

February 20, 2008

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San José, CA 95113

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

The Parks and Recreation Commission enthusiastically endorse the concept of a San Jose Steam Railroad Museum on the site of the 1863 San Francisco and San Jose Steam Railroad's historical southern terminus. At our February 20, 2008 Commission meeting, Mr. Rod Diridon of the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation made a presentation and requested our support.

The Commission unanimously supported the project, because:

- It is consistent with the goals of the City to increase parks and recreational facilities in all neighborhoods to meet the 3.5 acres of open space per 1000 residents goal established in the Greenprint;
- This area of the City is currently severely underserved in park lands; and
- This project appears to be consistent with the Guadalupe River Park guidelines and provides a unique and exciting element to the downtown area further creating a "sense of place" as well as reestablishing and preserving San Jose history.

Furthermore, the Commission respectfully requests that the City Council consider the following in approving this proposal:

- The existing railroad trestle bridge needs to be replaced as part of this proposal to ensure that the full flood protection benefits of the Guadalupe River Park project are achieved. An option to add a pedestrian walkway to this bridge should be explored and considered if the project financing allows;
- Reinforcement work on the Coleman Avenue Bridge should continue as part of this proposal; and
- Providing an active recreation element as part of this proposal such as the soccer field conceptually shown in this presentation is highly desirable and greatly needed to meet City goals regarding community sports fields.

We recognize that there are details associated with implementing this proposal that still require resolution and strongly recommend that PRNS staff participate in the resolution as appropriate. For example, costs associated with both acquiring the site and operating and maintaining it

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should be further refined so a complete understanding of the project's fiscal impact to the City is known.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Melanie Richardson, Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission