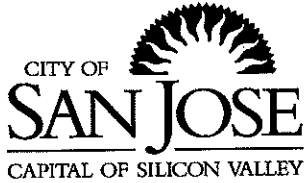


SENT TO COUNCIL:

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APR 26 2010

by City Manager's Office



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Albert Balagso

SUBJECT: San Jose Family Camp

DATE: 04-20-10

Approved

Date

4-26-10

INFORMATION

As a follow-up to the Council's March 5, 2010 discussion on San Jose Family Camp (Camp), this report is intended to provide additional background on the program and to address some of the general questions that were raised during the report. Additional analysis regarding the ability to re-open Camp for the 2011 season will be provided in May 2010 as part of the Manager's Budget Addendum process.

1. Description of the Camp and the physical setting

Originally called Tuolumne Camp, San Jose Family Camp was constructed by the City of Oakland in 1921. The City of San Jose purchased the facility from Oakland in 1968, when Oakland chose to consolidate their camping program at their second camp on the Feather River. The original construction of the camp took advantage of San Francisco's construction of the Hetch Hetchy water system and utilized a railroad stop as a means to transport campers by train to the new camp on the Middle Fork Tuolumne River. San Jose currently leases the 36-acre site from the Stanislaus National Forest and all aspects of Camp operation are subject to oversight and approval of the US Forest Service. The attached Tent Map shows traffic patterns and facility locations. More information about Family Camp can be found on the City's website at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/familycamp/>.

2. About the Friends of Family Camp and Photographs of Camp

The Friends of San Jose Family Camp are one of our oldest PRNS support organizations, dating back to 1972. The Friends have provided thousands of hours of labor and programming support at Camp and continue to be the voice of the campers, as we move through challenges and opportunities in this historic program. The Friends have been outspoken in advocating a deeper commitment to Camp and expressing hope to grow the program in such a way that it can become even more successful and self-reliant. More information about the Friends can be found on their web site at the following link: <http://www.friendsofsanjosefamilycamp.org/>.

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There are a number of photographs of Camp included on the Friend's website. Scrolling through these photos provides a better sense of the setting and topography of the site. The photos can be accessed as follows:

- 1) Access the Friend's website at <http://www.friendsofsanjosefamilycamp.org/>
- 2) Click on the "Description of Camp" link on the left hand side of the page
- 3) Review the description and photos and click on the "See More Pictures of Camp" at the bottom of the page.

3. Challenges in finding alternative temporary dining locations

Family Camp is located in a narrow, steep canyon, skirting both sides of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River. With the exception of the Dining Hall/Patio camp center and the Sierra Meadow play area on the west end of the Camp, there is very little flat area to work with. Camper tents and restrooms are distributed on hillsides throughout the Camp property. The only feasible site for placement of a temporary dining tent is on the existing foundation/footprint of the dining hall. See attached map showing elevations and notes on tent placement issues.

4. Alternative camping opportunities for Family Camp customers

Following the Council's direction from March, the department has sent a mailing to Camp customers in which we reported on the 2010 program closure and anticipated plans for demolition of the dining hall and placement of a temporary structure for dining, with a goal of re-opening for the 2011 camp season. In our mailing, we suggested some partner camps for those families who will still be seeking a camping experience in 2010. Those suggestions are:

- Camp Concord: <http://www.ci.concord.ca.us/recreation/camp/>;
- Berkeley Tuolumne Camp: <http://www.berkeleycamps.com/btc.shtml>;
- Camp Mather Family Camp: http://www.sfgov.org/site/recpark_index.asp?id=16322;
- and
- UC Berkeley Lair of the Bear Camp: <http://alumni.berkeley.edu/travel/lair-golden-bear/types-vacations/family-camp>.

As mentioned at the beginning of this memorandum, additional information on the possibility of re-opening Camp for the 2011 season will be presented in May 2011 as part of the Manager's Budget Addendum process.

