landmark project to our City. I also know the public will be kept informed along the way. They have my support.

As a lifelong Bay Area resident and San Jose-based employer of more than 3,200 people, I am in full support of providing San Jose with a landmark that residents and visitors will enjoy for years to come.

If you have any questions about my position or thoughts on the matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly: 408-808-8000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tom Schott'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'T' and 'S'.

Tom Schott
President & CEO
Cupertino Electric, Inc.

Item 5.2 letters from the public

From: Bill Rankin < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 11:41 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; ; Jimenez, Sergio; Peralez, Raul; Diep, Lan; Carrasco, Magdalena; Davis, Dev; Esparza, Maya; Arenas, Sylvia; Foley, Pam; Khamis, Johnny; City Clerk; Sykes, Dave; Rios, Angel;

Subject: Arena Green should not be used for unidentified art piece

Dear Mayor Liccardo and San Jose City Council,

I am very appreciative of The Light Tower group wanting to donate an iconic art piece to the city. It is very generous. However, until the scope of the project is defined I am strongly against the city agreeing to hand over the land at Arena Green for this project.

Arena Green is a very environmentally sensitive area, right where The Los Gatos Creek meets the Guadalupe. Without knowing the size and scope of the art piece and without knowing what the environmental impacts will be to this riparian area I hope the city will not hand over that land for that purpose, at least until the project has a clear design that would not affect the natural environment there.

Arena Green as it is is already a gem for the city and has been used for open space and a meeting place for many people over the years. But until the scope of the project is defined I strongly urge the city to not hand over this land at this time.

Thank you,

Bill Rankin

From: Patrick Pizzo <[u](#)>

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 11:26 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo;; Jimenez, Sergio; Peralez, Raul; Diep, Lan; Carrasco, Magdalena; Davis, Dev; Esparza, Maya; Arenas, Sylvia; Foley, Pam; Khamis, Johnny; City Clerk; Sykes, Dave; Rios, Angel;

Subject: Arena Green Park art project--NOT Till We See Your Specific Plan

Arena Green Park is the Right Place for Something

Arena Green is located at the confluence of the Los Gatos and Guadalupe Rivers. Much of the ambiance in our City is associated with the natural beauty and wildlife habitat afforded by our riparian corridors. The Trail System, designed and coordinated by Yves Zsutty and his team, integrates this resource. Whatever we do in the area of Arena Green must respect and reflect natural beauty and our overall Green Print plan.

The Arena Green is also a hub of activity for our City, especially considering events at the SAP Center. AG is a point of focus of our Downtown.

It is unfortunate that the group formed is called the San Jose Light Tower Corporation. A tall, light-based architectural feature is the last thing to consider in terms of respect for wildlife and a safe approach to Mineta International Airport. Secondly, are we not being asked to place the cart before the horse? What is it you do plan to do at AG? We need to see a concept drawing. Give us a sense of dimension and footprint. Are you building this for your own ego; or are you doing something that San Jose residents will look forward to and support? This is our town, our government: if you have an idea, let's hear it. We will let you know if we are okay to divert our civil force and general funds to support the effort. Develop and show us your plan first!

Respectfully,

Patrick P. Pizzo, District 10
1555 Oak Canyon Drive
San Jose, CA. 95120

From: Melvyn Matsushima < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 11:17 AM

To: City Clerk

Subject: Landmark Light Tower

I fully support the approval of the Arena Green Site so the Ideas Competition can move forward. I know and have spoken to the leaders of the Iconic Structure team and I personally know their integrity, intentions, and work ethic will help bring a much needed Landmark Project to the City of San Jose much like the Rotary Playground has become a great focal point for San Jose.

They will adhere to the principals of quality and in accordance with all setbacks and environmental best practices. The current condition of the Arena Green is truly unacceptable to people and wild life.

Your support for the citizens of San Jose is appreciated!

Melvyn Y Matsushima DDS

Sent from my iPad

From: Phil Varni < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 10:47 AM

To: City Clerk

Cc: Liccardo, Sam; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10

Subject: I support approval of the Arena Green site

I support **approval** of the Arena Green site, so the Ideas Competition can move forward. I have spoken to the leaders of the Iconic Structure team (SJLTC), and I know their intentions, integrity, and drive will help bring a much-needed Landmark project to our City. I also know the public will be kept informed along the way. They have my support in locale choice and my support financially.

As a 40 + year longtime resident of San Jose AND YOUR constituent as well as a person involved in San Jose's civic affairs for my entire working life, I firmly believe an iconic structure giving San Jose a greater identity is a very important aspect of the city's growth. San Jose has failed in this respect on a national scale unlike any other city of such stature and size. Let's not make yet another mistake in keeping San Jose from reaching its potential. Remember not allowing Macy's to come downtown, not allowing BART in its beginning to connect to San Jose, and almost not allowing the arena to come downtown and don't forget failure to lure the Giants or A's effort to be a San Jose institution. Let's shed the small town mentality and grasp the ring. Don't be a naysayer! Vote to approve!

Sincerely,

Phil

Phil Varni

Director of Operations
Stoer Construction, Inc.



