September 19, 2007

The Honorable Robert S. Boyd, Presiding Judge
Superior Court for the County of Sonoma
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

SUBJECT: Response by City of Santa Rosa to 2006-2007 Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge Boyd:

The City of Santa Rosa appreciates this opportunity to respond to the 2006-2007 Grand Jury recommendations contained in its June 28, 2007 Final Report. The City's responses to these recommendations are attached.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury recommendations. Please feel free to contact our City Manager, Jeff Kolin, at (707) 543-3020 should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

BOB BLANCHARD
Mayor

BB/sks

attachment

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ACCESS AND RECREATION IN OPEN SPACE DISTRICT PROPERTIES

City Response (R-6)  This recommendation is currently being implemented

The City of Santa Rosa has established a practice of meeting with the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to review planning on a comprehensive and long term basis. This practice includes establishing a long term plan, working with the District to identify and advance purchases of property, and developing agreements for management of property. The plan is reflected graphically on a “planning map” and is intended to be periodically updated in conjunction with the Santa Rosa City Council’s biennial goal setting process.

The first joint planning effort occurred on April 18, 2006 when the Santa Rosa City Council met in Study Session with the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District staff. During the study session, the City Council reviewed the District’s long range strategic plan draft, “Vision 2005” and reviewed a planning map of greenbelts, trail connections and projects provided by City staff to the District (see attached map). The map identified property purchase opportunities where the District’s and the City’s interests overlapped and has subsequently served as a longer-term planning tool for both public agencies.

Since the study session and development of the map, the City and the District have collaborated on four projects identified on the map. The City has received two matching grants from the District to assist in purchasing two neighborhood parks in southwest Santa Rosa (the Bayer property on West Avenue and the Bell property on Bellevue Avenue). The City and the District are also developing a draft interim use plan to open the Taylor Mountain open space for public access. The draft interim use plan proposes utilizing a portion of adjoining City park land for a parking lot and creating an entry trail into Taylor Mountain from the parking lot. A cooperative effort to draft the future development of Taylor Mountain and a contiguous community park will be an effort of the District, the City and other stakeholders. Finally, City staff and District staff are currently in the process of developing a management agreement for the Paulin Creek Open Space Preserve.

The City Council has established a two year goal focusing on Open Space and Recreation. A work plan for the goal was adopted by the City Council on August 14, 2007 (see attached). District staff participated in developing the work plan. The City Council’s work plan incorporates activities relating to the City’s Creek Master Plan and the Laguna Trail System that potentially impact the district’s future expenditure plan. It is anticipated the open space planning map will be updated following completion of both the City’s Recreation and Parks Master Plan and the City’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.
STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

City Council Goal: Provide Open Space and Recreational Activities
Goal Statement:

Strategy/Elements

I. Outcome: Help implement the Laguna de Santa Rosa Trails System
   Lead Committee Member: Dan Carlson
   Other Stakeholders: Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space
   District, The Laguna Foundation, County of Sonoma
   Milestone date: 2008

II. Outcome: Help implement the Stone Farm Learning Center
    Lead Committee Member: Dan Carlson
    Other Stakeholders: The Laguna Foundation
    • Conversion of the historic buildings into the Laguna Learning Center
    Milestone date: 2008

III. Outcome: Help implement the installation of portable buildings from the Golf
        Course to Southwest Community Park and provide programming.
        Lead Committee Member: Eric Jorgeson
        Milestone date: 2008

IV. Outcome: Interim public use of Taylor Mountain Open Space Preserve
      Lead Committee Members: Misti Arias, Marc Richardson, Rich
      Hovden,
      Other Stakeholders: Sonoma Academy, LandPaths, Sonoma County
      Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District,
      City of Santa Rosa
      • Provide public use of the area while Master Plan for Taylor Mountain
        Open Space Preserve and Kawana Springs Community Park is
        developed.
        Milestone dates: June, 2007 – Summer, 2008

V. Outcome: Northwest Community Park Master Plan
      Lead Committee Members: Marc Richardson, Rich Hovden

VI. Outcome: Fountaingrove Community Park
      Lead Committee Members: Marc Richardson, Rich Hovden

VII. Outcome: Provide connection from Samuel Jones Hall to Joe Rodota
      Trail/Laguna
      Lead Committee Member: Colleen Ferguson
• Develop routes and signage plan for bicycle and pedestrian connections from Samuel Jones Hall to the Joe Rodota Trail near Sebastopol Road and Wright Road
  Milestone date: 2008

VIII. Outcome: Prince Gateway Park  
Lead Committee Member: Rich Hovden

IX. Outcome: Begin implementation of the City Wide Creek Master Plan  
Lead Committee Member: Colleen Ferguson  
• Promote County adoption of master plan  
  Milestone date: 2008

X. Outcome: Pierson Reach/Prince Memorial Greenway  
Lead Committee Members: Marc Richardson, Ed Flint, Rick Moshier,  
  Dave Gouin

XI. Outcome: Continue Creek Stewardship Program  
Lead Committee Member: Colleen Ferguson  
• Execute new funding agreement with Sonoma County Water Agency  
• Place initial signage along Santa Rosa Creek from Pierson Street to Fulton Road  
• Provide watershed education during City Recreation and Parks summer playground, camp and lunch programs

XII. Outcome: Bayer Property Acquisition  
Lead Committee Member: Marc Richardson

XIII. Outcome: Completion of business and strategic action plan for the Recreation and Parks Department identifying needs, resources and strategies.  
Lead Committee Member: Marc Richardson  
Other Stakeholders: Moore, Iacofano, Goltsman, Inc.  
  Milestone date: February, 2008

XIV. Outcome: Complete Phase II of A Place To Play (3 soccer fields, parking, wildlife lake and observatory)  
Lead Committee Members: Marc Richardson, Rich Hovden  
• Design, bid, and secure any additional needed funding to complete Phase II of A Place To Play with construction starting in June 2007  
• Identify funding strategy for staff resources needed for ongoing operation and maintenance of Phase II of A Place To Play by opening of facility in September of 2009
XV. **Outcome:** Complete Finley Center Senior Addition  
**Lead Committee Members:** Marc Richardson, Eric Jorgeson  
- Funding has been secured, design completed and construction contract awarded  
- Coordinate Finley Senior Center expansion efforts  
  Milestone date: November, 2008

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