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*Memorandum*

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Debra Figone

**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Weekly Report

**DATE:** March 13, 2009

**INFORMATION**

Following are the key activities to be highlighted this week:

***San Jose's City Hall First in Nation to be Platinum LEED-EB<sup>TM</sup> Certified*** —On March 9, Mayor Reed proudly announced that City Hall achieved Platinum-level LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in the category of Existing Building (EB), which had established significant sustainable operation and maintenance practices. Our City Hall is the first in the nation to qualify in this category at platinum level, the highest level in the LEED ranking system. To earn the certification, staff in multiple departments implemented measures resulting in energy and water conservation, waste reduction, healthy indoor air quality, and environmental purchasing. At 530,000 square-feet, our City Hall represents roughly a fourth of the total square footage of LEED buildings in the City's combined private and public sectors. Four other City-owned buildings are LEED certified at various levels, and an additional 21 are on track for certification in the next two years. The green building measures associated with certification are integral to achieving the City's Climate Action Plan for greenhouse gas emissions mitigation. At this event, Mayor Reed, Councilmembers and the City Administration were joined by City employees who were celebrated for this significant achievement. For more information, contact Jennifer Seguin at 975-2543.

***Camden Community Center achieves LEED<sup>TM</sup> Certification*** —On March 4, the City was notified that the Camden Community Center achieved LEED certification. This accomplishment is notable, considering that the Center was initially budgeted prior to Council approval of the Green Building Policy. LEED certification was made possible as the design team moved swiftly to incorporate sustainability measures early in the design phase. To help offset the increased cost of construction, the design team also participated in the "Savings by Design" program where financial incentives are offered by PG&E based on project performance in the area of energy efficiency. As the first of nine community centers funded by the Parks Bond Measure, the Camden Community Center not only serves as a model for other community center projects in terms of LEED design strategies, efforts, and costs. Additionally, it adds over 20,000 square feet of new, and 13,000 square feet of renovated building space to support our City's Green Vision. Vice Mayor Chirco will be hosting a celebration event in honor of this great achievement and will announce details as soon as they are available.

***Airport Stimulus Funding*** —The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has released more details on how it plans to distribute the additional \$1.1 billion in funds to the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), as a result of the President's economic stimulus plan. No single project may receive more than \$15 million, and no single airport authority may receive more than \$20 million. SJC is anticipating to receive \$6 million for its "South Apron Pavement Reconstruction Project,"

**HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**Subject:** City Manager's Weekly Report

**Date:** March 13, 2009

Page 2 of 4

supplementing the previous FAA commitment of \$8 million, and an award of contract for construction is scheduled to go to Council in June. The AIP funds, which are grants provided by the FAA for capital improvement projects that address safety, security, capacity and environmental issues, total about \$3.5 billion a year. The stimulus package also included \$1 billion for procurement and installation of checked baggage explosives detection systems and checkpoint explosives detection at airports. Congress directed TSA to prioritize funding to accelerate installation at locations with completed design plans, and TSA has informed 17 airports, including SJC, that it will direct \$700 million for the installation of explosive detection systems for checked-baggage screening. Although specific amounts have not been announced, SJC has already submitted its application and design plan for the baggage security system for the new Terminal B. For more information, contact Jim Webb at 501-7612. Citywide information related to the Economic Stimulus Plan will be provided through a separate Information Memo anticipated for distribution today.

***Airport Passenger Activity Drops 19% in February*** —The February 2009 preliminary passenger traffic report showed a drop of 19.1% compared to February 2008. Although activity has declined year-over-year, every month since September 2007, the rate of decline has significantly accelerated to double digits since October 2008. Airlines continue to reduce their system capacity for both domestic and international service in response to slumping demand from both business and leisure travelers, which is affecting airport operating revenues across the country. SJC now estimates that traffic for Fiscal Year 2008-09 will be down about 15% compared to last fiscal year. For more information, contact Bill Sherry at 501-7600.

***Downtown Obstruction Study Rescheduled*** —Staff from the Airport, Redevelopment Agency, Planning, and City Manager's Office recently met with the technical consultants retained by the Airport and the Chamber of Commerce to review findings of the Downtown Obstruction Study and to explore the potential for further technical refinements that might help achieve the Council's policy objectives for both the Airport and Downtown. The Agency identified critical areas for potential downtown development and requested that Airport consultants approach the airlines regarding possible variations of alternatives and evaluate impacts on sustaining long-haul air service. Consequently, staff has deferred the presentation of the obstruction study findings and recommendations to the June 22 Community and Economic Development Committee meeting.

***PG&E To Install New Gas Lines For 900 San José Homes*** —Over the next four months, PG&E will begin a program to replace old copper gas lines with new non-corrosive plastic pipes. The initial phase will start with 900 older homes in San José. This work requires excavation in the street to remove and replace the gas lines with additional work being performed at the gas meter on the customer's property. Public outreach by PG&E will include a 30-day advance notice by mail and door flyers on affected properties several days before the start of construction. This initial phase is expected to begin on March 16, and completed by July 2009. For more information, contact Timm Borden at 535-8499.

***Seismic Gas Shut Off Valves*** —Staff from Human Resources and Public Works departments, along with the City's insurance carrier FM Global, have concluded that the installation of Seismic Gas Shut off valves on new projects can be easily implemented. Such valves have been installed on a number of projects in the past and can be included in our standards for all future projects. The installation of these valves prevents potential fire which may occur as a result of a gas line leak or rupture of City owned buildings during an earthquake, reducing overall costs of risk and helping minimize damage to City property.

## HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Subject: City Manager's Weekly Report

Date: March 13, 2009

Page 3 of 4

**Statewide Workshop To Focus On Keeping City Clean** —On March 19, Keep San Jose Beautiful is partnering with several organizations to host a "Keep California Beautiful" Quarterly workshop. Topics include San Jose's Anti-Graffiti and Litter Prevention programs and best management practices for controlling graffiti. The mission of Keep California Beautiful (KCB) is to bring together individuals, state and local governments, communities and corporations through strategic initiatives and volunteer action to preserve and protect California's natural resources. KCB annually provides resources and support to more than 200 California communities, focusing on cleanup, beautification and enhancement projects. The workshop will also be sponsored by Caltrans, Adopt-a-Highway and BigBelly Solar. City staff members who participate in cleanup and beautification projects are invited to attend at no cost. For more information, contact Devony Taylor at 723-1574.

**Sign Code Update** —On March 25-26, staff will begin the first phase of community outreach for the Sign Code Update with a series of stakeholder focus group and community input meetings. These outreach meetings are an important part of the Sign Code Update and will focus on the key signage issues that should be addressed in the update process, including electronic signs, billboards, freeway signs, advertising on news racks and more. Stakeholder groups and community members will learn about existing sign regulations and the process the City is implementing to identify what types and amounts of signage would best support community goals for urban design and economic development. Participants will have an opportunity to identify important signage issues and to voice any ideas, questions or concerns that they may have regarding signs in San José. Community meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, March 25, at Roosevelt Community Center (901 East Santa Clara Street)
- Thursday, March 26, at Pearl Library Community Room (4270 Pearl Avenue)

Focus group participation will be limited to invited stakeholder representatives, however, all meetings are open to attendance by the public and time will be allotted at the end of each meeting for public comment.

**In the News: Grazing Project at Treatment Plant** —The City's treatment plant, is also now known as the "cutest treatment plant in America," as featured in the news last week for its grazing project. As reported by the *Mercury News*, two television networks, and other web-based outlets, the City is utilizing the help of over a thousand grazing animals, including newborn lambs and kids (sheep and goats), to help manage over 400 acres of open Plant land without the use of herbicides or gas-guzzling mowers. This watershed-friendly approach to land management will be implemented at several additional City sites throughout 2009. For more information, contact Elaine Marshall at 277-5697.

### Upcoming Meetings & Events

**Planning Division Community Meetings** —Due to the volume of community meetings conducted by the Planning Division, please visit <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planningcalendar> to view upcoming meetings and events.

**Spring Classes, Spring Sports Leagues and Spring Camps Registration** —Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m. at any City of San Jose Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services Community Center or online at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/register>. For more information 793-5565 or [SJregistration@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:SJregistration@sanjoseca.gov).

**HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**Subject:** City Manager's Weekly Report

**Date:** March 13, 2009

Page 4 of 4

**Teen Tech Week "Battle of the Bands – Live Concert"**—Saturday, March 14, 2– 5 p.m. at Almaden Library and Community Center, 6445 Camden Avenue. Event culminates with online competition sponsored by the Library's Young Adult Services. For information, call 808-3040.

**Summer Daycamps and Summer Aquatics Programs Registration** —Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m. at any City of San Jose Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services Community Center or online at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/register>. For more information, call 793-5565 or e-mail [SJregistration@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:SJregistration@sanjoseca.gov).

**First Southside Community and Senior Center Community Flea Market**—Saturday, March 14, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. rain or shine. FREE Admission. Please call 629-3336, for more information.

**Southside Community and Senior Center Spring Fest!** —On March 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be great food, great crafts, great games and great fun. Don't miss the Candy Hunt, prize drawings, exciting performances by the Community Center Classes and more. Call 629-3336 for more information on **Spring Fest!**

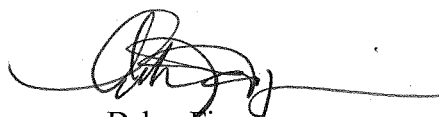
**"Neighbors in the Chambers" Training**—Training will consist of three sessions on the following subjects:

- Saturday, March 21: "City Council Meeting 101," is a walkthrough of a council meeting led by the Neighborhood Development Center and Strong Neighborhoods Initiative; and
- Saturday, April 18: "The Effective Advocate," led by neighborhood leaders focuses on how to be an effective advocate and engage the community.

All sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in the Council Chambers. Space is limited; to RSVP call or email: 723-4114 or [ndc@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:ndc@sanjoseca.gov).

**Great American Litter Pickup**—Saturday, April 25, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Servando Perez at 277-3208 or [Servando.perez@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Servando.perez@sanjoseca.gov). Locations listed below.

- Starbird Youth Center, 1050 Boynton Avenue, San Jose, CA 95117
- Oak Grove High School, 285 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, CA 95123
- Roosevelt Community Center, 901 E. Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95116
- Berryessa Community Center, 3050 Berryessa Road, San Jose, CA 95132
- Alviso Youth Center, 5040 N. First Street, San Jose, CA, 95134
- Mayfair Community Center, 2039 Kammerer, San Jose, CA 95116
- Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128
- Seven Trees Elementary School, 3975 Mira Loma, San Jose, CA 95111
- Dove Hill Elementary, 1460 Colt Way, San Jose, CA 95121
- Camden Community Center, 3369 Union Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124
- Pioneer High School, 1290 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, CA 95118



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