O- | M- | F-

[San Jose, California 95125](#)

www.stoercon.com

From: Tom Bondi < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 10:26 AM

To: City Clerk

Cc: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; Jones, Chappie; Jimenez, Sergio; Peralez, Raul; Diep, Lan; Carrasco, Magdalena; Davis, Dev; Esparza, Maya; Arenas, Sylvia; Foley, Pam; Khamis, Johnny

Subject: Support of the Iconic Structure for the Arena Green Site - Please support

Attn: Toni Taber, SJ City Clerk

CC: Mayor Sam Liccardo

- Vice Mayor Charles "Chappie" Jones, District 1
- Sergio Jimenez, District 2
- Raul Peralez, District 3
- Lan Diep, District 4
- Magdalena Carrasco, District 5
- Devora "Dev" Davis, District 6
- Maya Esparza, District 7
- Sylvia Arenas, District 8
- Pam Foley, District 9
- Johnny Khamis, District 10

I support **approval** of the Arena Green site, so the Ideas Competition can move forward. I have spoken to the leaders of the Iconic Structure team (SJLTC), and I know their intentions, integrity, and drive will help bring a much-needed Landmark project to our City. I am a donor to this project and will continue to be a donor of this very significant project for our City core. I also know the public will be kept informed along the way. They have my support. I AM a life-long resident of downtown San Jose work in downtown San Jose.

Tom

Thomas C Bondi, CPA

Partner, Tax

tom.bondi@armaninolp.com

Armanino^{LLP}

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| San Jose, CA 95113

ect | 408 200 6400 main | 408 494 1256 fax

Skype: [tcbond](#)

[LinkedIn](#) | armaninoLLP.com

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From: Norma Alegria < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 9:32 AM

To: City Clerk

Cc: Liccardo, Sam; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10

Subject: March 12 City Council Agenda Item 5.2

Good morning,

I support **approval** of the Arena Green site, so the Ideas Competition can move forward. I have spoken to the leaders of the Iconic Structure team (SJLTC), and I know their intentions, integrity, and drive will help bring a much-needed Landmark project to our City. I also know the public will be kept informed along the way. They have my support.

I was born and raised in San Jose and now that I have a child on my own, it is very important that San Jose continue to make progress that illustrates the importance of this city. The location is perfect and since so many people not only visit San Jose but also the attention and recognition it will receive as Sharks/event fans go to SAP Center.

Coyote creek has been gaining a bad reputation in recent years and I think this will help the perception of that area and hopefully will also help clean up the area, as more and more tourists will visit this new landmark.

I do not think that I have seen anything come close to this project in recent years and San Jose needs it!!

Thank you,

Norma Alegria

From: John Kennett < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 8:50 AM

To: City Clerk

Cc: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; Perez, Raul; Davis, Dev; Esparza, Maya; Foley, Pam; Khamis, Johnny

Subject: Arena Green Approval needed for landmark structure

I support **approval** of the Arena Green site, so the Ideas Competition can move forward. As part of the Advisory Board, I am confident that the public will be kept informed about this Landmark project and that their concerns will be addressed as the process moves forward. The City of San Jose has benefited from many public-private partnerships and I urge the Council to allow this proposed project to take the next step.

John Kennett

Date March 11, 2019

Memo to Mayor Sam Liccardo
City Council Members
Charles Chappie Jones, District 1
Sergio Jiminez, District 2
Raul Peralez, District 3
Lan Diep, District 4
Magdalena Carrasco, District 5
Dev Davis, District 6
Maya Esparza, District 7
Sylvia Arenas, District 8
Pam Foley, District 9
Johnny Khamis, District 10
City Clerk

Memo from Julie Riera Matsushima
130 E San Fernando St #318
San Jose, CA 95112

Subject SUPPORT ARENA GREEN LOCATION
AGENDA ITEM 5.2

I support APPROVAL of the Arena Green site as the location of the Light Tower Landmark project which will be one of the largest gifts provided to our City in its history.

The SJLT is early in the process, however, I am confident they will, along with City Staff, be sure all setbacks and environmental considerations will be followed.



Patrick Samuel

California Trout

360 Pine Street, 4th Floor

San Francisco, CA 94104

psamuel@caltrout.org

March 11, 2019

City Clerk and Council Members of San Jose

City Council Office

200 E. Santa Clara St.

San José, CA 95113

RE: Support for City Council Agenda Item 5.2 to Adopt Guadalupe River Park at Arena Green

Dear City of San Jose Council Members:

California Trout is writing to support the adoption of Guadalupe River Park at Arena Green as the preferred site for an iconic monument for the City of San Jose.

California Trout is statewide conservation organization that has been headquartered in the Bay Area since its founding in 1971. We solve complex resource issues by balancing the needs of wild fish and people. As California Trout's Bay Area Program Manager, I am tasked with carrying out recovery actions to de-list threatened Central California Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) from the Endangered Species List here in the Bay Area. Steelhead once inhabited Guadalupe River watershed in significant numbers

prior to the construction of dams, levees, canals, and other development in the watershed, and the Guadalupe was identified as an anchor watershed necessary for their recovery by the Center for Ecological Restoration and Management in 2007: <http://www.cemar.org/SFEWE/Full%20report.pdf>.

Despite significant urbanization and development and downward statewide trends (www.caltrout.org/sos/), some steelhead still call the Guadalupe River home and make their way through the Arena Green Reach every year. Due to its size and relatively intact spawning tributaries, resource agencies have identified the Guadalupe River watershed a high priority for steelhead restoration. As such, we are interested in seeing it managed in a way that allows recovery of this iconic species that is an indicator of watershed health upon which we all depend.

We see this project as an opportunity to generate significant public interest, education, and restoration of a site that is important to native fishes that is contingent upon it being sited at Arena Green. The existing design and land-use of the Arena Green site offers very little suitable habitat for native fishes and it is in desperate need of improvement. The Arena Green reach lies at the confluence of Los Gatos Creek and the mainstem Guadalupe River, a strategic site which is a known spawning area and staging area for migrating fish moving upstream. We believe the site could be meaningfully improved with site designs that incorporate larger riparian habitat buffers, large woody debris cover, and impervious surfaces, as well as viewing areas for the fish as an important public awareness and education component of the project.

I have personally met with members of the San Jose Light Tower Corporation and am confident in the group's integrity and commitment to an inclusive process to ensure their project does not negatively impact fish or wildlife. I look forward to turning an existing eyesore of homeless camps and extremely poor fish habitat currently at the site into a project that could improve the local environment for fish, wildlife, and people.

We respectfully request your approval of the Arena Green site for the proposed landmark project. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Patrick Samuel

/s/ Patrick Samuel

Bay Area Program Manager

California Trout

Cc: Mayor Sam Liccardo:

Vice Mayor Charles "Chappie" Jones, District 1:

Sergio Jimenez, District 2:

Raul Perez, District 3:

Lan Diep, District 4:

Magdalena Carrasco, District 5:

Devora "Dev" Davis, District 6:

Maya Esparza, District 7:

Sylvia Arenas, District 8:

Pam Foley, District 9

Johnny Khamis, District 10:

From: Willa Caughey < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 12:26 AM

To: City Clerk

Subject: March 12 Council Meeting - San Jose Light Tower Project

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I strongly oppose taking Arena Green's park land, an environmentally sensitive area, for the San Jose Light Tower project. I suggest looking into other sites for this project, and further investing in the restoration of urban parklands for the benefit of city residents.

I heard about this from Sierra Club and support their stance on the issue.

Respectfully,

Willa Caughey

Woodside, CA

From: E. L. Moreno <>
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 10:52 PM
To: City Clerk
Cc: Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
Subject: Mar 12 Council Meeting - San Jose Light Tower Project

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Council members,

I strongly oppose taking Arena Green's park land, an environmentally sensitive area, for the San Jose Light Tower project.

I understand from Sierra Club that the land is being handed over to create what is billed as "an artistic and iconic landmark that builds civic pride within San Jose," but we don't even know what it will be. Further SJLT's consultant stated that, of several sites considered, the parcel chosen is the most environmentally sensitive. Why not put this "icon" at San Jose International Airport or at the future transit center at the Diridon Train Station where large numbers of people, including visitors, would see it? Certainly that would be a better option than to put additional pressure on an area known as a critical riparian corridor and habitat for endangered steelhead anadromous fish, migratory birds, and other wildlife. The area chosen is already heavily impacted by downtown urbanization. Shouldn't we avoid adding to that?

Finally, I am astounded to learn that this project is estimated to cost more than one hundred million dollars. I find that price tag unacceptable. It is impractical to spend that amount of money on an embellishment when the money could meet so many other real needs.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth L. Moreno
1113 Roewill Drive
San Jose', CA

From: Michelle Dumont < >

Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 10:27 PM

To: City Clerk

Cc: Liccardo, Sam; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10

Subject: I support SJLTC and the Arena Green Site for the Iconic Landmark Structure

Dear San Jose Leaders,

I support **approval** of the Arena Green site, so the Ideas Competition can move forward. I have spoken to the leaders of the Iconic Structure team (SJLTC), and I know their intentions, integrity, and drive will help bring a much-needed Landmark project to our City. I also know the public will be kept informed along the way. They have my support.

Sincerely,

Michelle Dumont

From: Deborah St. Julien < >

Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 9:37 PM

To: City Clerk

Subject: Mar 12 Council Meeting - San Jose Light Tower Project.

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I strongly oppose taking Arena Green's park land, an environmentally sensitive area, for the San Jose Light Tower project. I heard about this from Sierra Club.

Respectfully,

Deborah St. Julien

4570 Kingspark Dr

San Jose, CA 95136

PS: I understand at the San Jose Light Tower Corporation's only public meeting, February 21, The Corporation's own environmental consultant said that Arena Green is the most environmentally sensitive area that they considered, AND their "environmental impact report" only considered the effect of the environment on the project, not the effect of the project on the environment! This is irresponsible!

In addition, the SJLTC's leaders expect the project to cost more than one hundred million dollars. Do something else with this money!!!! Instead of taking park land from the citizens they should spend that money to create desperately needed park land, and buy land in Coyote Valley to help protect our water supply and reduce risk of flooding!

From: Courtney McNaught < >

Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 9:37 PM

To: City Clerk

Subject: Mar 12 Council Meeting - San Jose Light Tower Project.

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I strongly oppose taking Arena Green's park land, an environmentally sensitive area, for the San Jose Light Tower project. I heard about this from Sierra Club.

