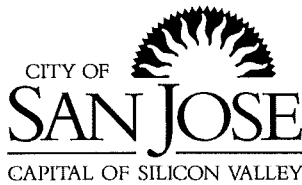


JAN 12 2012

City Manager's Office



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Joseph Horwedel

SUBJECT: ECOPASS

DATE: January 12, 2012

Approved

Date

1/12/12

INFORMATION

At the December Transportation and Environment Committee discussion of environmental mitigation monitoring, Councilmember Campos asked about the status of the City's EcoPass program. This memorandum responds to this inquiry.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the Civic Plaza Redevelopment Area provided environmental clearance for the current City Hall consistent with state law (California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA). As part of the project description, the analysis assumed that the City would continue to provide EcoPasses to employees. This assumption resulted in a 5% vehicle trip reduction to reflect transit usage of City Hall employees, which is consistent with the Congestion Management Program methodology. Therefore, the EcoPass was not called out as a specific traffic mitigation measure for City Hall.

The project description contained in an EIR represents the best available information at the time of a document's preparation and certification. There are other elements of the Civic Plaza project that were anticipated, and vehicular trips were associated with some of those elements, but have not yet been realized even though the EIR provided clearance for them (e.g., ground floor retail along Fourth Street).

In contrast, all Airport employees continue to receive EcoPasses because the transit passes are called out as a specific requirement associated with the State of California's Air Quality Certification associated with the Airport Master Plan Update.

The Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Operating Budget with many cost savings measures including the suspension of the EcoPass. The suspension of the EcoPass was discussed with the bargaining units prior to Council's action on the budget. As the City budget recovers, the Administration may recommend to the City Council that the City consider resuming the EcoPass program and complete the required meet and confer process to reinstate the program.

The information contained in this memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, Office of Employee Relations, and the Departments of Public Works and Transportation.

/s/

JOSEPH HORWEDEL, DIRECTOR
Planning, Building and Code Enforcement