

From: 金子 <>

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 3:54 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,
Ying Jin

From: Andrew Fitzgerald <>

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 7:33 PM

To: City Clerk; District3

Subject: No to proposed Light Tower project at Arena Green

Hi

I like the idea of a large monument or other project in San Jose. But I do not think Arena Green is the right place. I don't think we should set aside valuable park space for this project, especially when there is not a concrete design, just an idea.

Thanks

Andrew Fitzgerald

From: Advyth Ramachandran < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 4:49 PM

To: City Clerk

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

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I urge you all to oppose taking Arena Green's park land for the San Jose Light Tower project. I strongly support public art and civic culture, but it is careless to endanger the ecosystem of the Guadalupe River, and particularly its migratory steelhead, which are so important to our environment.

Thank you,

Advyth Ramachandran

San Jose Resident

Evergreen, District 8

From: Pat Quinn <>

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 4:55 PM

To: City Clerk

Cc: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10

Subject: San Jose Light Tower

City Leaders,

Thanks so much for all you do and try to do for the City of San Jose. As a 4th generation San Josean I am simply writing to express my enthusiastic support for the approval of the Guadalupe River Park at Arena Green as the permanent location for the sure to become iconic San Jose Light Tower.

The Light Tower will celebrate the city's great history and the spirit of innovation that has washed upon our fair shores. The Arena Green is in dire need of reimagining and this project would help spearhead those efforts.

I am especially grateful for the efforts of the SJLTC. Good people doing good work for the betterment of the City of San Jose.

Regards,

Pat

PATRICK QUINN

Director, Client Services

[Blach Construction](#)

From: Dave Sand < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 5:04 PM

To: City Clerk

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

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

City Clerk, Mayor Liccardo, Members of the City Council:

I support and value the Light Tower Project and support the process to determine the location and build of the subject Light Tower Project. I am a member Council of Advisors of the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy Council and a past member of the Board of Directors. Jodi Starbird, the current Board President and Leslee Hamilton, Executive Director, will be speaking on behalf of the project at tomorrow's Council meeting.

Best,

Dave

David A. Sandretto

From: Donn Kinne < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 5:10 PM

To: City Clerk

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

Subject: Support for Lightower

Dear Mayor Licardo,

I manage an office located in downtown San Jose, a short distance from Arena Green for a large national employer.

III I support **approval** of the Arena Green site as the location for the Landmark project being developed by the SJLTC team. I have followed their philanthropic work with great interest, and I know the project will be done with quality and in accordance with all setbacks and environmental best practices. The City needs this. The current condition of Arena Green is unacceptable to people and wildlife.

Best luck,

Donn

Donn Kinne

Branch Sales Manager & Sr. Loan Officer

From: Brian Fowler < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 5:17 PM

To: City Clerk

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

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I oppose placing the San Jose Light Tower at Arena Green. I believe Diridon Station would be a better location.

Local history is an important part of our community and celebrating it with a reproduction of the San Jose Light Tower is a wonderful idea. However, it should not be at the expense of the local environment. The Arena Green is not a good place to put it where it encroaches on already limited and environmentally sensitive green space. When I worked in downtown San Jose, I regularly walked through Arena Green during my lunch. Now that I am retired I come back and bike through it when biking along the Guadalupe Trail. Adding the light tower here will not add to the value of the area. The value of this land is of providing green space for the community and as a buffer for the wildlife along the Guadalupe Creek corridor.

I understand that the Diridon Station expansion was considered a better site but was discarded because people from the San Jose Light Tower Corporation did not want to wait. Impatience is not a good criterion for selecting a site. The depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. I could see the Light Tower fitting right in and become a crowning jewel at Diridon Station.

Respectfully,

Brian Fowler

San Jose

From: Chris del Pilar < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 6:14 PM

To: City Clerk

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

Subject: Support of San Jose Light Tower Project

Mayor Liccardo and all City Council members:

I support approval of the Arena Green site as the location of the Landmark project, which will be the largest and greatest gift provided to our City in its history. The SJLT is early in the process, and I am confident they, along with City staff, will be sure all setbacks and environmental considerations will be followed.

Chris del Pilar

From: Lisa Kang < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 6:31 PM

To: City Clerk

Subject: San Jose Light Tower Project

“Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am writing to you to express my concern over and opposition to the construction of the San Jose Light Tower project on the Arena Green's park land. I'm in favor of public art and an installation that enhances the image of San Jose as a major metropolitan area, a hub of transportation, AND a steward of the environment and protector of wildlife.

Please vote against building the Light Tower in this sensitive area.

Thank you.

Lisa Kang, longtime resident of San Jose.

From: Barbara Goldstein <>

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 7:03 PM

To: City Clerk

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

Subject: Iconic Structure Location

To the City Clerk and Honorable Mayor and City Council:

I support the idea of commissioning and installing a gift of an Iconic Structure in Arena Green as part of a comprehensive planning approach to Guadalupe River Park and its environs. When the City, Redevelopment Agency and Army Corps of Engineers worked together to transform the Guadalupe River, Discovery Meadow and Arena Green into a series of city-owned parks and walkways they envisioned a great place. Their efforts, unfortunately, have never been fully realized. With the intense development currently taking place downtown, and envisioned for the Diridon Plan Area, now is the time to think about planning what we'd like to see in Arena Green, Discovery Meadow, and the surrounding Guadalupe River Park. An iconic structure should be part of that vision and, if the Light Tower Company is able to raise the funds to build, landscape and maintain an iconic structure, it would be it should be integrated into that planning.

Barbara

Barbara Goldstein & Associates

Creative Placemaking and Public Art Planning

From: J <>

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 7:30 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; Chappie.Jones@sanjosecan.gov; Jimenez, Sergio; Peralez, Raul; Diep, Lan; Carrasco, Magdalena; Davis, Dev; Esparza, Maya; Arenas, Sylvia; Foley, Pam; Khamis, Johnny; City Clerk; Sykes, Dave; Rios, Angel; Kim.Walech@sanjoseca.gov; Jon.Cicerelli@sanjoseca.gov

Subject: Arena Green Park art project--NO

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Council Members,

While I appreciate the thought process and vision in providing the City with an iconic structure, I'm deeply concerned about the placement of a large tower, particularly with lights, at the Arena Green Park site.

I'm also very concerned about the amount of City dollars and staff time that is required for this art project. As we are all aware, the City's budget and staff time is already spread thin and I don't believe a private venture, particularly one considered a "gift" to the City, should require ANY City resources. As it stands now, the City is providing the land and using City funds as well as staff time. I wonder how this can truly be considered a gift.

The prospect of City parkland being viewed as an appropriate place for something of this magnitude is also concerning. I don't feel an enormous structure at Arena Green Park would add any kind of benefit. On the other hand, I feel it would detract from the natural beauty of the park. I also feel the park should only be used for what it is intended for, a park.

I'm also very concerned about the adverse effects to the creek and wildlife that depend on it. I do not feel recent studies have adequately addressed the negative impacts a large structure, let alone the amount of light it would generate, would have on the creek's inhabitants. I'm also very concerned about what a structure like this, and its lights, would do to migratory birds and how it would affect their flight patterns.

