

Fw: 6/29 City Council Item 2.14 - Agnews Municipal Groundwater Wells Project

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Fri 6/18/2021 8:58 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

📎 1 attachments (517 KB)

Parking lots in North San Jose.pdf;

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

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From: Robin Roemer [REDACTED] >**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2021 8:54 AM**To:** District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** 6/29 City Council Item 2.14 - Agnews Municipal Groundwater Wells Project

[External Email]

Dear Councilmember Cohen, Mayor Liccardo, Members of the San José City Council,

I would like to ask you to defer the vote on the Agnews Municipal Groundwater Wells Project to a later council meeting to allow for a more detailed discussion of its impact to the future Agnews Park (Agnews East Parkland Project <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=20177>). The proposed project would place three pump stations – each up to a size of 10,000 sq ft - in the planned park without any consideration for the loss of park land or how it would impact the community's use of the future park.

The proposed mitigated negative declaration simply side steps the future park issue by avoiding to acknowledge the plans for the park and only describing the current, temporary situation.

Even if this is standard environmental planning practice, it is also very short-sighted.

For example, in section 4.11.8 Recreation, the study writes: “The closest City park to both sites is Moitozo Park, located approximately 0.64 miles southwest of the Agnews site” despite the fact that the Agnews site will be in a future park itself.

The study further writes in the same section: “The Project would not permanently affect any **existing** recreational uses of nearby features”. Although technically true, I believe it is the prerogative if not obligation of the City Council to consider a projects long-term impacts on future uses.

A recent River Oaks neighborhood meeting which included staff from various City departments as well as representatives from Santa Clara Unified showed miscommunication and general lack of coordination

as staff was seemingly unable to even agree on what should be considered the front of the park or how public access to the park would be designed.

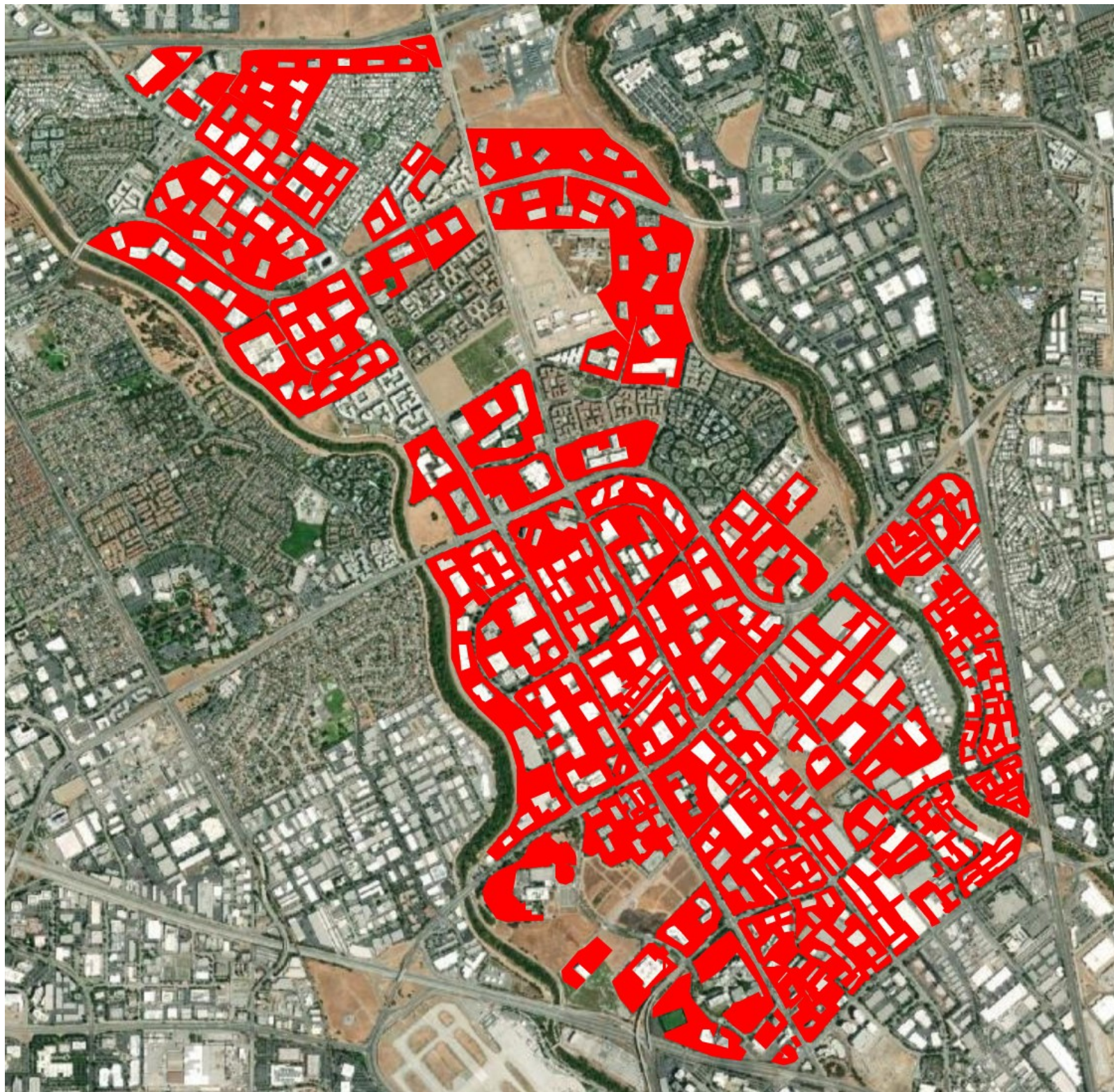
It is baffling to me, that staff is proposing to use valuable public park land – which is of short supply in North San José – to install these three pumps instead of working with businesses or public entities in the area to place those pumps somewhere on surface parking lots – of which there is ample, some might say, excess supply in North San José (see areas marked in red in the map attached).