Respectfully,

Courtney McNaught

Sent from my iPhone

Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 6:08 PM

To: City Clerk

Subject: Mar 12 Council Meeting - San Jose Light Tower Project

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I strongly oppose taking Arena Green's park land, an environmentally sensitive area, for the San Jose Light Tower project. I heard about this from Sierra Club.

Thank you,

Teri Xirakis
San Carlos, California

From: Jacqueline Smith <>
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 5:04 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Approval of the Arena Green Site

We support APPROVAL of the Arena Green site.

We have supported this Landmark project from its inception.

The Iconic Structure is a superb gift to our city.

The existing condition of the park is deplorable and unacceptable to people and wildlife and should be cleaned up.

One vote...TWO gifts!

Please vote to APPROVE the Arena Green site!

Sincerely,

Pieter and Jacqui Smith

JEFFREY B. HARE
Attorney at Law

A Professional Corporation

[REDACTED]

San Jose California 95126

Tel: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

March 10, 2019

Via e-mail:

City.Clerk@sanjoseca.gov

Mayor and City Council

City of San Jose

Re: San Jose Light Tower Corporation Site Selection

SUPPORT for Agenda Item 5.2 March 12, 2019

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council

I am writing in SUPPORT of the proposal to select Guadalupe River Park at Arena Green as the site location, and endorse SJLTC's plan to proceed with an International Ideas Competition to solicit concepts for this exciting concept.

In its day, the original Light Tower undoubtedly solicited a range of opinions from enthusiastic support to healthy skepticism, and at about that time, citizens were probably as divided about new forms of illumination as they are today. The big difference is that today, we have so many more options and opportunities, which is what the International Ideas Competition is all about.

To be honest, one of the biggest threats to our riparian habitat is neglect, as our citizens avoid these areas due to the unpleasant and unhealthy conditions resulting from human detritus, not a potential excess of illumination. It may turn out that an innovative attraction such as the proposed landmark would help shed some healthy light on this underutilized and sorely neglected part of our urban core.

Please vote to SUPPORT this proposal.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "JB Hare". The letters are stylized and cursive.

Jeffrey B. Hare

Downtown San Jose Resident for 32 years

From: Randy Zechman < >

Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 4:58 PM

To: City Clerk;

Cc: Liccardo, Sam; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10

Subject: Letter of Approval for Arena Green SJLTC project

City Leaders

I support approval of the Arena Green site for which the SJLTC team has been working on for some time. The Ideas Competition needs to move forward for so many reasons. As many of you know, I have been working to help improve our cities image for many years- starting with the largest visitor information publication that I founded almost 20 years ago- the What 2 Do Guide. From their I help found the Downtown Retail advocates to speak up for the rights of small businesses in San Jose. We met regularly with then mayor Chuck Reed and many of the city council (cortese, chavez etc.). I passionately believe the city will become vitally more energized around a project like this that will bring national attention and help continue to grow one of the greatest cities in the world. San Jose has always been missing that picture post card visual that changes it's attitude and swagger towards the outside world. This is one of those opportunities.

We are fortunate to have leaders like Steve and Jon that care so passionately about our town in the most unselfish of ways. I know and respect them dearly.

You should know I am writing this from Suzhou China. My family and I have decided to take a 5 month long around world travel that we have been planning for more than a decade. I see every day how so many cities in China are seizing opportunities like this to create grand structures and change their world standing. I believe and support this project so passionately- I refocusing my attentions to make sure our city council, mayor and their teams understand how important I think this is. I will be volunteering for many activities with this organization upon my return this summer. They have my support.

Carpe Diem

Randy Zechman—

CEO/Founder Clean Solar & Clean Roofing

San Jose Rotarian

ALF Fellow

President of Bay Area Chapter Calssa

... and not a bad golfer too

City Leaders

I support **approval** of the Arena Green site for which the SJLTC team has been working on for some time. The Ideas Competition needs to move forward for so many reasons. As many of you know, I have been working to help improve our cities image for many years- starting with the largest visitor information publication that I founded almost 20 years ago- the What 2 Do Guide. From there I help found the Downtown Retail advocates to speak up for the rights of small businesses in San Jose. We met regularly with then mayor Chuck Reed and many of the city council (cortese, chavez etc.). I passionately believe the city will become vitally more energized around a project like this that will bring national attention and help continue to grow one of the greatest cities in the world. San Jose has always been missing that picture post card visual that changes it's attitude and swagger towards the outside world. This is one of those opportunities.

I personally know and have spoken to the leaders of SJLTC, and I know their intentions, integrity, and drive will help bring a much-needed Landmark project to our City.

You should know I am writing this from Suzhou China. My family and I have decided to take a 5 month long around world travel that we have been planning for more than a decade. I see every day how so many cities in China are seizing opportunities like this to create grand structures and change their world standing. I believe and support this project so passionately- I refocusing my attentions to make sure our city council, mayor and their teams understand how important I think this is. I will be volunteering for many activities with this organization upon my return this summer. They have my support.