Again, while I appreciate the idea and vision, I do not support City resources being used toward a private project that is being called a gift. Most importantly, I absolutely do not support Arena Green Park as the site for this art project. I believe keeping Arena Green as pristine and natural as possible is of the utmost importance. Arena Green is a special and beautiful park the way it is. Please, please do not allow a large, lighted structure to take away from its natural beauty and bring unintended consequences to the wildlife that depend on this natural open space area. Again, Arena Green Park is the wrong location for a project like this.

Thank you so much for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Roberts

From: Dale Silva < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 8:00 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,

Dale Silva
San Jose

From: Bill Souders < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 9:46 PM

To: Bill Souders; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; Tran, David; Ramos, Christina M; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10; City Clerk; Steve Borkenhagen;

Cc: ; Emily DeRuy; Ramona Giwargis; Jennifer Wadsworth

Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT: Criticality of a San Jose LANDMARK [5.2 19-049 Actions Related to the San José Light Tower Monument]

PLEASE SUBMIT INTO THE PUBLIC RECORD.

March 11, 2019

To: San José Mayor & City Council Members

Cc: Office of the City Clerk

From: Bill Souders

Re: **We need an Iconic Landmark for San José**

Given Mayor Liccardo's warning today in the Mercury News that "This budget message triggers the foghorn to prepare for the dangers in the misty months ahead," and urges the city to brace for downturn, I think we must SEIZE THE DAY!

Now is the time for the City to make way for a real ICONIC LANDMARK for our downtown. This is a gift being offered by a very clever and motivated team, proposing to design, create, fund, and erect a monument to OUR story. If we don't move now, with all the other change happening downtown, we may miss this window of opportunity.

Some people downtown say that "it's time for San José to GROW UP" (whatever that implies) but I say, "It's time for San José to STAND UP, and be RECOGNIZED!"

I don't know about you, but I sure am tired of watching national TV coverage of events in San José (or at Levi's Stadium) which continually shows blimp shots of the Salesforce Tower or the Golden Gate Bridge. Let's imagine a time where blimp shots pan over an iconic monument that the whole country recognizes as San José (with Lick Observatory on the top of Mount Hamilton in the background, for good measure)! And imagine that it happens in my lifetime, please.

Let's ACCEPT this GIFT now, by giving the team a landing pad in Arena Green.

Thank you for your consideration,

BILL SOUDERS

Proud Downtown Resident

From: Tracey Infantino

Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 9:38 AM

To: 'city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov' <city.cler@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: 'Sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov' <Sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; 'District1@sanjoseca.gov' <District1@sanjoseca.gov>; 'District2@sanjoseca.gov' <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; 'District3@sanjoseca.gov' <District3@sanjoseca.gov>; 'District4@sanjoseca.gov' <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; 'District5@sanjoseca.gov' <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; 'District6@sanjoseca.gov' <District6@sanjoseca.gov>; 'District7@sanjoseca.gov' <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; 'District8@sanjoseca.gov' <District8@sanjoseca.gov>; 'District9@sanjoseca.gov' <District9@sanjoseca.gov>; 'District10@sanjoseca.gov' <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; 'John Davis' <

Subject: Iconic Structure for San Jose

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Councilmembers,

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.

We have an opportunity, here to show a part of San Jose that projects the identity and pride we have in making our City memorable, and tie the past with the present, and future.

Thank you for your hard work in making San Jose a city we can all be proud of. **I ask for your vote of approval to support Arena Green as the site to proceed with this project.**

Sincerely –
Tracey Infantino

TRACEY INFANTINO
GENERAL MANAGER

ESI | ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS, INC.

From: Laurie Alaimo < >
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 8:59 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: March 12 Council meeting - Arena Green

Dear Mayor Licardo and City Council,

I strongly oppose taking Arena Green's park land, an environmentally sensitive area, for the San Jose Light Tower project. There is a strong movement to improve our riparian corridors and this light tower project just does not seem to fit. The Diridon site is much more appropriate for this type of project.

Also, rather than spend millions of dollars for a light tower, I would much prefer my tax dollars to go to programs for the needy and the environment.

Respectfully,

Laurie Alaimo
San Jose

From: Gloria Loventhal < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 9:43 PM

To: City Clerk

Cc: District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7@sanjose.gov; District8@sanjose.gov; District9@sanjose.gov; District10@sanjose.gov; Liccardo, Sam; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; Jones, Chappie; Jimenez, Sergio; raul.peraliez@sanjoseca.gov; Diep, Lan; Carrasco, Magdalena; Davis, Dev; Esparza, Maya; Arenas, Sylvia; Foley, Pam; Khamis, Johnny

Subject: Letter of Support

We support the Arena Green as the location of our iconic Landmark for the City of San Jose to be enjoyed by people from around the world.

Last year, we had first time visitors from France come to Silicon Valley. What they asked to see was the Golden Gate Bridge! We wished we could have taken them to see our special Silicon Valley icon here in San Jose, the capital of SV and in the next few years, we will be able to do so with your support.

This Landmark project is more important now than ever before. Our City is innovative and culturally elite with a variety of people who live and work here. We are special.

The Arena Green is the perfect site for this much needed icon to be built and enjoyed.

Best regards,

Gloria Loventhal (Lifelong resident of Willow Glen) and Richard Pederson

From: Wendy Brennan <

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 10:04 PM

To: City Clerk

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

Subject: Support for San Jose Light Tower Project

Dear Members of the City Council:

I support approval of the Arena Green site as the location for the Landmark project being developed by the SJLTC team.

I have followed their philanthropic work with great interest, and I know the project will be done with quality and in accordance with all setbacks and environmental best practices. The City needs this. Unfortunately, the current condition of Arena Green is such that we would never feel comfortable bringing out three small children to use the space.

Thank you for your service, and for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Brian and Wendy Brennan

From: Kerry Holliday < >
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 7:05 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Arena Green

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 on NextDoor.

Respectfully,
Kerry Holliday
San Jose, CA

From: Jackie Vasquez < >

Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 7:54 AM

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,

Jackie Vasquez

San Jose, Ca.

From: Diane Soriano < >

Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 8:54 AM

To: City Clerk

Subject: Today, March 12-SJ City 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,

Diane

--

Diane Hernández Soriano,

From: Mark Lazzarini < >
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 3:45 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District5; District8; District1; District2; District3; District7; District9; District4; District 6; District 10; City Clerk
Cc: 'Steve Borkenhagen'; 'Jon Ball'
Subject: Council Agenda 03/12/19 - Item 5.2

Dear Mayor and Council Members

I support **approval** of the Arena Green site as the location of the Landmark project, which will be the largest and greatest gift provided to our City in its history. The SJLT is early in the process, and I am confident they, along with City staff, will be sure all setbacks and environmental considerations will be followed.

