

District Three

DIALOGUE



City of San Diego

April 2012 Volume 4, Issue 3

City Council Approves Streamlining for Public Works Projects

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

The San Diego City Council approved changes on March 20 to streamline the approval and contracting processes for the City's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) program. As the councilmember who represents older neighborhoods in need of infrastructure improvements, I championed the modifications.

Public improvements will now occur at a faster pace and with a more effective use of City resources. While we have made the capital improvements process more efficient, we will not sacrifice quality, transparency or equal opportunity.

The changes include:

- Adjust approval thresholds for construction projects and related consultant agreements;
- Allow for Multiple Award Construction Contracts, a new delivery method with mandatory equal opportunity contracting goals;
- Clarify and streamline the bid protest process;
- Clarify and reconcile conflicting Council Policies;
- Adopt a new Council Policy for CIP transparency, including a public CIP website;
- Authorize Mayoral approval to transfer project savings upon completion to other projects; and
- Dedicate more time during the annual budget hearing process for a comprehensive CIP review.

The action taken by the City Council followed five hearings on the topic at the Budget and Finance Committee, which I chair, as well as extensive stakeholder outreach and input. These recommendations can trim an additional three to 12 months off the life cycle of each project, and time saved provides added capacity and mitigates some staffing needs to ensure quicker delivery of a growing CIP. Using the most conservative figures, staff estimates a minimum 15% capacity increase from CIP streamlining.

As we continue to prioritize infrastructure financing and project delivery, these additional tools will ensure every dollar of funds and every hour of staff time are used as efficiently as possible, resulting in more return on this critical investment.

Joint Use Field for Jefferson Elementary Approved

The San Diego City Council unanimously approved moving forward with a joint use field at North Park's Jefferson Elementary School.

The agreement between the City and San Diego Unified School District will result in a synthetic turf multi-purpose sports field of almost an acre as well as 0.50 acres of hard courts, which will include a children's play area and a drinking fountain. It should be complete and open later this Spring.

The total project cost is estimated to be approximately \$1,892,912, including land value, and design and construction costs, all of which will be borne by the school district's Prop S funds. The City will be responsible for maintenance of the joint use area.

When Councilmember Gloria stopped by Jefferson on March 5 to read to Mrs. Hubbard's fifth grade class, the students could not have been more excited about their new play field. *(Check out the picture of Todd and the class on page 6.)*

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Budget Priorities: We Must Stay Focused on Fiscal Restraint

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

San Diegans have dealt with the challenges of the City's fiscal difficulties for years. As pleased as I am that the economy is improving and our reforms are reaping benefits for taxpayers, I believe fiscal restraint in Fiscal Year 2013 is appropriate. My priorities are for San Diego to never have a structural deficit again, to remain focused on core services, and to make economic development investments that help create jobs. Should additional efficiencies and reform be achieved and savings found, with the recognition that we must continue to meet our long term financial obligations and live within our means, I included the following in my list of budget priorities for FY 13.

- Restoration of civilian staff in the Police Department, which would allow existing sworn officers to return to patrol duties and will also address findings in a recent performance audit of the Permits and Licensing Section of the Department.
- Fire boat for the lifeguards.
- An additional fire academy (one is already planned).
- Commit remaining FY 12 surplus funds (approximately \$8,000,000) to increase cash funding of deferred capital projects.
- Analyze the resource capacity of the Neighborhood Code

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Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Hearing Calendar

Wednesday, May 2

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

- Independent Budget Analyst presents an overview of the analysis of the FY 13 Proposed Budget
- Police (and Family Justice Center)
- Fire-Rescue (including EMS and the Office of Homeland Security)

2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

- Park and Recreation (including the Golf Enterprise Fund and the Environmental Growth Fund)
- Library

Thursday, May 3

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

- Development Services Department (including Neighborhood Code Compliance and Planning)
- Environmental Services
- Transportation and Storm Water (including Administration and Right-of-Way Coordination, Streets, and Transportation Engineering)

2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

- Public Works — General Services (including Facilities, Publishing Services, Fleet Services, and Communication Division)
- Public Works — Engineering and Capital Projects (including Architectural Engineering and Parks, Field Engineering, Project Implementation and Technical Services, and Right-of-Way Design)
- Capital Improvement Program, part I

Friday, May 4

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

- Public Utilities (including Dedicated Reserve from Efficiency and Savings)
- Real Estate Assets (including Qualcomm Stadium, PETCO Park, and Airports)

2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

- Business Office
- Economic Development
- Administration Department (including Equal Opportunity Contracting)
- Purchasing and Contracting
- City Treasurer

Wednesday, May 9

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

- Special Promotional Programs (including Arts and Culture)
- City Auditor
- City Attorney
- Ethics Commission
- City Clerk

Thursday, May 10

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

- San Diego City Employees Retirement System
- Department of Information Technology (including Enterprise Resource Planning)
- San Diego Data Processing Corporation
- Housing Authority

2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

- Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Diego (including the City Redevelopment Department, SEDC, and CCDC)
- San Diego Convention Center Corporation

Friday, May 11

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

- Capital Improvement Program, part II

All meetings to be held in Council Chambers, 202 C St., 12th floor.

Schedule may change following release of the proposed budget on April 13.

Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

Strengthening Public Safety

- More patrols for trash divers/scavengers have been added north of Adams Avenue in Normal Heights due to growing community concern.
- The intersection of 30th and Palm Streets was evaluated for a stop sign at a neighbor's request. Staff's evaluation found that it was not recommended.
- A streetlight was repaired in the 3600 block of Quince Street.
- Temporary signage was put up on Adams Avenue at Oregon Street during construction after reports of multiple people running a stop sign.

Improving Infrastructure

- A missing sidewalk located in the 3300 block of Fairmount Avenue was placed on sidewalk priority list to compete against other similar locations for funding next fiscal year.
- A sinkhole in an alley near Hayes Avenue was repaired.
- Large potholes in an alley near Adams Avenue and Oregon Street were repaired.
- A pothole on Arthur Drive was also repaired.
- Cedar Street from 31st to Gregory Streets is going to have its water/sewer mains replaced starting March 2014 and ending September 2015 and is ineligible for slurry seal or overlay until its completion.

- Adams Avenue was repaved near Oregon Street.
- The Chess Club's leaky roof in Balboa Park was added to the long list of projects for the roofing crew of Facilities Maintenance.
- Shirley Ann Place was repaved.
- Westgate Place and Parrot Street are both in the City's resurfacing backlog and will be repaved as funding becomes available.

Community Character

- An inappropriate sign at the Mission Valley Library was removed by staff.
- A Balboa Park ranger's removal of non-native vegetation in and around the stream bed near Upas Street and Florida Street to prevent it from spreading to the rest of Florida Canyon was postponed until a more comprehensive plan can be worked out.
- An illegally dumped mattress was removed from an alley near Cherokee Avenue.
- A neighbor's irrigation line was repaired after being broken by crews working on the water and sewer systems.
- Neighborhood Code Compliance issued a compliance letter about an illegal conversion to property owners on the 1500 block of Van Buren Avenue.
- Two dumpsters were donated by EDCO for the Fairmount Park cleanup scheduled for June 23.

Community News Briefs

Golden Hill MAD Update

Since courts eliminated the Greater Golden Hill Maintenance Assessment District (GGHMAD), many questions have arisen which remain unanswered. Councilmember Gloria is working closely with Mayor Sanders and the City Attorney as the future is charted for the community. Here is the latest information: The County has already corrected this year's assessments for GGHMAD in its system and mailed the corrected tax bills to all property owners within Greater Golden Hill. This means property owners will no longer be assessed for the GGHMAD for this year or going forward. Those who have paid their first assessment installment will be credited; those who have already paid their full assessment for fiscal year 2012 will be refunded by the County.

North Park Citizens' Patrol

The North Park Division of Stonewall Citizens' Patrol is now forming!

Stonewall Citizens' Patrol is looking for volunteers in several areas, including patrolling, fundraising and other support. Any participation would be greatly appreciated. If you're interested, please contact nberdy@northparksd.org or info@stonewallcitizens.org.

Upcoming Walking Tours

North Park Historical Society is organizing upcoming walking tours of the historical Dryden District and the Burlingame Historical District.

Dryden will be explored on April 14 at 9 a.m., starting at 28th and Upas. Burlingame will be featured on May 19 at 9:30 a.m., starting at 32nd and Kalmia. The docent-led tours feature dozens of homes from the outside only. To learn more about the tours and costs, contact Katherine Hon, 619-294-8990, or email info@northparkhistory.org.