Carpe Diem

Randy Zechman—

CEO/Founder Clean Solar & Clean Roofing

San Jose Rotarian

ALF Fellow

... and not a bad golfer too

From: Denise Columbia <>
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 2:27 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Mar 12 Council Meeting - San Jose Light Tower Project

Dear Mayor and City Council –

I strongly oppose taking Arena Green's park land, an environmentally sensitive area, for the San Jose Light Tower project. I heard about this from Sierra Club. In fact, considering the large population and lack of areas for the disenfranchised to actually enjoy a sunny afternoon, I'm shocked that you even consider such a proposal. I worked for many years at Deloitte on Santa Clara Street. I know first-hand that those parks serve young families, the elderly, and a very wide variety of local employees who walk those patches of grass as sometimes the only chance to SEE sunshine and grass for the bulk of their week. In fact, there were many occasions when going there for a stress-relieving stroll saved my sanity. PLEASE reconsider; those parks are more important than you know.

Best regards,
Denise Columbia
San Jose Resident & Long Term Downtown Employee

Denise J. Columbia



| San Jose, California 95110
Direct: | Cell: | Fax:

From: Laura Lewis <lalewis1234@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 12:42 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Mar 12 Council Meeting - San Jose Light Tower Project

Dear Mayor and City Council,
I strongly oppose taking Arena Green's park land, an environmentally sensitive area, for the San Jose Light Tower project. I heard about this from Sierra Club.
Respectfully,
Laura Lewis, Saratoga

From: Aireen Agbayani < >
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 12:18 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: San Jose Light Tower Project

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I strongly oppose taking Arena Green's park land, an environmentally sensitive area, for the San Jose Light Tower project. I heard about this from Sierra Club.

Respectfully,
Aireen Agbayani, CPA/CFF
Los Gatos, CA

From: Lee Kopp < >

Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 12:32 PM

To: City Clerk; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

Cc: Liccardo, Sam; District2; District1; District4; District3; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10; Steve Borkenhagen

Subject: I am supporting the San Jose Light Tower Corporation, and ask you to do so as well. Agenda Item 5.2

March 10, 2019

Concerning Agenda Item 5.2

Tuesday, March 12 San Jose City Council Meeting

To San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and the City Council

I was heartened to see the full page article in the local section of the Mercury News this morning (Sunday, March 10) with an interview with Jon Ball, Founding Director and Chairman of San Jose Light Tower Corporation (SJLTC).

I have been following this project for well over a year with great interest. I attended the fundraiser at Steve Borkenhagen's Cafe Stritch in August of 2017. My wife and I supported the effort with a donation. We both attended the presentation of design concepts by the engineering class of ETH Zurich at the Capital Club. Just last month we attended the premiere of Tom Wohlmut's inspiring documentary "The Light Between Two Towers" detailing the relationship between our own electric Light Tower and the Eiffel Tower in Paris. We would be in attendance tonight (March 12) were it not for a mandatory non-profit Board Meeting and a vote on an important issue.

I love the idea of an iconic structure that will represent San Jose to the world as a center of innovation. We are home to many great high tech companies, but we have nothing that in a single image says to the world, "this is San Jose." That the SJLTC is working to provide such an image as a GIFT to our great city makes my heart sing.

I also think that the Guadalupe River Park at Arena Green could be a suitable location for such a structure. (We certainly need something to improve that area.)

As a life-long resident of San Jose (born and raised in downtown) and as a lover of the arts and an employee of numerous San Jose non-profits for over 35 years, I urge you to vote to approve this Landmark project tonight. With your support and the energy and brilliant forward-thinking of the members of SJLTC, I have no doubt that this will bring a “new light” to our city and our community spirit.

Thank you for listening.

Lee Kopp

Director of ArtSPARK,

youth outreach project

From: Steven White < >
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 9:54 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Mar 12 Council Meeting- San Jose Light Tower Project

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I strongly oppose the placement of a Light Tower within the Arena Green park space. The riparian corridors of the Guadalupe river and Los Gatos Creeks (both situated in the Arena Green Park) are already heavily impacted by urban center encroachment and light pollution. As a professor of Biology at San Jose State University, I am shocked (if not actually angered) that you have made no effort to contact our faculty for consultation regarding the biological impacts of night time illumination on the living organisms (fish, frogs, salamanders, birds, crayfish, aquatic insects etc) that are a critical part of and help support the fragile riparian habitat. Placement of a Light Tower in the Arena Green park space is ill-conceived.

There may be a variety of other more favorable locations for the Light Tower. Perhaps somewhere within the Train/Transit area? Somewhere within the SJ International Airport complex? There may be a number of more suitable locations, but the Arena Green park space is definitely NOT one of them. I strongly urge you to reject the Arena Green park as a placement location for this Light Tower. Sincerely and respectfully,

Dr. Steven White

Dept. of Biological Sciences

San Jose State University



Shasta/Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 28634 • San José, CA 95159 • info@shpna.org • www.shpna.org

March 12, 2019

Mayor Liccardo and Members of City Council

City of San Jose

200 East Santa Clara St

San Jose, CA 95113

[Sent via email]

Re: March 12, 2019 Council Agenda Item 5.2: Actions Related to the San Jose Light Tower Monument

Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and Honored Members of City Council,

On behalf of the Shasta / Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Light Tower Monument site.

