



Shasta/Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association

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March 5, 2010

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor
San Jose, Ca 95113

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council:

The Shasta Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association (S/HPNA) respectfully requests that the Council support the amendment to the Schedule of Parkland Fees to establish parkland fees for low-income units and draft an ordinance amending the Park Impact Ordinance and Park Dedication Ordinance to eliminate the exemption for low-income units.

Today is the first step in a critical process that for years has been slow to resolve the issue of providing parks and open space for affordable housing residents. Members of the community have raised the issue recognizing the need for both affordable housing and meeting the goals of providing parks, open space and recreational opportunities to our residents. No one wants to see either issue compete with each other but work together in tandem. It was unfortunate to see the RDA's voucher program sunset back in December 2005 with no future source of park fees allocated for parks for affordable housing.

The hard question how to fund parks with affordable housing projects must be answered. Directors Krutko and Balagso have given you an excellent starting point. To see the two departments come together after considerable outreach to the community is to be commended. To see that both the Parks Commission and Housing Commission reached consensus on this difficult issue by agreeing that parks and affordable housing should be well-integrated, designed and planned to enhance and benefit the public should set the standard for partnership between all city departments involved in planning our city.

Our community can only benefit from your support today. We look forward to being apart of the process to address quality urban planning, fiscal stability, and truly livable amenities for our diverse community.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors; Shasta Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association

Cc: Albert Balagso, Director PRNS
: Leslye Krutko, Director Housing