

Citizens' Stadium Advisory Group

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are the members of the Citizens' Stadium Advisory Group?

Doug Barnhart, Chairman of Barnhart-Reese Construction
Rod Dammeyer, Private Equity Investor
Adam Day, California State University Trustee & Assistant Tribal Manager of Sycuan
Walt Ekard, former San Diego County CAO & City of San Diego COO
Aimee Faucett, COO of the San Diego Regional Chamber
Jason Hughes, President and CEO of Hughes Marino
Jessie Knight, Executive Vice President of Sempra Energy, Chairman of the Board of SDG&E
Mary Lydon, Executive Director of Urban Land Institute - San Diego-Tijuana
Jim Steeg, former NFL Executive

Why were these individuals chosen?

The group's membership is composed of civic leaders and experts who bring specific skill sets and qualifications required for developing large-scale projects and financing plans. It includes a Fortune 500 executive, respected local government and civic leaders, a California State University Trustee, a sports executive, and premier experts in the areas of finance, land use, real estate and construction of municipal stadiums. This well-rounded group will be nimble enough to complete an analysis, develop plans and make recommendations in short order.

What will the group be studying and what is the timeline for completion?

The group will recommend a location and develop a viable financing plan for that location. The Mayor has given them until Fall 2015 to complete their analysis and present their recommendations. The Mayor will then review the recommendations and finalize a plan for public consideration.

How is this group different from past City stadium groups?

Past stadium groups were larger with a broad scope of work and an open-ended timeframe. By comparison, the Citizens' Stadium Advisory Group is composed of exceptionally qualified people specifically selected for their experience in the fields pertinent to this type of project, who have a well-defined, focused scope of work and a deadline.

What type of financial options will the group examine?

They will explore all possibilities to finance the project, with the clear direction from the Mayor that it "must present a good and fair deal for San Diego taxpayers." The Mayor has committed that the final financing plan will go to the voters before moving forward.

They will analyze how other recent stadium projects have been funded, including San Francisco, Dallas, Phoenix, Minnesota and Indianapolis, to ultimately recommend a financing plan that works for San Diego and is in line with market conditions. Redeveloping the current Mission Valley site (with or without a stadium), joint powers authorities, user fees, naming rights and revenue bonds are all examples of options the group will be considering.

Are City funds currently being used on Qualcomm stadium?

The City is currently losing approximately \$10 million a year on Qualcomm stadium and deferred maintenance is estimated at \$80 million.

Will a plan be presented for both the Qualcomm site and downtown site?

The group has been specifically tasked with conducting a thorough analysis on both sites and then selecting one for their final recommendation.

How will the Chargers be involved?

While the group is independent of the Chargers, it welcomes their input. The group's focused scope does not include detailed stadium design and other key elements that will require collaboration with the Chargers in the future.

How will the public be involved?

The conclusions and recommendations of this group will be presented to the public in the fall for a full and complete vetting. The Mayor has committed to having San Diegans weigh in on any final plan through a public vote. If there is broad support for the proposal, it will be slated for a citywide vote, which will allow San Diego voters to have the final say on this matter.

While the Mayor has asked this advisory group for assistance and advice in site selection and stadium financing, the Mayor's Office has received a good deal of constructive input and offers of assistance from others. The Mayor's Office continues to welcome additional input throughout this process, so citizens or organizations wishing to submit ideas or suggestions to Mayor Faulconer can email StadiumInput@san Diego.gov

How will the City be involved?

The group is not an official City commission. They will have access to City financial information and studies.