For decades there has been mentioned of San Jose's need for an iconic identifier. The City is on the cusp of a dynamic period of change that will create a global presence. As a San Jose native, I believe we should embrace this opportunity of having a Historic Landmark project that will enhance the City of San Jose's visibility onto the global stage. At the same time it will promote civic pride, creativity and engagement.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Lazzarini
Former Task Force Member, Greater Downtown Development Strategy 2001
Former Chair Historic Landmark Commission

P.S. My wife Jeanne is also in support of this effort.

Date: March 11, 2019

Topic: Light Tower at Arena Green

To: City Clerk

Mayor Liccardo

City Council Members

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

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I read with interest the full page ad in the San Jose Mercury featuring the Light Tower Landmark. It left me with questions about the location proposed for the project.

This area takes up a narrow strip of park space at the confluence of the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek, already heavily impacted by downtown urbanization. The streams are critical riparian corridors providing habitat for endangered steelhead, migratory birds, and small wildlife.

It seems that SJLTC has selected the site with little community input. I am concerned that light will be cast onto the wildlife sensitive streams, disrupting the riparian corridor. At the Feb. 21 one and only community meeting the SJLTC's own environmental consultant said the Arena Green is the most environmentally sensitive area of all that were considered.

The completion of the project takes public parkland away from an already park deficient area. Notably absent in the site analysis, paid with City Park Trust Funds, is the subject of what would be lost by park users and the riparian life if the site is used for the Tower. The City's adopted riparian policy would require a 200 foot setback where there is active recreation, lighted areas, or mechanical equipment. The site analysis did not discuss the mention of the impact of the larger setback.

Arena Green Park is the most environmentally sensitive of all the sites considered. It is one of the few stretches of intact riparian corridor through downtown, and specifically planted to support birds within the corridor. I urge the Council reject the Arena Green site that takes public parkland from a park deficient area.

Sincerely,

Ron and Linda Wilson

Council District 10

From: Marisol Leyba < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 2:23 PM

To: Liccardo, Sam; Chappie.Jones@sanjosecan.gov; Jimenez, Sergio; Peralez, Raul; Diep, Lan; Carrasco, Magdalena; Davis, Dev; Esparza, Maya; Arenas, Sylvia; Foley, Pam; Khamis, Johnny; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10; City Clerk; Sykes, Dave; Rios, Angel; Walesh, Kim; Jon.Cicerelli@sanjoseca.gov

Subject: Save Arena Green Park - oppose site selection - 3/12 Agenda 5.2 File 19-049

Dear Mayor Liccardo, City Councilmembers, and City Staff:

I'm writing to express my **opposition to the use of Arena Green Park** for the SJ Light Tower Corporation's public art competition. I attended the community meeting last month.

In recent years, my husband (SJ Planning Commissioner John Leyba) and I have given over \$10,000 to the San Jose Parks Foundation, San Jose Parks Advocates, Guadalupe River Park Rotary Playgarden, and other organizations to support local parks. This has been a huge sacrifice for our working family, as I teach public school; John works for PG&E, who matched many of our donations for even greater impact to San Jose parks.

Art is also important to me as an early childhood educator. Just last month I took my second grade class from East San Jose to the San Jose Museum of Art for a field trip. It was the first time any of my 24 students had been to an art museum, a wonderful opportunity.

But **green spaces and play opportunities are a necessity** -- sorely absent from most San Jose neighborhoods! To know that even one square foot of Arena Green Park will be taken from the underserved Delmas Park Neighborhood for an art project, given the shortage of green space, is upsetting. This is before we consider the environmental impacts of the site, which are simply terrible.

I urge you to **ask the SJ Light Tower Corporation to find a more suitable site** for their project, or better yet, please purchase another site as part of their multi-million-dollar gift to our city. This is a great project on the wrong site.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marisol Andrade Leyba

From: James Ramoni < >
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 2:42 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: March 12, 2019 City Council Agenda, Item 5.2

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Honorable Council Members,

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.

As a native San Josean, I am proud of the efforts thus far of the San Jose Light Tower Corporation and am excited to think of the possibilities this will afford the City of San Jose.

Thank you.

James Ramoni
San Jose, CA
Proud Resident of District 3

From: Pieter Bouwkamp <>

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 2:45 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,

Pieter Bouwkamp, San Jose

Sent from my iPhone

From: Marianne Salas < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 2:55 PM

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 as the location for the Iconic Structure being gifted to our city.

Per my comments to the New York Times, I support approval of the Arena Green site as the location for the Iconic Structure being gifted to our city. I know the public process of inclusion will continue through the upcoming Ideas Competition. The existing condition of this park is deplorable, and I know this organization (SJLTC) will make it better through their good work.

From: Michael Rewkiewicz < >

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 3:36 PM

To: City Clerk

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

Subject: Arena Green Site

I support the **APPROVAL** of the Arena Green site, so the Ideas Competition can move forward.

I have known the leaders of the iconic structure team for many years, 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.

Michael Rewkiewicz

President San Jose Downtown Association

San Jose business owner

Naglee park resident

From: Melanie Davis <>

Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 3:16 PM

To: City Clerk

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

Subject: Icon for our City

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.

As a young adult living in San Jose I see the importance of having an iconic structure that represents the identity of such an innovative and unique place. We are a big city, a place that people from all around the world come to visit. By approving the Arena Green site this will give us the opportunity to move forward with creating something that will make an impact on generations to come.

Sincerely,
Melanie Davis
San Jose Resident

From: Steve Borkenhagen < >

Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 3:36 PM

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

Honorable Mayor Liccardo and members of the city council:

I support approval of Arena Green as the location of our Iconic Landmark project. Caring local people have been working to improve Guadalupe River Park and Gardens for over 30 years and we think it is time to build something spectacular in the park. This project will be the largest and greatest gift provided to our City in its history. We, along with City staff, will be sure all setbacks and environmental considerations will be followed.

Sincere thanks,

SB

Steve Borkenhagen
San Jose Light Tower Corporation

From: Craig Ash <>

Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 3:43 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; Chappie.Jones@sanjosecan.gov; Jimenez, Sergio; Peralez, Raul; Diep, Lan; Carrasco, Magdalena; Davis, Dev; Esparza, Maya; Arenas, Sylvia; Foley, Pam; Khamis, Johnny; City Clerk; Sykes, Dave; Rios, Angel; Kim.Walech@sanjoseca.gov; Jon.Cicerelli@sanjoseca.gov

Cc: Dresden Jean; Jerry Mungai; Pat Waite; Pat Pizzo; Jay Latone; Craig Ash; Pat Hanna; Dave Smith

Subject: Arena Green Park art project--NO

Dear Mayor, Council Members and City Management.

Please say this isn't so! San Jose has had terrible public art over the decades. To take a vital and valuable park area in this critical new downtown growth area is a very poor tradeoff decision even if masked as a supposed gift.

What use is a monument of this type if it takes away from a critical quality of life area for current citizens and new residents. It will degrade the exciting Arena area which will also be affected by other new construction. A bright light structure also has other negative impact to new high rise residents and the wildlife in the nearby parks.

Please consider rejecting this special interest idea and rethink where it might be better relocated, maybe as part of a new Google structure/area.

Don't ruin what is already good to instead build an artsy uncertain light tower thing when the existing park area could be used for more renaissance faires, and open sports and family use recreation and special events.

Look at a real cost benefit analysis to see that we give up a lot for maybe a glitzy new thing which takes away more general public park area.

Open public life, living and recreation space is the true monument to town. Don't be bulldozed by this special interest.

Thank You,

Craig Ash
San Jose 95136

From: Paul Normandin < >

Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 4:18 PM

To: City Clerk

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

Subject: Iconic structure for San Jose

To the leaders of the City of San Jose,

I support **approval** of the Arena Green site as the location for the Landmark project being developed by the SJLTC team. It will be the largest and greatest gift provided to our City in its history. The SJLT is early in the process, and I am confident they, along with City staff, will complete this project with quality and in accordance with all setbacks and environmental best practices. I have followed their philanthropic work with great interest, and I know they have gone above and beyond to bring aboard environmental specialist and the Guadalupe River Park representatives to make sure they meet the concerns that may arise with this project. The City needs this. My family has owned our business in the city of San Jose for 144 years and we could not be more proud and protective of our city, it's history and it's future. The time is now to create an icon for our iconic city.

Sincerely,

Paul Normandin

From: james rogers < >

Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 7:52 PM

To: City Clerk

Subject: Re Arena Green and the proposed light tower

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I oppose taking Arena Green's park land in an environmentally sensitive area for the San Jose Light Tower project. The money would benefit the city more by purchasing land for parks. I heard about this from the Sierra Club.

Respectfully,

Connie Rogers,

Former Gilroy Council Member

From: Ken Epsman < >
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 8:14 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: San Jose Light Tower Landmark

I support **approval** of the Arena Green site as the location of the Landmark project, which will be the largest and greatest gift provided to the City in its history. The SJLT is early in the process, and I am confident they, along with City staff environmental considerations will be followed. It will be another attraction for the city.

Ken Epsman
J and B Refining

ExchangeDefender Message Security: [Check Authenticity](#)

From: Devin McMahon < >

Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 8:19 PM

To: City Clerk

Subject: City Council March 12 meeting, San Jose Light Tower Project

Dear Mayor and City Council of San Jose,

Please do not take park land from Arena Green to build a tower or otherwise pave over these strips of remaining green space in the city. The goal of promoting civic pride and recognition would be best met not by commissioning an edifice, but by allocating public lands and public funds in an open process with ample opportunities for input and participation from those who live and work in the city, and by maintaining parks and wildlife corridors for both human and nonhuman use and enjoyment. Invest the funds in clean water, efficient public transit, or other services for residents and visitors of San Jose. Instead of an iconic structure, I hope San Jose can have iconic public participation and quality of life.

Sincerely,

Devin McMahon

Stanford student and San Jose visitor/transit user

From: Debora Kane < >

Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 9:12 AM

To: City Clerk

Subject: San Jose Light Tower Project

Dear Mayor and City Council,

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

Respectfully,

Debora Kane

Pacifica, Ca

Sent from my iPad

From: J'Carlin < >

Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 9:51 AM

To: City Clerk

Subject: Light Tower on Arena Green

This atrocity should be killed immediately! There is no place in the city where it would be appropriate, let alone on scarce and environmentally sensitive park land which will be overused once the Google development begins to be built out. We already have an iconic light tower in the History Park with some real history behind it. The historical water towers have meaning for the city as well and should be the iconic focus if such is needed. Phallic icons were inappropriate in the 19th Century, they certainly are not welcome in the 21st.

Carlin Black

From: <> on behalf of Jim Patton <>

Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 9:55 AM

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,

Jim and Tammy Patton

From: Jeff Bauman < >

Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 10:10 AM

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.

As an amateur astronomer, this is doubly troubling, in that this project will increase the already high levels of light pollution in our skies.

Currently, I live just over the border of San Mateo County, but I work in Santa Clara County, and have lived there for the majority of my life. I will be moving back to Santa Clara County in the coming months.

Respectfully,
Jeffrey D. Bauman

From: Judith Butts < >

Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 10:49 AM

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,

Judith and Fred Butts

Mountain View, CA

From: Richard Smart <>

Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 11:02 AM

To: City Clerk

Subject: Light Tower project

Dear Mayor and City Council,

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

Sincerely, Richard H. Smart

From: Brian Swing < >

Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 11:28 AM

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.

It is vitally important that we preserve the creek corridors as protected open space as well as procuring new lands for preservation and flood control.

Respectfully,

Brian Swing

Los Gatos

From: Guadalupe Friaz <>
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 11:58 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Tower

I am fiercely opposed to taking public land for this dubious landmark .
Cordially
Lupe

-----Original Message-----

From: Freda Hofland <>

To: cityclerk <cityclerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Sent: Sat, Mar 9, 2019 12:15 pm

Subject: March 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. Not only would it cost over one hundred million dollars but would cause light pollution. Better that the money should be used to acquire more actual park land or protect Coyote Valley

Sincerely,

Freda Hofland
Los Altos Hills

From: Carol Ruth < >

Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 12:32 PM

To: City Clerk

Subject: Fwd: No on San Jose Light Tower

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,

Ron and Carol Ruth

Stanford, CA

From: Virginia Leslie < >
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 1:11 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,
M. Virginia Leslie, Milpitas (retired San Jose Public Library employee)

From: Ruby Mitchell < >
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 1:21 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.

It is important to protect the sensitive balance of the environment for all our survival.

The erection of the proposed Tower project can be placed somewhere that is no longer environmentally protective.

Better yet, since there are already more than enough man-made landmarks in San Jose, spend the money ear-marked for the Tower project on creating and protecting more parks and environmentally sensitive areas.

I heard about this from Sierra Club.

Respectfully,
Ruby Mitchell
Cupertino, CA

From: SueTomasic <sue@tozmic.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 1:25 PM

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.

Respectfully,

Sue Ellen Tomasic
San Jose, CA

March 12, 2019

Re: Agenda Item 5.2 (Actions Related to the San José Light Tower Monument)

Dear Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor and Councilmembers:

One year ago, SPUR launched an effort to reimagine the Guadalupe River Park and develop a plan to create and sustain a vibrant hub for community engagement, a catalyst for economic and cultural vitality, a flourishing natural habitat, and an iconic gathering place for residents, workers and visitors.

To accomplish this, we reached out to establish a partnership with the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the City of San Jose Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department. Those organizations have spent decades creating an effective flood protection project that also sought to create a great public space for the community.

Since SPUR launched this effort last March, with the support of Mayor Liccardo and Councilmember Raul Peralez, we have convened key stakeholders in conversation about their aspirations for the river and park and shared experiences from successful park developments throughout the U.S., including [Denver](#), [New York](#), [Los Angeles](#) and [Washington, D.C.](#)

We have sought to, albeit perhaps imperceptibly slowly, bring disparate ideas together under one umbrella and start to craft a master plan that is ambitious, environmentally beneficial and fiscally sustainable. This plan would look at the various “rooms” along the river park and consider best locations for public gathering space, public art, iconic features, environmental education and restoration, and other critical interests.