Given the ongoing and continuing drought conditions, it is obviously important to move quickly to ensure sufficient water supply, but as a more general observation, I would like to note that

- It seems surprising that given the urgency that staff hasn't made more of an effort to integrate wells into recent commercial projects. Staff hasn't shared any information about efforts to place wells on the Samsung site, at Topgolf or any of the other sites that have been recently (re-)developed?
- Creating and maintaining park land is important to fight our climate crisis and with that drought conditions. Parking lots helped create the climate crisis and exacerbate drought conditions. It is again baffling that staff would work to reduce the former instead of the latter.

Thank you for your consideration,
Robin Roemer
D4 resident

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Fw: Item 2.14 Agnews Municipal Groundwater Project on Consent calendar

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Fri 6/25/2021 8:14 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

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From: Jean Marlowe [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 4:14 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; David Cohen [REDACTED]; Brown, Stacey <Stacey.Brown@sanjoseca.gov>; Jimenez, Hugo <Hugo.Jimenez@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Neighborhoods Commission 4a <NC4a@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: jean [REDACTED]; Orozco, Tim <Tim.Orozco@sen.ca.gov>; pasar [REDACTED]; Mike Bertram <[REDACTED]>; Jim Canova [REDACTED]; Mike & Laura Carns [REDACTED]; Robin Roemer [REDACTED]; grumpyrick [REDACTED]; vlad raykin <[REDACTED]>; Paul Keane [REDACTED]; Eamonn Kerley [REDACTED]; Rhonda Striegel <[REDACTED]>; Bob Soares <[REDACTED]>; Richard Santos [REDACTED]; Mandy <[REDACTED]>; vishnu gandluru [REDACTED]; Jim Canova <[REDACTED]>; Marcelle Kube <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Item 2.14 Agnews Municipal Groundwater Project on Consent calendar

[External Email]

Hi Councilman Cohen,

On the Consent Calendar I would like to ask you to **defer** the vote on the **City Council Item 2.14 - Agnews Municipal Groundwater Well Project** to a later date.

