

**CITY OF SAN LEANDRO**  
**CITY COUNCIL SHORELINE - MARINA COMMITTEE**

**January 8, 2008**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**San Leandro City Hall**  
**835 East 14<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**San Leandro, California**  
**Sister Cities Gallery Room**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Committee Members: Mayor Santos (Chair), Councilmember Prola, Councilmember Starosciak

City staff present: City Manager Jermanis, Assistant City Manager Hollister, Community Development Director Sims, Engineering Director Udemezue, Assistant to the City Manager Battenberg, Planning Manager Livermore, Facilities and Open Space Manager Pollart, Marina Supervisor Snodgrass, Development Planner Ricard

Public present: Audrey Albers, Julie Barsamian (SL Times), Pat Bouligny (Chamber of Commerce), Lou Filipovich, Heidi Finberg (Spinnaker Yacht Club), Bo Johanson, Gerd Marggraff, Harold Perez, Martin Ricard (Daily Review), Leonard Simon (Simon and Company)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M.

**1. Discussion of the Report by Godbe Research on the Revenue Measure Feasibility Survey**

City Manager Jermanis began the discussion of the Godbe public opinion survey by providing the Committee with a brief overview of the survey results. He explained the results showed that although the community valued the harbor, there was little support for funding the harbor operations through a parcel tax.

Councilmember Prola asked if City staff could provide the Committee with the statistical breakdown of the survey by Council District. Assistant to the City Manager Battenberg responded that she will follow up with Godbe and forward this information to the Committee.

The Committee discussed the survey results and how to support the harbor operations without new revenue, such as a parcel tax. Councilmember Starosciak stated that based on the success of the golf course, privatization of the harbor may be a way to cut costs and increase revenue. City Manager Jermanis explained that private operators have expressed interest in managing the harbor, the caveat being that they would require the City to fund the dredging of the channel.

Mayor Santos stated that the Godbe survey showed the lack of support from the community for funding the harbor and that many constituents feel it is time to stop dredging due to the high cost.

## **2. Discussion of Funding for Channel and Harbor Dredging and Disposal**

Assistant City Manager Hollister gave the Committee a status update regarding the City's effort to secure Federal funding to dredge the channel and harbor. Currently \$1.8 million in Federal funds has been appropriated, \$675,000 in 2006 and an additional \$1,169,000 in the 2008 budget. However, the Army Corps of Engineers' estimate to dredge the channel is \$2.5 million leaving an \$700,000 shortfall. The City is currently working with the Corps, who will be forming a Project Delivery Team to determine how to accomplish the dredging given the current funding.

Assistant City Manager Hollister then introduced Leonard Simon, Simon and Company, the City of San Leandro's Washington, DC lobbyist. Mr. Simon has assisted the City for over 20 years in obtaining Federal funding to dredge the channel. Mr. Simon explained the dredging of the channel has only been in the President's budget once since 1988. Local representatives have lobbied Congress in order to secure funding in other years. Mr. Simon added that the Army Corps of Engineers' budget has been shrinking and that local earmarks for recreational harbors have become increasingly difficult to secure. Mr. Simon cautioned the Committee on relying on Federal funding to dredge the channel in the future.

The Committee discussed the Federal appropriations process with Mr. Simon and stressed the importance of meeting with other cities with similar dredging issues in order to find alternative solutions.

## **3. Discussion Regarding Future Committee Meeting Dates and Times**

The Committee agreed to change the meeting date to the fourth Tuesday of every month at 9:00 A.M.

## **4. Public Comments**

Harold Perez stated that he would like to see more public input in this process and disagreed with the Godbe survey. Mr. Perez also suggested taxing the airport and garbage companies to fund the dredging.

Gerd Marggraff shared his belief that it is important to keep the harbor open and use development to fund harbor operations. Mr. Marggraff also stated that without the harbor there would be no community support for development of the Shoreline - Marina Area.

Bo Johanson expressed his support for privatizing the harbor and attracting commercial ventures to help fund continued operation.

Audrey Albers shared that the Shoreline - Marina Area is a prized possession of the City and the harbor should be maintained. Ms. Albers also shared that she has no confidence in the survey results.

Heidi Finberg, Spinnaker Yacht Club, stated that staff has been very helpful and the process has been lengthy but thorough. Ms. Finberg also suggested a variety of changes that could attract new boaters to the area and add value to the harbor, such as dock consolidation and charging boaters by the boat length rather than by slip size. In addition, she informed the Committee that over half of the navigational lights leading to the harbor are not working.

## **5. Committee Member Comments**

Councilmember Starosciak stated that this Committee is still vetting ideas and suggested staff explore dock consolidation. She also requested information on crime statistics at the Marina.

Councilmember Prola explained that he was in favor of keeping the harbor open, if possible, for at least one more dredge cycle in order to determine if development can cover future costs. He stated that he was not supportive of privatization. Mr. Prola also noted that the covered berths at the harbor were always full and questioned whether the City could generate more revenue with additional covered berths.

Mayor Santos shared that he is interested in the development of the Shoreline - Marina Area. He stated that we can dredge one more time but the problem of dredging will not go away and the City will not be able to count on Federal funding in the future.

## **6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.