

Contact: David Low, Office of Mayor Liccardo: 408-535-4840 or david.low@sanjoseca.gov

City Council to Vote Today on Commencing Negotiations with Google

Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Carrasco and Councilmembers Peralez, Davis and Arenas urge that any agreement ensures that city-owned land is purchased at fair market value with no City subsidies for the proposed development

San Jose Calif. – Today, the City Council will consider entering into an exclusive negotiating agreement with Google over the company’s interest in acquiring several publicly-owned lands near Diridon Station as it explores a transformative mixed-use, transit-oriented office development.

Ahead of the City Council deliberation and vote, Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Carrasco and Councilmembers Peralez, Davis and Arenas have authored a memo recommending that the City commence negotiations with Google, with the explicit direction that the City obtain fair-market value for the publicly-owned properties and that no City subsidies be provided for the proposed development. You can read their memo here:

http://sanjose.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=&event_id=2689&meta_id=643044.

The potential project, which is still in the exploratory stage and would be built-out over many years, envisions 6-8 million sq. ft. of office/R&D development with world-class architecture, publicly accessible outdoor plazas and paseos, street-level retail shops, and public greenbelt and parks. In addition to creating a tremendous number of new jobs for our residents, the proposed development would generate millions in annual tax revenues to enhance critical city services. To facilitate this vision, Google has expressed an interest in purchasing several publicly-owned properties in the area. You can read the staff report here:

http://sanjose.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=&event_id=2689&meta_id=641032.

The project would also serve as a major catalyst for the area surrounding Diridon Station, which will become one of the busiest transit hubs in the entire Western U.S. with the planned arrive of BART and High Speed Rail in the years ahead. *The Diridon Station Area Master Plan envisions the addition of 2,500 to 3,000 new housing units in the immediate area – which would also be subject to the City’s inclusionary housing ordinance and affordable housing fees.* In addition, thousands of new apartments have been recently constructed in the greater Downtown, with another 6,000 units currently in the pipeline.

The Council vote today would signify just the start of negotiations over the purchase of publicly-owned land and other aspects of the potential project, with ample opportunity in the months ahead to discuss potential community benefits. In fact, the memo from the Mayor and his colleagues specifically call for a robust and transparent public engagement process that provides a voice for the community as these discussions proceed.