The Shasta / Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association represents 4,500 households in neighborhoods immediately West of Diridon Station, an area of the City that is severely underserved in parks. As additional residents move into the area, the residents-to-parks ratio will continue to worsen. Sadly, this widening disconnect is not unique to our neighborhood parks, and it has been exacerbated by previous Council policies, including, but not limited to, the inclusion of school lands in parkland calculations.

We are therefore concerned by the proposed use of the Arena Green for the San Jose Light Tower Monument. The taking of existing parklands for such a project at this time seems short-sighted, while also ignoring multiple concerns and inconsistencies in the selection process. The City is in the midst of negotiations for a once-in-a-generation comprehensive mixed-use development barely a block away, which would benefit from an iconic structure such as the proposed Light Tower. Any project of this scale must be considered carefully; moving forward with the Arena Green site because it is ready and waiting, instead of incorporating such a structure into a project that, by its very nature, is destined to be an iconic destination for San Jose, Northern California, and much of the Western United States, is ill-advised.

At yesterday's Station Area Advisory Group (SAAG) meeting, the intricate process of the Diridon Integrated Station Concept (DISC) was discussed at length. Multiple members of the Group emphasized that expedience on the part of a single transit entity cannot be allowed to compromise the overall station concept. Moving forward with the Light Tower in its current proposed location is similarly penny wise and pound foolish, putting project schedule above coherent, thoughtful design. The SAAG has been tasked with publicly discussing the Community Benefits of any development proposal Google puts forward. As the Neighborhood Association's representative on the SAAG, a member of the SAAG Land Use and Urban Design Solution Group, and a member of the SAAG Parks, Public Spaces, Neighborhood Quality of Life, and Sustainability Solution Group, I can attest to the fact that quality of life through coherent open public spaces was emphasized throughout the SAAG process. The Light Tower proposal could be an integral part of this process; instead, what you have before you is a proposal that, in many ways, is in direct contradiction to the findings and stated goals of the SAAG. To call this a missed opportunity would be an understatement of generational proportions.

We therefore ask that the Council reject the site analysis. The City would be better served by asking the project proponents to work with Google as part of the proposed Diridon Station Area development. Google is endeavoring to be a strong, dynamic partner with the City. What better way to emphasize the placemaking of Google's development, and Diridon Station as the envisioned "Grand Central Station of the West", than to have an iconic structure be part of the public open space one sees upon arriving at Diridon Station? Placing it at the Arena Green, in proximity to the riparian corridor, would seem to marginalize the siting, while potentially harming the existing parklands, for the sake of expedience. Given the likely construction staging for BART Phase II and other pending projects, a Light Tower project completed on the Arena Green would be completed just in time to be surrounded by construction impacts. Why not take the time to incorporate the Tower into San Jose's single largest redevelopment project, by making it a signature element of the Diridon Station revival?

We take pride in our neighborhood; S/HPNA Board members and volunteers have been diligent advocates and volunteers in our parks for many years and will continue to do so. Therefore, we ask you to match this dedication. Our community can only benefit from your support today. We look forward to being a part of the process to address quality urban planning, public safety, and truly livable amenities for our diverse community.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward Saum
Vice President
Director, Planning & Land Use
Shasta / Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association



March 11, 2019

Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and Members of the
City Council City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara Street,
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Arena Green Light Tower

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I want to express my support for the location at the Arena Green and future installation of a world-class one-of-a kind piece of artwork that is being contemplated by the San Jose Light Tower Corporation ala Steve Borkenhagen, Jon Ball, and John and Christine Davis.

This is the exact type of BIG thinking that San Jose needs to show the world that we are truly the Capital of Silicon Valley and this will help take our city to the next level particularly given all the great things that are happening or about to happen.

On top of this the Corporation is soliciting artists from around the world to enter in a design competition. This is a brilliant way to go about developing something completely iconic and fantastic for our city.

I highly encourage you all to make this happen by approving the location at Tuesday's council meeting as it is the right thing for our great city without a doubt.

Sincerely,


James A. Salata

From: Art Williams < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 8:10 PM

To: City Clerk

Cc: Liccardo, Sam; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10

Subject: Support for March 12 City Council Agenda Item 5.2

To whom this may concern,

I support approval of the Arena Green site for the location of the proposed Landmark project, so that the "Ideas Competition" can move forward. I have spoken to the leaders of the Iconic Structure team (SJLTC), and I know their intentions, their integrity, and their drive will help bring a much needed Landmark project to our City. I also know the public will be kept informed at all stages along the way. The SJLTC has my support.

Sincerely,
Art Williams
President, Air Systems Inc.

DAVE CORTESE

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT THREE

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, EAST WING
70 WEST HEDDING STREET 10TH FLOOR
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95110

TEL: [REDACTED] • FAX: (408) 298-6637
[REDACTED] • www.supervisorcortese.org



March 11, 2019

Mayor and Members of the San Jose City Council
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: San Jose Light Tower Corporation Landmark Site Selection and Next Steps

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Council Members:

I am writing to express my support of the concept being developed by the San Jose Light Tower Corporation (SJLTC). San Jose takes tremendous pride in being a city of progress and innovation. An iconic landmark will showcase such values to our community and to visitors from all over the world. It will also inspire future generations with an enduring legacy.

I have full confidence that the project will be an asset to the community.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Dave Cortese
Board of Supervisors

Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo, and Members of the Council, City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St., San José, CA 95113
via email, sent Feb. 22, 2019

re: March 12th Council Agenda: Site Selection for “The Light Tower” iconic structure gift.

Dear Mayor Liccardo and San José Councilmembers,

We on the San José Parks and Recreation Commission were asked in December to “Accept the status report of the San Jose Light Tower Corporation (SJLTC) regarding the Site Selection Study results and the concept of an International Ideas Competition.” The study recommended selecting Arena Green as the site for the gift of an “iconic structure”. At the Commission meeting, I made the motion that passed to decline approving the recommendation and instead to defer the selection of the site to you on the City Council, and to ask that you first clarify various issues, address some concerns, and establish the necessary design constraints. The recent SJLTC public outreach meeting addressed some of these issues, but many remain. I am writing this letter, as an individual, to give some background for my motion.

As I told the chair of the San Jose Light Tower Corp., Steve Borkenhagen, I agree that San Jose lacks an iconic image for itself -- even the San José Parks Dept. used the 280/87 freeway interchange for the cover photo for its 2000 “GreenPrint”. I appreciate SJLTC’s generous offer to donate to San José an art structure that could become an iconic image for the city. However, I was concerned by details of the site-selection trade matrix, and I couldn’t approve giving “a blank canvas” (to “not constrain the creative spirit”) for a project that lacked adequate design guidelines, constraints, specifications, and review processes. And, as a life-long advocate for creeks and trails and parks and the environment, I feel a special sense of protectiveness for the Los Gatos Creek and Guadalupe River at Confluence Point in Arena Green. Also, I feel an icon is something that is chosen by the public, not given by a donor.

What makes an icon? Not every big city has an icon, and not every city icon is big. Seattle has the Space Needle, Paris has the Eiffel Tower – and, before that, San José had The Light Tower, a scale-model of which now resides in our History Park. (San José was also famous for the waters of Alum Rock, the first park in California: maybe we could have a fountain?) An icon does not have to be merely some ornamental structure: it can be something useful, like San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge or Sydney Australia’s famous Opera House. It doesn’t need to be large: Chicago is famous for its silvery “Bean”, and Copenhagen Denmark’s “Little Mermaid” statue is barely life-sized. It doesn’t even have to be a structure: San Antonio Texas is rightfully famous for its “River Walk”. And it doesn’t have to be downtown: think of LA’s famous Hollywood sign. Representatives of the San Jose Light Tower Corporation said that they want to hold an international design competition for any and all ideas for an icon, but when the sponsor has “Light Tower” in the name, one is likely to get a Light Tower as the submitted design.

The Parks & Rec Commission was asked to approve the selection of Arena Green as the site for this gift. The site selection was based on a weighted scoring of selection criteria. There were no constraints on the amount of land to be given over to this icon: is it the small footprint of a Mermaid-sized statue, or is it the entire footprint of the park? The briefing document showed an all-encompassing envelope covering 240,000 sq.ft: would the public lose their free access to much or all of the park? What about the trail connections? Also, Arena Green is in the airport’s flight-path: an icon there could only be the size of a typical transmission tower and just half the height of the original tower, and it wouldn’t even be seen by airline passengers. I also expressed a number of concerns about the site selection process itself:

- The trade was from a quite limited selection of sites: mainly a few of the downtown city parks. Coyote Meadows (with the landfill just across I-280 from downtown) was not considered, nor City Hall Plaza, nor any private land. I feel that if this is going to be a “gift” to the City, it could include a gift of the land as well, rather than costing the public its access to one of our parks.

- The scoring seemed capricious. For example, Discovery Meadows was given a low score in part due to “poor public transit”, even though there’s both a light-rail station and a major bus stop right there on the site’s perimeter.
- The scoring was skewed: “environmental influences” were interpreted to mean impacts to the gift rather than impacts by the gift. The report recommended Arena Green in part because of the “little environmental influences thanks to the flood control systems” and that the area is “free of heritage trees and historical influences” – there was no consideration given to the impact of noise and light on the sensitive riparian (creekside) habitat or the bird flyways. Arena Green is one of the most environmentally sensitive parks evaluated, and the presented plan even disrespected San José’s Riparian Setbacks with an envelope that encroached on the Los Gatos Creek. (The charts presented at the public outreach meeting did show a larger setback.)

The donors plan an international competition, with the design selected by a jury of international judges. I’m sure they all will have the best of intentions, but I have seen past committees elsewhere approve statues of Confederate generals in the American South, statues of Lenin for Eastern Europe, or even gilded statues of the donors. And we need to avoid accepting the classic “White Elephant” – a “prestigious” gift that can’t be used and that is expensive to maintain. The City needs to maintain control over the final approval process, and to involve the public in the design specification and selection process.