There are a lot of moving parts to this park and the permitting of 3 wells on the Agnew East Park when initially none were planned will have a huge impact on how the park functions.

Because these three wells were not part of the initial park plans it has caused a lot of confusion and upset among the neighbors and even other city entities are not happy. There are significant disagreements between SCUSD, MUNI and PRNS as to what is the front of the park or the back, where the parking is, who has access, and even where roads are, as well as lack of safety setbacks. MUNI marching in and claiming where they will put the wells before any planning has occurred will significantly impact neighborhood use as well as park designs and the placement of amenities.

There should be a plan for the park that at the very least includes a layout showing where amenities will be to avoid having to work around decisions made by people who are not in the business of planning parks. We do not believe MUNI should be deciding how the park will lay out when they have no clue how the park would be used. Furthermore, we want to see a library and community center in the park and the placement of these wells will significantly impact where these structures would go.

There's much that needs to be decided before various city entities start carving up the park and staking claims. This is an important issue and we believe it should be deferred until these issues are resolved.

Thank you,

Jean Marlowe,


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Fw: 06/29/2021 Agenda item #2.14

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 6/28/2021 7:38 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: laura.swordfish [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 1:36 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: riveroaksna [REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: 06/29/2021 Agenda item #2.14

[External Email]

Hello Councilman Cohen and SJ City Council,

RE: City Council Item 2.14 - Agnews Municipal Groundwater Well Project - PLEASE DEFER/OPPOSE

It was brought to my attention that there may be three wells in a park near my home and that the project status and scope is up for approval.

In reading the memorandum for this topic, it is unclear to me how these wells will affect the park/educational space functionality and I am requesting that the developers to be more descriptive and directly communicative to the surrounding residents. As a River Oaks resident since 2008 and now a mom to a toddler, more useful park and educational space in the area is MUCH NEEDED for River Oaks children and community, as there has been a huge increase residential presence with all of the new high-density complexes on River Oaks Parkway since 2008.

In reading the responses to comments in the June 2021 dated File ER20-15, I would ask for the developer to revisit their responses since the pandemic has begun, as their responses are based off of pre-Covid19 pandemic results. The neighborhood is quieter now and surrounding office buildings are not as full as before. Having sensitive hearing, I find having a constant sound (~50db per well, thus times three?) is distracting, and prospective students at the school and park may feel the same - what could be the impact? Regardless of the project being within any footprint or zoning guidelines and Cisco's support, why do the wells need to be placed IN the confines of a park/educational space that is in a school area that is already much needed for this community? Honestly, I do not find that Cisco employees and facilities will be impacted as much as the school children and/or local residents using the space!?! Those impacted are the people who need to know to know more information about the wells!

I honestly thought that all the Agnes site was to be used for the children in this precious space, so I am very unprepared and unaccepting of this. Why hasn't more outreach been done to the surrounding community? I haven't seen any mailers/fliers from the developer regarding these plans - it seems that they are trying to avoid the public opinion on this!! If the developer of this project feel that they are in their right to have these wells in a place that is designated for the school and surrounding community, then I demand that they be more forthright with the surrounding community regarding their plans! Expressing all their interest in city documents is a great way to AVOID the community, in my opinion!!

Finally, I believe ALL of this space should honestly be left for the children and surrounding community, as it was initially intended for!! There are plenty of vacant, nearby office spaces elsewhere that probably won't get filled in the aftermath of the pandemic - why can't these wells be put there? Why in a park, near a school?? Why DURING the construction of this precious space for the community???

San Jose Council, please DEFER/OPPOSE any acceptance or approval of 2.14 on the June 29, 2021 agenda until more community awareness and communication is done on the planner's/developer's part AND more community input is given!

Thank you for your consideration and please continue to be safe and healthy.

All the best,
Laura RS
Crescendo resident since 2008

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