



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Councilmember Nora Campos
Councilmember Nancy Pyle
Councilmember Rose Herrera

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: February 26, 2009

APPROVED: *Nora Campos*

DATE: *2/26/2009*

Nancy Pyle
Rose Herrera
SUBJECT: A'S STADIUM IN SAN JOSE

RECOMMENDATION

1. Add an agenda item to the March 24, 2009 City Council meeting to discuss the City's strategy for pursuing negotiations with the A's and Major League Baseball. Initial steps should include directing staff to:
 - a. Commission a poll to determine citywide public support for the project.
 - b. Report back to Council within 45 days with results from the poll.
2. Direct the City Manager and the Chief Development Officer to lead the discussions with the A's organization and Major League Baseball.
3. Direct staff to return to the Community and Economic Development Committee every two months with updates on the status of the discussions, providing ample opportunity for residents to receive regular reports on the project and express concerns as it develops. Staff should also present to the Committee regular updates on efforts to address the concerns of neighboring residents.

BACKGROUND

While Santa Clara County is currently within the San Francisco Giants territorial rights, recent actions by Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig suggest there may be an opportunity to amend those rights. On December 3, 2008, Commissioner Selig wrote a letter to Lew Wolff authorizing the A's to talk with "other communities" about the stadium relocation if the Fremont project did not materialize. This appeared to be a major shift in Major League Baseball's policy of honoring the Giants' artificial barrier around San Jose.

Bringing the A's to San Jose is a great opportunity to market San Jose and the downtown core. The Redevelopment Agency owns most of the 14-acre project site next to downtown Diridon Station and the EIR has been completed. The development of a stadium would pump \$500 million into San Jose and create several hundred construction jobs. A stadium would act as a

catalyst for the development of a larger, transit-oriented community adjacent to the future portal to BART, Caltrain and High-Speed Rail. This project will greatly benefit the City of San José and its residents as well as Major League Baseball, as it would have the opportunity to improve A's fans' experiences with a new stadium in a prime location.

The discussions between the City, Major League Baseball and the A's organization should be as open and transparent as possible while still respecting the need for certain aspects of the discussion to remain confidential. To achieve that openness and transparency, discussions regarding the potential development of an A's stadium in downtown San Jose should be held in public forums where residents can freely express support or concerns for various aspects of the project.

The full City Council needs to immediately address this prospect and provide direction to staff so that they may initiate a discussion with the A's and Major League Baseball. The first step in this process, however, needs to focus on gauging the level of support for the project within communities adjacent to the stadium site, as well as from residents throughout the City of San Jose.