



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Raul Perez

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: March 11, 2019

Approved by:

Date:

 

**SUBJECT: SAN JOSE LIGHT TOWER CORPORATION LANDMARK SITE
SELECTION AND NEXT STEPS**

RECOMMENDATION

Accept staff recommendation and include the following:

1. The San Jose Light Tower Corporation (SJLTC) as part of their International Ideas Competition Panel, will have a total of 11 jury seats that will allow for representation from a diverse set of stakeholders including:
 - Two representatives from an environmentalist group such as the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter or The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
 - A representative from the City of San José
 - Community representative from a surrounding neighborhood
 - Representative from the San Jose Light Tower Corporation
 - An internationally or nationally recognized artist
 - A local artist
 - An internationally or nationally recognized architect
 - A local architect
 - An internationally or nationally recognized place-making expert
 - An internationally or nationally recognized community design expert

2. In accordance with PRNS, the SJLTC will provide a timeline that allows for additional community engagement and input during key milestones of the process.

BACKGROUND

Thank you to Nicolle Burnham and our Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) staff for working proactively with the San Jose Light Tower Corporation (SJLTC) to guide them through the community process and assisting with this project as it continues to move ahead. My office has been working closely with PRNS staff to ensure that as this project moves forward, there is continued robust community engagement and communication. We would also like to thank the SJLTC for having an ambitious plan to add an iconic structure in Arena Green which has been an underutilized park and is currently facing aging and dilapidated infrastructure.

By approving the SJLTC to move forward with their International Ideas Competition, this will allow them the opportunity to seek ideas from individuals in the local and international community to explore what this project could look like. However, any project that gets approved by SJLTC, will still need to come before the community and City Council to allow for feedback on the design. Just like any structure proposed in our City, this proposed project will also need to follow existing City and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. Though I am supportive of an iconic structure being gifted to the City of San José, I want to make it clear that a strong and transparent community process will be crucial in making sure that this project is successful as the project is being placed on public parkland.