

From: Dean Stanford

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 11:52 AM

To: City Clerk

Subject: Comments on 4-12-20 Council Agenda Item 2.17, Pond A-18 Surplus Property

Greetings,

I would like to comment on agenda item 2.17, Pond A-18 Surplus Property.

Pond A-18 should not be declared surplus property unless an easement is negotiated and granted to San Jose/Santa Clara on the entire surrounding levee berm. The levee berm is needed for a park bay loop trail to provide proper mitigation for the loss of a 9-mile bay loop trail at Alviso Marina County Park.

Ten years ago a proposal was submitted during the water treatment plant master plan public input period. The park proposal is for a multi-use and zero emission active recreation park on the waste water treatment plant lands.

The bay-side park would restore 800-acres of reclaimed land at the San Jose/Santa Clara water treatment plant and include a proposed bay loop trail.

The park has garnered the interest and support of CA State Parks, Supervisor Dave Cortese, Assemblymember Kansen Chu and help from Congressman Ro Khanna.

CA State Parks is considering offering to enter into a co-management agreement to help create and manage the park, or take the lead role. CA State Parks is also actively looking for land acquisition opportunities for new parks. CA State Parks may be interested in purchasing Pond A-18 for the park. In a recent conversation with CA State Parks Director Lisa Mangat, her response to the park proposal was: "Who do I contact for more information".

A main feature of the park is under threat of being destroyed. The 3.5-mile loop trail out on the bay around Pond A-18 will be destroyed if the pond is sold without negotiating the bay loop trail option. If the Pond-A18 sale goes through without the stipulation of a bay trail, the option for a bay trail will be lost forever.

The Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) broke its own rules by prematurely authorizing the Shoreline Restoration Plan to remove the Pond A-18 levee. The local commissioner questioned the lack of proper trail mitigation in a recent meeting.

The Shoreline Plan will also be eliminating a 9-mile bay loop trail at Alviso Marina County Park. This is an amazing resource for the citizens of San Jose, and the region, to access nature and the Bay. Park users and local residents are not happy,

A bay trail around Pond A-18 would be proper mitigation for losing the 9-mile trail.

The levee around Pond-A18 would be breached and bridged instead of destroyed while proceeding with the rest of the restoration plan.

See attached trail issue pdf for a letter from Congressman Ro Khanna and response from US Fish and Wildlife disavowing their purview over the land and suggesting working with San Jose on the trail issue.

San Jose can retain the pond, or as stated, stipulate that a trail be included before selling it to the water district, which will destroy the levee. Alternately the pond could be sold to CA State Parks, Santa Clara or a non-profit.

There is a process to alter the Shoreline Plan, a post authorization change report per the WIIN Act and a supplemental EIR. The stakeholders would be obliged to alter the plan if San Jose deems to save the Pond A-18 trail option.

Santa Clara is a partner and co-owner of the treatment plant land and is engaged and very interested in the project. They are also in need of a new home for the Santa Clara PAL BMX track.

Best Regards,

Dean Stanford

PUBLIC COMMENT APRIL 14, 2020

Public Comment on Consent Calendar

Public Comment from Dean Stanford

Item 2.17, Pond A-18 Surplus Property.

Pond A-18 should not be declared surplus property unless an easement is negotiated and granted to San Jose/Santa Clara on the entire surrounding levee. The levee is needed for a bay loop trail to provide proper mitigation for the loss of a 9-mile bay loop trail at Alviso Marina County Park.

A park proposal was submitted during the water treatment plant master plan public input period. The park proposal is for a multi-use and zero emission active recreation park on the waste water treatment plant lands.

The bay-side park would restore 800-acres of reclaimed land at the treatment plant.

The 3.5-mile levee around Pond A-18 will be destroyed if the pond is sold without negotiating the bay loop trail option. If the sale goes through without the stipulation of a bay trail, the option for a bay trail will be lost forever.

The Shoreline Plan will be eliminating a 9-mile bay loop trail at Alviso Marina County Park. This is an amazing resource for San Jose, and the region, to access nature and the Bay. Park users and local residents are not happy,

A bay trail around Pond A-18 would be proper mitigation for losing the 9-mile trail.

The levee around Pond-A18 would be breached and bridged while proceeding with the restoration plan.

Pond A-18 can be retained, or stipulate that a trail be included before selling it. The pond could be sold to CA State Parks, Santa Clara or a non-profit.