I know the people behind the San Jose Light Tower and their intentions are honorable and civically-focused. They have come a remarkable distance over the past two years to build support, conduct thorough investigation and be flexible enough to get to a point where they have not pre-determined a design outcome. That is to be commended.

As their project moves forward, I look forward to collaborating closely with the SJLT team to ensure that their plans are in sync with our broader efforts to create a master plan for the entire park that the community feels a part of and is inspired to rally behind and implement.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Teresa Alvarado
San Jose Director



DRAFT

February 28, 2019

Project

San Jose Parks Advocates

RE: Item 3.3 March 12, Light Tower

Honorable Mayor Liccardo and City Councilmembers:

San Jose Parks Advocates opposes the use Arena Green Park for the Light Tower Corporation's proposed art project. We believe that

- The site analysis report contains fatal flaws
- The Arena Green Park site is too environmentally sensitive **Arena Green is environmentally sensitive and on the "Flora and Fauna Evaluation" did not score higher in that category. Almost all the sites were considered almost equal either as a result of proximity to the River, or because of known bird species or historic trees in other cases.**
- The proposed use is not compatible with existing policies, plans, and studies of Arena Green Park and this planning area **This is not true. See city staff.**
- It will negatively impact the fundraising plan of a previously approved major city park redevelopment project, St. James and the Levitt Pavilion
- The proposal is based on a flawed assumption that the Light Tower Corporation's open, uncompensated art contest will lead to great art. **It is not a flawed assumption.**
- A "free gift" should not take park land from a park deficient area nor require the use

of City Park Trust funds to produce the site analysis, provide uncompensated Senior Management time, nor should complete of the project require future park trust fund/development fees or Google Community benefit funds. **No park land will be taken!**

We ask that the Council reject the site analysis and ask the proponents to fully fund their gift by compensating the city for all expenses and by buying a site rather than taking parkland from a park deficient area.

San Jose Parks Advocates is an all-volunteer organization of neighborhood leaders and community members concerned about San Jose parks. Our **mission** is to bring parks into the public political consciousness, to make parks an issue in all discussions of civic priorities, neighborhood services, and community interactions with the City of San Jose. We **envision** a City where quality parks and trails for all of its residents is universally supported as a core City service. Civic leaders will develop, enhance, and maintain these spaces as a source of civic pride and essential to the health and quality of life of the residents, workers, and visitors.

Flawed Site Analysis—paid with City Park Trust Funds ***The site study was paid for 100% by the SJLTC.***

The site analysis was incomplete and erroneous. Some attributes were not fully defined; some were misleading and made assumptions. A notable absence was what would be lost by park users and riparian fauna if the site were changed to a built environment. There was no discussion of the lost amenities and whether they would be relocated or replaced. ***The scope of the study was to determine, in relative terms, the suitability of the sites for future potential development; however, not to determine the specific impacts of the development which can only be evaluated with the specific design proposal. At this time, the specific impacts and acceptable mitigations cannot be evaluated to address the lost area, riparian fauna, and the impact on amenities, its replacement or relocation.***

1. The analysis does not include full complement of city sites were not included. Why were only parks and future parks evaluated? Why not City Hall? The promontory point where the Fallon statue now sits? Bassett Park? North San Pedro Park? Or perhaps a gateway location, like Coyote Meadows. *More importantly, for a project this size, why aren't the proponents buying their own land?* ***City defined the appropriate downtown locations for this project. Sites outside of the downtown were not considered as appropriate for a landmark icon.***

2. The environment score was defined as the impact on the proposed art project with NO discussion of impacts of the new project on the environment. This is contrary to the usual meaning of environmental impacts as used in CEQA documents. It serves to hide the impacts and betrays a lack of a real process. It is not defensible in the absence of a true CEQA-like measure. ***The scope of the study was to determine in relative terms, the suitability of the sites for future potential development; however, not to determine the specific impacts of the development which can only be evaluated with the specific design proposal. At this time, the specific impacts and acceptable mitigations cannot be evaluated to address the lost area, riparian fauna, and the impact on amenities, its replacement or relocation. It is/was not intended to take the place of a***

true CEQA evaluation which would be done once there is a specific design proposal to evaluate the true impacts from.

3. The riparian setback was incorrectly stated. The project cannot extend to the edge of the walking path, a built environment must be setback a minimum of 100 ft. Further, the city's adopted riparian policy would require a 200 feet where there is active recreation, lighted areas, or mechanical equipment. The site analysis did not discuss the mention this larger setback—even though the proponents mention dreams of a decoratively lighted structure. **This is not true. The Riparian Corridor Policy Study states that development should be a minimum of 100 feet from the edge of the riparian corridor or the dripline of the trees, whichever is greater. Reduced setbacks are allowed Downtown with a supporting riparian corridor study to be completed by a competent biologist. Council Policy 6-34, Riparian Corridor Protection and Bird-Safe Design states that buildings are to be setback a minimum of 100 feet and that night-lighted active recreational uses (such as soccer fields) should have a larger setback - 200 to 300 feet is preferred. Note that the Council Policy does not state "shall" or "will". This gives City staff the leeway to make an educated recommendation based on scientific evidence, not conjecture. In addition, the project would not be considered to be "active recreation". Visitors would passively interact with (walk to or around) the future artwork, landmark, or memorial. A lighting study will be done for the project. It is not anticipated that the project will generate "mechanical noise". Therefore, a 200-foot setback is not required per Council Policy 6-34.**

4. The impact of the use of large scale utilities on the park, adjacent users, or sensitive environmental receivers was not studied even though the site analysis included points based on the availability of large scale electrical utilities for this piece of art. The study targeted the available utilities, and the reasonable access. Not knowing the size, features, and program of the proposed landmark, this is the only objective evaluation that we can make at this time.

5. The massing score for Arena Green Park is too high. The computation was based on an incorrect riparian setback and considered the land on top of the flood bypass channel as available for construction when it is not. The amendment has corrected the setbacks to the specified setbacks as we understand them in the riparian corridor in the most conservative sense. We have had a surveyor map these restrictions in the updated documents. We have verified and mapped these in accordance with the SCVWD.