My requests of you on the City Council:

- Discuss what San José wants in the way of an “icon”. Ask the public: should it be some squat Light Tower or other ornamental structure or object, or could it be something more “useful”? Could the donors combine resources with others, perhaps, for example, contributing towards making a more magnificent and iconic station for the trains, BART, and High Speed Rail; or helping to build a truly iconic HSR bridge/entranceway into San José; or maybe restoring a natural habitat and creating a “San José-style” River Walk along the Los Gatos Creek.
- Consider alternative sites: Discovery Meadows, Coyote Meadows, City Hall Plaza, non-downtown sites, even non-city-parklands. If it is to be at a city park, put an upper limit on the amount of public land to be given over to the icon, and assure that the trail network is not degraded.
- Respect the riparian habitat: no incompatible development anywhere near the 100-foot setback zone; no light directed into the habitat; control of contaminants, runoff, public impacts, noise, soil compaction, etc.
- Respect the birds: the creeks are natural flyways, and whatever project is selected should be designed to avoid distracting or imperiling the birds: no lights directed into the bird flyways, no windows or glass panes, and no wire meshes or other hazards.
- Avoid negative impacts to the city: no lights flashing at the aircraft taking off from San José International, or shining into the windows of downtown high-rises.
- Require City oversight: an International Selection Committee can assist with the design competition, but the Parks & Rec. Commission, Arts Commission, and Historic Landmarks Commission should all review the design criteria prior to the competition and the resulting proposed designs; the City should follow the CEQA process; the Council should have to give final approval to any project before being authorized to proceed; and the public should be involved at every step.

The SJLTC is offering San José the gift of an iconic structure that could be a welcome addition to the city: I truly hope that a properly designed and properly situated gift will be a welcomed icon for the city. This is to be the gift of a lifetime: please involve the public and take the time to assure that it is done right.

~Lawrence Ames

cc: City Manager; City Clerk; PRNS Dept.; Parks & Rec Cmsn.; Riparian Advocates; SJ Park Advocates; D3 & D6 Neighborhood Leader Groups; SPUR; San José Light Tower Corp.



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March 6, 2019

Ms. Nicolle Burnham
Deputy Director, PRNS
City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 3rd Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
nicolle.burnham@sanjoseca.gov

RE: File No. 19-049, San Jose Light Tower Corporation Landmark Project

Dear Ms. Burnham,

The Guadalupe River Park Conservancy (GRPC) is the City's non-profit partner in the development and activation of the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens. Our mission is to accomplish this through education, advocacy, and stewardship and that has been our role for at least the past 30 years. As stewards, we are protective of the ecological resources of the park and gardens. We have organized countless river clean-ups and fought projects that would have resulted in significant impacts to the riparian habitat, our park, and our trail system.

Our mission also directs us to thoughtfully develop, activate, and in some instances, redevelop the park and gardens for existing and future residents, the Downtown workforce, and visitors to San Jose. As Downtown development soars, the park and gardens will be solidified as San Jose's urban Central Park and we are receptive to projects that meet our goals and dovetail with this grand and audacious vision. In recent months, we've been working with SPUR and appreciate their collaborative efforts to forward our collective vision.

The Arena Green area of the Guadalupe River Park is currently developed with tennis courts, trails and pathways, memorials (Vietnam War Memorial), monuments (San Jose Ice Skating Champions), an amphitheater, carousel with ticket building, playgrounds, picnic tables, restrooms, and benches. It is an urban park area adjacent to the confluence of the Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River and their riparian habitats. While we are protective of our ecological resources, we believe that with implementation of a 100-foot riparian corridor setback as defined by the City of San Jose's Riparian Corridor Policy, a "landmark" or "monument" can be constructed within Arena Green in an environmentally sensitive manner. In addition, with our plans to move the carousel to our wildly successful Rotary Children's PlayGarden along Coleman Avenue, there may be an opportunity for the landmark project to occupy what will become an area to redevelop in Arena Green.

As there is no design yet and an Ideas Competition is being completed, it will be the Conservancy's role to ensure that whatever is considered is respectful of and complementary to our ecological resources and respects our vision and the

environment. As they say, “the proof will be in the pudding” and we will require and the San Jose Light Tower Corporation has agreed to consult with us and give us a seat on the selection jury during project selection activities. We will require that the project be consistent with the Conservancy’s vision and that it be sensitive to the habitat values of both Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River. We will require and the Light Tower Corporation has agreed to work hand-in-hand with the Conservancy during all phases of the project.

The Conservancy is encouraged that biological resources and lighting have been evaluated in advance of the Ideas Competition. This early information allows for the project to be designed with mitigation measures actually incorporated into the project – a “Mitigate by Design” approach. We are hopeful that this approach will significantly reduce or avoid impacts to the riparian habitat and wildlife species. Again, we will be actively involved in the project design process and will require that the project be sensitive to the environment and that legally defensible CEQA documents be completed.

In closing, the Board of Directors of the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy supports the visioning process on which the Light Tower Corporation is about to embark. With a design that further activates Arena Green and is sensitive to the riparian habitat and wildlife species of Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River, we feel it could be a place-making amenity.

Sincerely,



Jodi Starbird

President, Guadalupe River Park Conservancy Board of Directors

Cc:

City.clerk@sanjoseca.gov

Mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov;

Sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov

Raul.peralez@sanjoseca.gov

Jon.cicarelli@sanjoseca.gov

District1@sanjoseca.gov;

District2@sanjoseca.gov;

District3@sanjoseca.gov;

District4@sanjoseca.gov;

District5@sanjoseca.gov;

District6@sanjoseca.gov;

District7@sanjoseca.gov;

District8@sanjoseca.gov;

District9@sanjoseca.gov;

District10@sanjoseca.gov