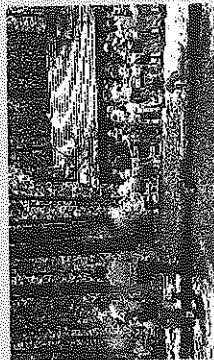
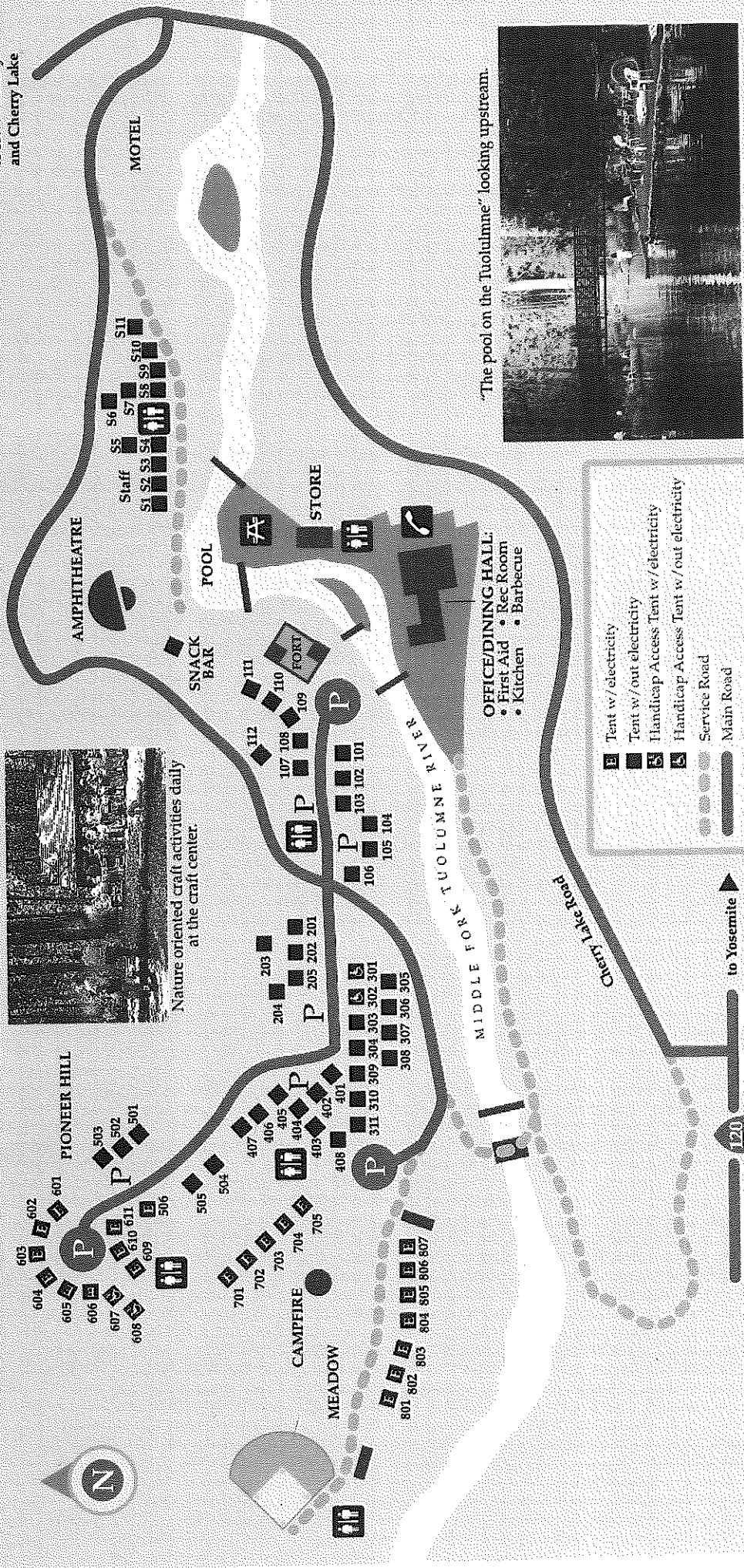
/s/

ALBERT BALAGSO
Director of Parks, Recreation and
Neighborhood Services

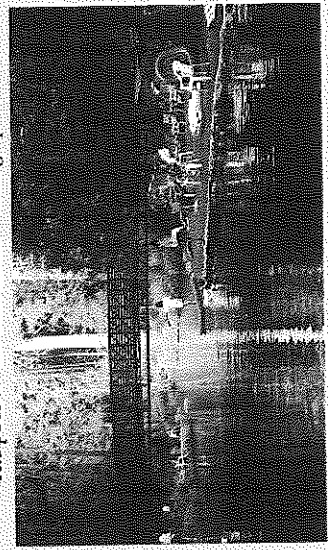
Attachments: Tent Map and Master Plan Layout

For questions please contact Mark Marney, Deputy Director, at 408-535-3582.

to Hatch Hechly
and Cherry Lake



Nature oriented craft activities daily
at the craft center.



"The pool on the Tuolumne" looking upstream.