North Park Mini Park Workshop

Provide your input on the future Mini-Park planned for North Park Way between Granada and 29th. The fourth workshop on the project is scheduled for Monday, April 23, 6:00—8:00 p.m. at the North Park Recreation Center, 4044 Idaho Street.

Councilmember Gloria Fights for Local Canyons

March 27 found Councilmember Todd Gloria traveling to the State Capitol in Sacramento to advocate for Senate Bill (SB) 1169, which would allow the City of San Diego to dedicate 10,000 acres of open space.

The bill, sponsored by the City of San Diego and authored by State Senator Christine Kehoe, was being heard that day by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water. Councilmember Gloria spoke on the City's behalf.

"San Diego's system of urban canyons and open space has long been recognized by planners and community members as one of our region's most valuable and distinguishing features. In fact, the Council District that I represent, while highly urbanized, is laced with

canyon areas. As densification increases, so does the importance of preserving and restoring our canyons as a link to nature and a sanctuary from the urban environment," said Councilmember Gloria.

The canyons and other open space areas subject to this bill are all owned in fee title by the City of San Diego and have been set aside specifically as open space. By enabling their dedication, SB 1169 will give these areas an added layer of protection against the pressures of encroachment since Dedicated Open Spaces require a 2/3 vote of the electorate in order to be used for any other purpose.

SB 1169 passed the Committee and is expected to be heard by the full Senate later this Spring.

Budget Priorities *Continued from page 2*

- Compliance Department and consider additional funding to ensure enforcement of rules related to land use, zoning, housing, public nuisances, graffiti abatement, and vegetation and fire hazard abatement.
- Funding for uniform maintenance of trees on public property should be restored.
- Operating hours of all libraries and recreation centers are being restored. The issue of high employment vacancies must be addressed so all facilities are appropriately staffed.
- Community Plan Updates must continue to be funded.
- The City Council and Mayor must collaborate on creating a local economic development and redevelopment program that will continue the efforts of the former Redevelopment Agency.
- Investigate creation of a permanent source of funding for the preservation and development of affordable housing.
- Updated Public Facilities Financing Plans must be brought forward for Council consideration.
- The City should fund an adequate level of resources to assist individual neighborhoods in the formation of special assessment districts.
- Operating funds for the Neil Good Day Center should be identified.
- Rigorously adhere to the reserve policy goals to ensure emergencies and unanticipated economic circumstances will not pose insurmountable challenges.
- Review General Fund user fees as part of the City's annual budget process so the City achieves 100% cost recovery for appropriate programs and services.
- Provide sufficient staffing for such activities as producing the City's annual audits, maintaining prudent internal controls on financial transactions, ensuring equal opportunity in our contracting program, and complying with the requirements of all state and federally funded programs.
- Continue to examine departments for greater efficiency and innovation.
- The City should continue to explore ways to encourage the private industry.
- Initiate discussions regarding a potential Infrastructure Financing Bond to narrow the focus on revenue options that would best serve the City.
- Implement a bidder registration program to assist in project and service delivery streamlining.

Water Conservation Garden of the Month: 3400 Block of N. Mountain View Dr.



The home of Lori Brooks was nominated by her neighbor, who says, "Lori's yard has evolved over a couple of years, but she has done all of the work herself with the assistance of some friends and neighbors. Note the beautiful mosaic and other artistic pieces. My favorite part is a bench she has on her parkway so that people can sit down and rest."

Submit your favorite yard via email to toddgloria@sandiego.gov.

Water-Wise Landscape Workshops Coming Up

As the spring garden season kicks into full gear, San Diego residents have a number of ways to learn how to create landscapes that waste no water and are better suited for the region's semi-arid climate through free plant fairs at local Home Depots.

Staff from the City of San Diego's Water Conservation Program and plant experts from local nurseries will be at area Home Depots to explain ways to have a garden that is both beautiful and water-efficient. City staff will also be featuring information on valuable rebates for rain barrels, smart controllers, micro irrigation, and sustainable landscape/turf replacement. Participating Home Depots

will also have special selections of water-wise plants that are ideal for local gardens. City and nursery landscape professionals will be on hand from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the following Home Depot stores:

Saturday, April 2, Home Depot: 12185 Carmel Mountain Road

Saturday, May 5, Home Depot: 5920 Fairmount Avenue

Residents can also visit www.thegarden.org, the website of the City-supported Water Conservation Garden, where visitors can find a list of the "Nifty 50" plants for water smart landscapes and additional landscaping tips.