6. The matrix included an undefined score for “incentives and cost offsets.” The proponents have offered a “free” gift to the City. There should not be an expectation to use Park Trust Fund fees collected from the nearby residential development or Google Community Benefits to pay for their “free” gift to the City. These monies are already tagged to acquire parkland, perform major infrastructure repairs on downtown parks, and provide a plethora of community benefits discussed by the Diridon Station Area Advisory Group (SAAG). This giant art project was not one of those benefits. **Project advocates are raising money from the private sector.**

7. The transportation score is invalid. By way of example, Discovery Park scores in the lowest group with service from two LRT lines and multiple bus lines (routes 23, 81) while Park Avenue had more than double the transportation score and no public transit service. **The score is correct. We received ridership data on the light rail stations downtown as well as bus, and future transportation modes and improvements anticipated. The CDM station has the lowest VTA transit numbers in the downtown. While it has bus transit, its numbers and locations within immediate proximity are not as strong as other locations. Arena Green has the largest potential as it is within immediate proximity of Diridon Station today, BART in 2027 and High Speed Rail in the future bringing tens of thousands of new passengers.**

8. The narrative claims that Arena Green Park has the most available acreage of the sites without regard to configuration and buildable square footage. The site is bifurcated and has serious restrictions due to the underground flood control bypass channel of the Guadalupe River. The report understates the riparian setback in two ways—the minimum 100-foot setback and the 200-foot setback where there is active recreation, lighted areas, or mechanical equipment. In addition, the report does not mention the reduction in size from the future Autumn Street re-alignment **(the future alignment of Autumn would not change Arena Green (Autumn and St. John Streets would remain in their existing locations and widths)** nor does it include the many easements that further reduce the park’s availability for development of a built environment. Also, the possibility of a tunnel portal consuming part of Arena Green Park was never mentioned—even though the Mayor has had multiple conversations with the Boring Company over the past year. **The amendment has changed the setbacks to the specified setbacks as we understand them in the riparian corridor in the most conservative sense. We have had a surveyor map these restrictions in the updated documents. We have verified and mapped these in accordance with the SCVWD. We have spoken with the Mayor’s Office, and there are not specific plans, routings etc at this time.**

9. Mitigation is not mentioned. The construction of a large built environment will require mitigation. There is no discussion of onsite mitigation. Many trees of Arena Green Park West would be lost and Arena Green Park East cannot accept the replacements due to flood bypass channel rules. Amenities would be displaced. The costs and relocation considerations were not evaluated. **The scope of the study was to determine, in relative terms, the suitability of the sites for future potential development; however, not to determine the specific impacts of the development which can only be evaluated with the specific design proposal. At this time, the specific impacts and acceptable mitigations can be evaluated to address the lost area, riparian fauna, and the impact on amenities, its replacement, or relocation. It is/was not intended to take the place of a true CEQA evaluation which would be done once there is a specific design proposal to evaluate the true impacts from.**

10. Existing policies, plans, studies and master park plans were not assessed. No consideration was made as to whether this large project conformed to or was compatible with existing plans. For example, the Diridon Station Area Plan calls for art work in the northern portion to focus on environmental themes. The Arena Green Park’s role in serving 25,000 future residents was not considered. **Arena Green is not the only park to serve Downtown. The entire Guadalupe**

River Park and GARDENS as well as Plaza de Cesar Chavez and St. James Park do as well.

11. There was no discussion of the coffee shop/restaurant use and its compatibility and likelihood of success at the location. The proponents talk about building some sort of food service to generate funds for maintenance. We think it is folly at Arena Green Park but might be possible at some other sites. Most restaurants fail in the first year. **Irrelevant (even though many great parks do have food and beverage service).**

12. The importance of sight lines was underestimated. The proponents have shared that it is critically important that their large public art structure be in a location where it could be photographed easily. They felt it was critical for attracting visitors. However, the site selected, Arena Green Park will have poor sight lines. Towers are planned north and south. Riparian trees will block the view from the east. **The site has visual access to the Santa Clara street corridor, and more importantly from Route 87 which will provide an unobstructed view of this location for travelers to the Downtown from the Airport and from south San Jose.**

13. Pending Construction was not considered. The Arena Green Park area is poised to be a hotbed of construction with the BART construction staging area directly to the south followed by two towers. **VTA will be consulted during the design process. What is “two towers”??** The art project is proposed to be completed just in time to be surrounded by construction impacts. **BART will be underground (boring, not cut and cover), although there could be some more minor construction impacts at street level.** That’s not the best strategy to attract visitors to a new facility. The possibility of a people mover tunnel portal within Arena Green Park was ignored even though senior staff knew about it. **True, was not considered in the criteria development as specific criteria applied to all sites from a longterm perspective.**

14. The Parking analysis is flawed and based on currently available lots that are scheduled to disappear in the near-term. The reduction in parking is so significant, as analyzed in the BART EIR, that the Sharks Organization is suing. **Current parking was definitely evaluated. Adequate parking in the area addressed specifically for the Sharks is planned across the street on the old San Jose Water site.**

15. Social considerations. The impact of local homeless persons in the short-term and long-term was not analyzed. Tourists and visitors tend to avoid places with large numbers of unhoused persons. For example, the impact of unhoused users was highlighted in the Arena Green Park 2015 study and their presence was cited as a barrier to use for those surveyed. Quantifying these impacts is important. **This was not a specific criterion, and the problem raised is not unique to Arena green, but also CDM, St James, Guadalupe Gardens etc. The development would hopefully improve this condition at any location that it could be located.**

16. Analysis of Current Arena Green Park Use was incomplete. The report emphasized park permit numbers only. Residents’ use of the park and the status of amenities was not considered

nor valued in the analysis. **The intent again is to evaluate the suitability for future development, and the intent would be to preserve and enhance the current park for residents as well.**

Environmentally Sensitive

Arena Green Park is the most environmentally sensitive of all the sites. Incredibly, the site report does not address the impact of the project on the environment. The site report considers the impact of the environment on the art project. This is unbelievable for a project spearheaded by experienced construction professionals.

This site is one of the few stretches of intact riparian corridor through downtown. When the US Army Corps designed its flood control project, riparian advocates made certain that this area was left intact and deep pools remained so that migrating fish could be successful. The canopy of trees was protected so that temperatures would remain cool in that part of the creek and river system. Arena Green Park West was specifically planted heavily with trees to support birds within the riparian corridor. Community members actively negotiated with the US Army Corps to create the park as mitigation and compensation for the loss of riverine habitat and homes along River Street. A built environment would lower the quality of habitat that was specifically designed to support the riparian habitat. **The park is currently a "developed" urban park with a trail, amphitheater, playgrounds, memorials/art installations, tennis courts, picnic areas, a carousel, and restroom and ticket buildings.** Such development may be in violation of the flood control project EIS mitigation agreements. **The project would not affect the flood control project and would be consistent with the City's Riparian Corridor Policy and Council Policy 6-34. Mitigation for environmental impacts will be required through the CEQA process. Nothing proposed within the study is intended to violate flood control projects or EIS agreements.** The project will be designed to minimize harmful impacts on the riparian corridor.

The Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek Confluence area is a critically important flyway for birds. It is the only area where there is little risk of crashing into tall structures. Lights can cause birds to become disoriented. They will circle in light beams.¹ They can be blinded temporarily and forced to land if the light contains the wrong spectrum. Importantly, Arena Green Park's current status as a park with closing shortly after sunset and minimal lighting is perfectly designed for the city's riparian and migrating birds. Other cities have implemented darkening of their skylines for this reason.² A tall lighted structure, as is in the minds of the proponent, would be deadly for the birds. **A lighting study will be completed as part of the CEQA documentation and the project will be consistent with the Riparian Corridor Policy Study and Council Policy 6-34. We agree with the concern and it should be addressed as part of the CEQA evaluation of the proposed design and location, along with all of the required mitigations to avoid this from occurring as part of the proposed project.**

¹ Tribute in Light 9/11 Memorial Turned Off Repeatedly As Birds Get Stuck In Soaring Beams
Birds spend hours flying in circles or crash into windows. Songbirds, seabirds, all kinds.
<https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2015/09/11/tribute-in-light-birds/>

² “Many North American cities—including Houston, Boston, and Atlanta—have adapted “lights out” practices, promoting the darkening of their skylines to protect the biology and ecology of local insects and animals.” <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/9-11-tribute-in-light-birds-night-migration/>

Migrating fish are also affected by night lighting. City policy 6-34 calls for a 200-foot riparian setback for active recreation, lighting, or mechanical noise generating sources.³ We also note, that there is a trend across the world to reduce night lighting to create darker skies and healthier habitats for all creatures, including humans. It is important that the park area next a riparian habitat stay dark at night. **We agree with the concern and it should be addressed as part of the CEQA evaluation of the proposed design and location, along with all of the required mitigations to avoid this from occurring as part of the proposed project. The project won't add to the current measured light levels.**

Plans and Policies

General Plan Envision 2040

The Envision 2030 General Plan emphasizes San Jose’s unique character “Living Amid Abundant Natural Resources,” strong riparian policies, goals for parkland serving residents, both acreage and distance (PR 1.1 and PR 2.6). The Diridon Station Area/Delmas Park is park deficient. Removing park land for a large built environment violates these goals for both current residents and the anticipated 25,000 more residents expected from the Diridon Station Area growth. **See above. Parkland would not be removed and the Guadalupe River Park Master Plan includes public art (which is currently located throughout the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens). This study cannot quantify the impact of the landmark specifically. Future parks and public spaces are being considered in the immediate area for the future growth.**

Relevant General Plan Policies **The project can adhere to all of the below and I would argue it is very consistent with PR 8.2 - although it would not be "privately owned", it meets the goal anyway.**

(PR4.6) Public Art should reflect the surrounding community, local history or the ecology. *The Light Tower Corp has not stated their artwork will conform to this goal.* **The criteria should be met by the successful proposal.**

(PR5.3). Adhere to Guadalupe River Park Urban Design Guidelines. *A large built structure does not.* **The criteria should be met by the successful proposal.**

(PR 6.7). In design and construction, preserve, enhance, restore existing ecosystems/wildlife

habitat *A large built structure does not enhance the riparian habitat.* **The criteria should be met by the successful proposal, impacts to riparian zone.**

(PR1.14). Survey park users and surrounding communities to implement improvements. The Light Tower Corp did one public outreach meeting. *Community members expressed significant concerns.. The City studied Arena Green Park in 2015 and community members were interested in keeping the trees.* **More involvement with the competitions process is planned to obtain extensive public input.**

We wish the Light Tower Corporation would conform to (PR8.2) “Encourage privately owned and maintained and publicly accessible recreation spaces that encourage community interaction; complement the private property uses; and, when adjacent to existing and planned parks, trails, recreation facilities, or open spaces, connect them to these facilities. This policy is particularly important in dense, urban areas.”

The Light Tower Corporation should buy land, build their project, and maintain it, just as is done with the dog parks downtown and at many sites with POPOS (privately owned, publicly open spaces).

³ Council Policy 6-34 <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/60393>

Riparian Policy

The General Plan calls for a 100-foot setback for all but trails. The subsequently adopted Council Policy 6-34 calls a 100-foot setback, 200-foot setback for lighted structures and noise making equipment. **See above.**

The use of bright colors, and glossy, reflect, see-through or glare producing building and material finishes is discouraged on Buildings and Structures. ⁴ **The criteria should be met by the successful proposal.**

Guadalupe River Park Master Plan 2002 and Urban Design Guidelines

Arena Green Park is part of the Guadalupe River Park and a large built environment as part of a public art project violates the Guadalupe River Park Master Plan. The process for public art within the park is laid out and the proposed Light Tower project violates that process.

“The park will continue to grow and change, but the vision that brought it to this point will remain: it will continue to be a natural heart for San José, providing a range of passive activities and offering habitat for wildlife.”⁵

“All public art should be designed to complement the vision of the park. Proposals should be related to the river or the immediate surrounding area—its history, environment, and the role they play in the city. Any proposals will be subject to the City of San José’s established procedures for the development of public art, with review by the Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens, the Guadalupe River Park Task Force.” **Not precluded by project**

“To preserve the open-space character of the Guadalupe River Park, new buildings in the park are discouraged.” **The project is not necessarily a building**

“New specific-use facilities such as museums or recreation centers are not part of the vision or mission of the Guadalupe River Park and should be sited elsewhere.” **The project would be designed so as not to conflict with any of these statements.**

Guadalupe River Flood Control Project Collaborative (1997) and Flood Control EIS

Arena Green Park was created as part of the US Army Corps Flood Control project. The Environmental Impact Study (EIS) called for mitigation measures and subsequently, additional measures were developed by the Guadalupe River Flood Control Project Collaborative. We believe the Light Tower project does not conform to these agreements. **The project, which is not a light tower, would not impact riparian habitat or any of the habitat replacement mitigation measures implemented as part of the flood control channel. Whatever is ultimately designed would be located beyond the bed and banks and outside of the low flow channels of the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek. Therefore, it would be located outside of the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.**

The City of San Jose, the Redevelopment Agency, the Natural Heritage Institute, CONCUR (environmental facilitators and mediators), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the State Water Resources Control Board, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers met

⁴ Council Policy 6-34. Page 7. Item 4a.

⁵ Guadalupe River Master Plan 2002

<https://www.grpg.org/Files/GuadalupeRiverParkMasterPlan.pdf>

in response to threatened litigation about the adequacy of the flood control mitigation measures. The group was able to reach a consensus to modify the plan and successfully addressed agency and environmental-group concerns, allowing the flood control project to proceed.

Elements of this new design included the underground floodwater bypass creating Arena Green Park East. This kept important existing riparian habitat within today’s Arena Green Park from Santa Clara Street to the north and expanded onsite and offsite mitigation, and made refinements to allowed recreation features, including their location.

Arena Green Park User Study 2015

PRNS performed outreach via two community meetings and an online survey about Arena Green Park East. Some members of the community had complained about “too many trees” and PRNS was looking for guidance. The results show that many members of the community specifically liked the trees. Complaints focused on the number of unhoused persons hanging out the park making it feel unsafe. The closed carousel and the worn and vandalized playground also attracted comments. **This project would activate Arena Green with interested citizens and visitors thereby discouraging the use of it by unhoused persons.**

Arena Green Park was once more heavily used when the Carousel’s operating costs were subsidized by the Sharks, the playground was not worn, and fewer people unhoused people were residing nearby. The shaded trees and river breezes still attract many residents in the summer. The vacant lots to the north and the south combined with the intermittent nature of Arena operations contribute to low usage rates. We believe the addition of 50,000 employees nearby will increase use of the park. **Public art is a great park activation. That will be great and the project is intended to activate the park. Don't forget that the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens includes 120 acres of parkland and there is also Discovery Meadow, Plaza de Cesar Chavez, St. James Park, McEnery Park, and other smaller pocket and dog parks for use Downtown.**

BART EIR

The BART EIR addressed parking during and after construction. Importantly, the Sharks Organization believes that the analysis indicates they will have insufficient parking after development. The Light Tower Corporation wants to attract tourists so they will depend on the same parking spaces. If the Sharks Organization foresee negative impacts to events on which their fans spend significant dollars, the more passive Light Tower project will be negatively impacted too.

