

Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

February 16, 2005

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of San Jose
801 North First Street, Room 600
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Subject: Bay Area Research and Extension Center (BAREC) Property

The City's Parks and Recreation Commission is recommending that the City Council support, to the extent possible, efforts to preserve the 17-acre Bay Area Research and Extension Center (BAREC) property on the basis of the historical significance and potential open space and recreational value of the property. Parks and open space are vital and bring immense environmental benefits. This site is located in the City of Santa Clara, contiguous to the San Jose border on North Winchester Boulevard between Dorich Street and Forest Avenue as shown on the attachment.

The Regents of the University of California are in the process of selling this publicly-owned land for redevelopment as single-family and senior housing according to the reuse planning concept for the property adopted by the Santa Clara City Council in February 2003. This plan includes a one-acre neighborhood park that will serve residents of both cities. The proposed development of the plan is currently on hold pending resolution of the property surplus process with the State.

The site was originally used as a center for mentally disturbed children from 1886 to 1920. Part of the site was then used as a home for Civil War veteran's families from 1921 to 1963; and from 1928 to 2003 the remaining land was used as an urban agriculture/horticulture research/education center under the University of California until its closure in 2003.

Members of the community have appeared before the Parks and Recreation Commission, requesting that the BAREC be preserved as either agricultural land or parkland. They have presented information that indicates there is broad community support from individuals and organizations within the community.


The City's Parks and Recreation Commission agrees with the community that the site has significant value as a historical, horticultural and recreational resource, which could be of benefit to both Santa Clara and San Jose residents. Therefore, the Commission is recommending the

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San Jose City Council, in conjunction with the Santa Clara City Council, consider opportunities to work together to preserve some or all of the site for the use of future generations of both communities.

Your consideration of this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Chapman" with a small "cs" monogram at the end.

Helen Chapman, Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

Attachment – Map of Area

c: Sara Hensley, PRNS
Albert Balagso, PRNS
Scott Reese, PRNS

35050

Mission City Memorial Park Cemetery

Alvarez Park

BENJAMIN CORY ELEM. SCHOOL

O'CONNOR HOSPITAL

BAREC

WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN AT VALLEY FAIR

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS SCHOOL

CREEK BLVD.

3255

3555

WINCHESTER RANCH MOBILE PARK

WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE

SANTANA ROW

Santana Park

JUNIPERO SERRA FREEWAY

MOORPARK

PREFER LN

