

**County of Santa Clara**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
Supervisorial District Two  
Supervisor George Shirakawa

**Inventory Item**  
**#1**

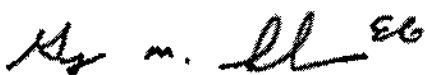


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BOS2-052109-1

DATE: May 21, 2009

TO: Supervisor Donald F. Gage, Chairperson  
Supervisor Liz Kniss, Vice Chair  
Housing, Land Use, Environment, & Transportation Committee (HLUET)

FROM:   
George Shirakawa  
Supervisor, District 2

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM PARK CHARTER ACQUISITION FUND FOR A FUTURE PARK

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

I respectfully request the Committee to consider a \$2 million set-aside from the Park Charter Acquisition Fund for the purchase of parcels for a future park in the unincorporated area of District Two and forward this request to the Fiscal Year 2009 - 2010 Budget Inventory List with a favorable recommendation.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

This request for funding in District 2 is three-fold. First, the Park Charter Acquisition Fund was established in part to dedicate funds for "acquisition of new parkland." Second, there is a critical need for parkland in the unincorporated area of District Two, specifically in the Alum Rock-East Hills neighborhood. Lastly, this would be an opportune time to purchase parcels given the current state of our local real estate economy.

As of June 30, 2008, the Park Charter Acquisition Fund totaled \$31 million, not including the \$5.7 million it expects to receive in the coming fiscal year. A portion of these funds are earmarked to acquire parkland. My request for \$2 million will provide adequate funding to acquire a sufficient number of parcels for a future park in the Alum Rock-East Hills neighborhood. In the event that the entire amount of \$2 million is not spent, the difference remaining will be returned to the Park Charter Fund.

The unincorporated Alum Rock-East Hills region of District Two is underserved with respect to park space (please see the attached City of San Jose District Five Map). There are three public schools in this area: Joseph George Middle School, Linda Vista Elementary and Horace Cureton Elementary. These schools have an aggregate student body of approximately 1,555 students. St. John Vianney, a private school in the area, has a student body of approximately 600 students, totaling over 2,000 students attending schools in this neighborhood. Furthermore, the 2000 census profile for Alum Rock, a census-designated place, states that there are 3,500 residents under the age of 14, which is 26% of the total population. There is an unequivocal need for a park in this neighborhood for the students, children and families of this community.

The unincorporated area of District Two is a densely populated area. Many of its roads are without sidewalks and many of its streets provide minimal lighting. It is in need of blight removal and beautification. A park will accomplish the aforementioned necessity, and can encourage residents to continue maintaining the neighborhood. This is an added benefit to Supervisorial District 2 and the County.

Although the state of our local real estate economy is dismal, it does provide opportunity. According to [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com) the current median price of a household in the Alum Rock-East Foothills region is \$320,000. On April 24, 2009, the San Jose Mercury News reported that the median price of a house in the 95127 zip code (zip code for the Alum Rock-East Foothills region) is \$301,000; this is a 27.5% decrease from the median house price in the 95127 zip code for 2008, which was \$415,172. With \$2 million we can purchase a significant amount of parcels today at reasonable costs. This allows us, when the funding is available, to acquire parcels to build a much needed park in a neighborhood that merits one.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- San Jose City Council District 5 Map