Diridon Station Area Plan and Midtown Specific Plan

These two specific plans called for the area around Diridon Station to be served by parks at Arena Green Park and at the Fire Station Training Center. In addition the Los Gatos Creek trail, and the Diridon Station Promenade were identified as open space.

Unfortunately, the Fire Station Training center was sold to Google. Caltrain Integrated Station Concept plans suggest taking most of the Promenade. No new park sites have been identified to serve the 25,000 new residents and 50,000 new employees. Current park acquisition ordinances prohibit transfer of parcels und 1/2 acre, posing an additional obstacle to creating a non-continuous chain of park and recreation facilities.

This leaves only Arena Green Park to serve all 75,000 new residents and employees expected in the Diridon Station area. Perhaps, some privately owned public recreation areas will be built. Fees on residential units will be collected and a community benefits fund is suggested to meet many needs, including open space, housing, public art, road improvements, trail improvements,

and much more. **DSAP also includes "Green Fingers with Plazas" to connect the DSAP area to the River Park and Gardens.**

The construction of a large scale art project at Arena Green Park, creating a large built environment, will take from the *only* open space that we know will be available to serve all these residents. **Again, this is an urban park and the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens from I-280 to I-880 will provide adequate urban open space, much like Central Park in New York City.**

Diridon Station Area Advisory Group (SAAG)

The SAAG Group has been meeting in response to the proposed Google development proposals. They have discussed concerns and issues. Public open space was a priority and they highlighted the Diridon Station Area plan, the General Plan, and the Greenprint as their guiding principals. They felt that quality of life was dependent on the presence of *green* open space, not just paved plazas. They will continue to meet to make recommendations on the allocations of the Community Benefits Fund.

Project Subsidies and Costs

The Light Tower Corporation claims it wishes to offer a free gift to the City however, the Corporation has already received significant subsidies and appear to be requesting additional subsidies. **We oppose any subsidies for this project.**

Subsidies already given

Site Selection Study Paid by City Park Trust Fund (PDO/PIO money) Senior Management, Park Staff Time serving as project manager and consultant

Paid by City Park Trust Fund and General Fund Senior Management, Public Works, City Manager, Airport, Office of Economic

Development, Office of Cultural Affairs. Over 50 hours to Develop Site Selection Study Paid by General Fund, Hotel Tax, and other funds

Subsidies Expected

Parkland worth millions of dollars per acre

Unspecified money from grants and other funds linked to Arena Green Park location⁶— this appears to be

Park Trust Fund

Community Benefits Fund
Senior Park Management Serving as project management

Art Contest Likely to Fail

The Light Tower Corp proposes an open contest for their icon. They cite only ONE example of a successful open contest leading to a public icon: the Washington DC Vietnam War Memorial. In

⁶ Site Selection Study. “Incentives and cost offsets.”

1266 Lincoln Avenue Suite 108 www.sjparksvocates 8 San Jose, CA 95125 Facebook: San Jose Parks Advocates

contrast, when the city initiated the St. James park re-visioning project, the Office of Cultural Affairs recommended that the City proceed with soliciting qualified competitors and pay them a stipend for their submissions. The regular city process requires artists to submit their portfolios, i.e. pre-qualify.

Any large scale project will require advanced construction knowledge. Great artists with these skills are unlikely to spend time on submitting to an open art contest. If the Light Tower Corp has enough money to pay for a giant project, then they should use their money to conform to a method of soliciting ideas that the city has found to successful here.

Fundraising Competes With City Priorities

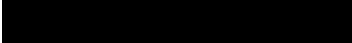
The Light Tower Corporation fundraising activities will be competing with a previously approved project—the Levitt Pavilion and St. James Park Re-visioning. Fundraising will start in earnest when the EIR is completed and certified. We do not think both projects, Light Tower and St. James Park, can compete in the philanthropic environment.

Lightning in a bottle

We believe in public art. We also believe that creating “world class, iconic art that will attract tourists” is like catching lightning in a bottle—nearly impossible. The world and our city is littered with failed and divisive art projects. We believe there are other places that are more appropriate to take the risk of an ordinary or divisive piece of art. Further, we believe that a true gift to the City would mean buying the land needed for the project rather than taking land from the park system, compelling neighborhoods of modest means to give up access to parkland in order to receive a “gift” subsidized by the city. **We won't know unless we try. Thanks for your opinion.**

We urge the Council reject the site analysis and ask the proponents to fully fund their gift by compensating the City for all expenses and by buying a site rather than taking parkland from a park deficient area. **We are activating, not taking, parkland.**

Sincerely, /s/

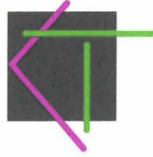
Jean Dresden
Coordinator
San Jose Parks Advocates 

cc.

City Clerk

City Manager Dave Sykes Deputy City Manager Angel Rios Director of Parks Jon Cicirelli San
Jose Parks Advocates Board 1266 Lincoln Avenue Suite 108 San Jose, CA 95125

www.sjparksadvocates.org Facebook: San Jose Parks Advocates



KT URBAN

Dear Mayor and City Council,

KT Urban is pleased to provide full support of the landmark project being developed by the SJLTC team.

As property owners and a participant in the gentrification of the urban core. We strongly believe in the goals to provide a landmark project for generations to enjoy in downtown San Jose.

Please support the Arena Greens site.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Tersini



Principal, KT Urban

CC emails below:

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San Jose City Council
San Jose City Hall
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, California 95113

March 12, 2019

Honorable Mayor Liccardo and City Council Members—

I write in **support** of the San Jose Light Tower Corporation's proposed site of Arena Green in the Guadalupe River Park, and strongly suggest you **approve** the staff recommendation before you today. This type of project is the big thinking San Jose needs and deserves.

As a business owner in our downtown core, it's exciting to understand the opportunity of civic identity, cultural vibrancy and economic development a project like this iconic landmark can bring to our great city. The nonprofit SJLTC has been transparent in its community outreach and prudent stewards of the environment and San Jose's central park. SJLTC's strong partnership with the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy is testament to the overwhelming support of ecological awareness and duty.

Arena Green received highest marks in the objective, third-party study and report, but even if it had not, it's the perfect location for an iconic structure. Think about the great cities around the world and you'll recall landmarks are part of something bigger – they don't stand by themselves. This future icon will compliment Diridon Station activity, SAP Center entertainment and the park's newfound energy with families and visitors alike. It will be a beacon of Silicon Valley and a gateway to downtown San Jose.

It's is a no-brainer vote today. Approve this.

Respectfully,



Nicholas E. Adams
president

Submitted via email

CC: San Jose City Clerk