OFFICE/DINING HALL:
• First Aid • Rec Room
• Kitchen • Barbecue

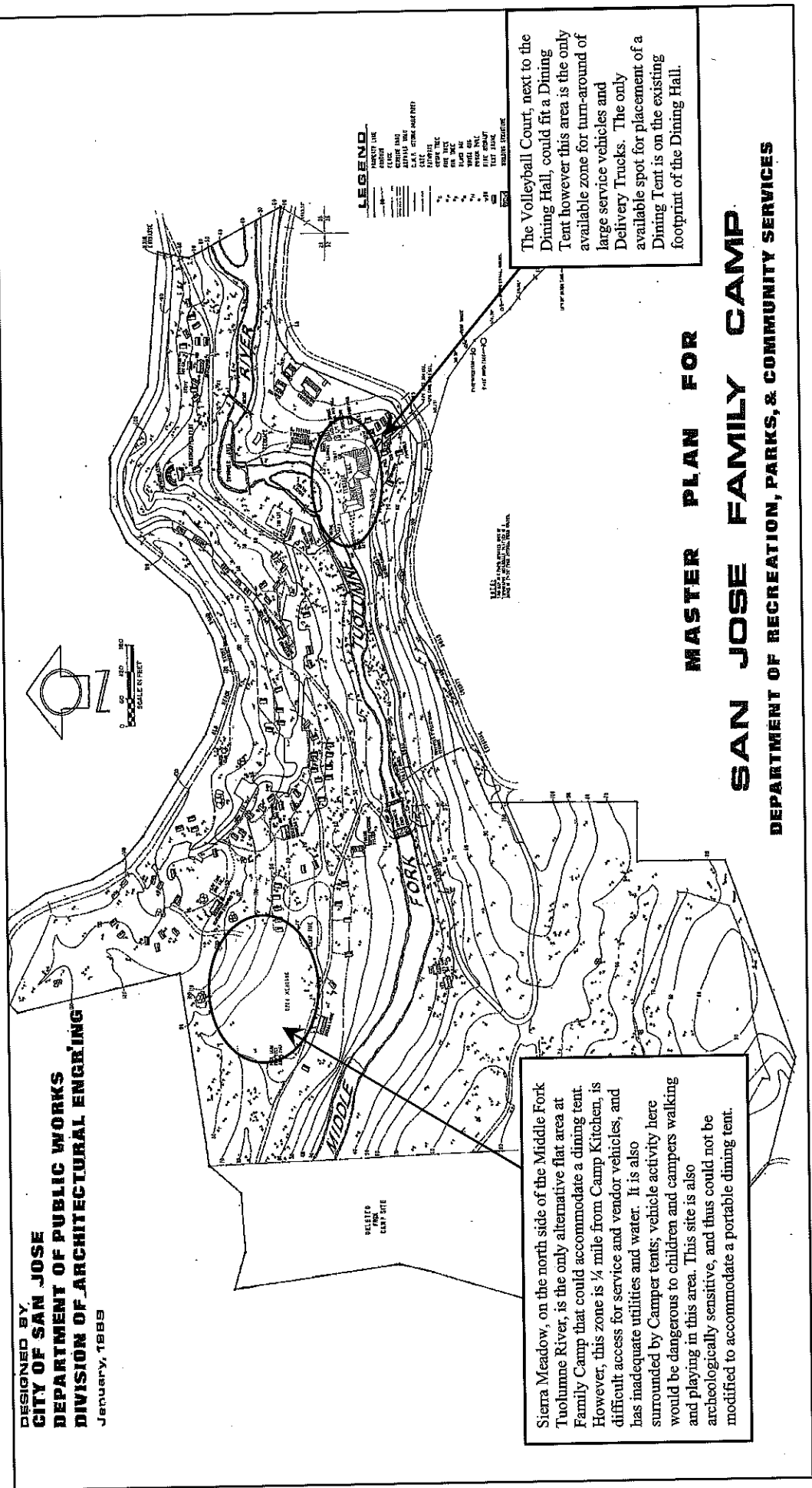
- Tent w/ electricity
- Tent w/ out electricity
- Handicap Access Tent w/ electricity
- Handicap Access Tent w/ out electricity
- Service Road
- Main Road



Family Camp Topography

*Opportunities for placement of portable dining tents are limited due to the steep topography of the 36 acre campground, difficult access for vendor and service vehicles, and potential intrusion of service vehicles into tent neighborhoods throughout the Camp.

DESIGNED BY
CITY OF SAN JOSE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
DIVISION OF ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING
January, 1989



Sierra Meadow, on the north side of the Middle Fork Tuolumne River, is the only alternative flat area at Family Camp that could accommodate a dining tent. However, this zone is 1/4 mile from Camp Kitchen, is difficult access for service and vendor vehicles, and has inadequate utilities and water. It is also surrounded by Camper tents; vehicle activity here would be dangerous to children and campers walking and playing in this area. This site is also archeologically sensitive, and thus could not be modified to accommodate a portable dining tent.

The Volleyball Court, next to the Dining Hall, could fit a Dining Tent however this area is the only available zone for turn-around of large service vehicles and Delivery Trucks. The only available spot for placement of a Dining Tent is on the existing footprint of the Dining Hall.

MASTER PLAN FOR

SAN JOSE FAMILY CAMP

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS, & COMMUNITY SERVICES