San Diego Native Plant Garden Tour is April 28-29

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) San Diego Chapter will host the first annual CNPS San Diego Native Garden Tour, sponsored by Hunter Industries, April 28 and 29.

San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria and sustainable gardening expert Nan Sterman will serve as honorary co-chairs for the Native Garden Tour. All proceeds from the event will support CNPS San Diego conservation and education programs.

The two-day, self-guided tour will offer exclusive access to 25 unique home gardens, private nature parks, art gardens, restoration landscapes, and public botanical gardens. The event is the region's largest public open house of native gardens and will feature on-site lectures by native landscape designers as well as expert docents who will interpret each garden.

"Gardening with native plants is becoming more and more popular, particularly as our water bills rise. Home gardeners looking for inspiration, plant choices, and water-wise gardening techniques will find this tour to be filled with information and amazing natural beauty," said botanist Clayton Tschudy, director of the 2012 CNPS San Diego Native Garden Tour and president of Tschudy Ecological Designs.

Gardens showcased in the 2012 CNPS San Diego Native Garden Tour extend from Fallbrook to Chula Vista and were designed by landscape architects, landscape designers, master gardeners, and garden enthusiasts. A sample of the 25 featured gardens includes:

San Diego Restoration Garden – A canyon-inspired, water-wise residential garden in Serra Mesa designed by North Park Natives and maintained by two docents of the Mission Trails Regional Park.

Lake Hodges Overlook – A country retreat designed around native oak trees with handcrafted garden trellises and gates, a child's playhouse, and an outdoor living area with an adobe oven.

Lux Art Institute – A three-acre natural landscape surrounding the Orchid Award-winning shrine to modern art and featuring permanent art installations and a small apple orchard.

San Marcos Getaway – A suburban landscape transformed into a natural paradise. Features include a streambed with running water, handmade wooden fencing, a small pond, grape arbor, and birdbaths carved into natural boulders.

"This inaugural event reflects CNPS's passion and commitment to our mission of protecting California's native plant heritage and preserving it for future generations," said Tom Oberbauer, president of the California Native Plant Society San Diego Chapter, adding, "The gardens on this tour demonstrate that habitat and resource conservation go hand-in-hand with beauty and style."

Attendees can experience as many gardens as they choose over one or two days. Gardens in central and south San Diego County will be featured on Saturday. On Sunday, gardens in the northern part of the region will be showcased. Registered tour participants will receive maps and directions to all gardens by checking in at either of the San Diego Native Garden Tour marketplaces. The marketplaces will feature food, native plant sales, gardening information, and other helpful resources.

Tour hours are 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. each day. On Saturday, the tour starting point and marketplace will be the Chula Vista Nature Center parking lot at 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, Chula Vista, near I-5 and E Street. On Sunday, the tour starting point and marketplace will be at Las Pilitas Nursery, 8331 Nelson Way in Escondido, near I-15 and Old Hwy. 395. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. Gardens will be open rain or shine.

Tickets are \$20 per person and are non-refundable. Children are welcome and those under 12 years of age will be admitted free. For tickets and information, please visit www.cnpssd.org/tour, email gardening@cnpssd.org or call 619-434-2521.

Tracking Todd



Top left: Todd takes part in Read Across America Day at North Park's Jefferson Elementary on March 5.

Top right: March 12 was the 100th Anniversary of the Girl Scouts, which Todd celebrated at the organization's headquarters in Balboa Park.



Middle: San Diego's newest affordable housing complex, Cedar Gateway, opened downtown on March 21 with a formal ribbon cutting featuring Todd, Mayor Jerry Sanders and Council President Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer. *(Photo courtesy of Sandra Small)*

Bottom: Todd stopped in to the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association meeting on March 15 to discuss the latest news in the community.

Councilmember Gloria serves on the following:

- Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
- Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
- Land Use and Housing Committee
- Rules, Open Government and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
- Metropolitan Transit System Board
- San Diego Association of Governments
- San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau
- San Diego River Conservancy