

Item Submitted By Councilmember

DATE: October 26, 2010
TO: City Council
FROM: Councilmember Sue Greenwald
SUBJECT: Request for Reconsideration of Council Action: East Area Water Tank Art Proposal

Recommendation

1. Request City Council to reconsider their action of October 5, 2010 related to the East Area Water Tank Art Proposal
2. If reconsideration is approved, direct staff to work with the artist(s) whose art project was chosen by the Civic Arts Commission, to:
 - A. explore the value and potential of having the word “DAVIS” incorporated into the artistic design for building in front of the water tank in a manner that is visible mostly from I-80 and the Amtrak train,
 - B. create approximate simulations of the view of the water tank and building from the freeway in the winter when the leaves have fallen,
 - C. include the building in front of the water tank in the artistic treatment plan, and in a style and in colors that complement and enhance the already selected design for the water tank.

Background

The new water tank adjacent to Mace Ranch and its associated building have created a major visual impact on the Northeastern Davis. This part of town has already been visually impacted by the building of the Target and its signage. The water tank art project has potential to both mitigate the visual impacts of the new water tank and associated building at the East edge of Mace ranch and to serve as a significant landmark at the Northeastern Edge of town.

On October 5, 2010, the City Council rejected the recommendation of the Civic Arts Commission of a Public Art Project for the East Area Water Tank, and directed staff to invite the five finalists in the selection process to submit additional concepts based on City Council interest in having the water tank serve as a sign or gateway to Davis, inviting visitors into our Community.

By reopening the water tank artistic treatment competition, we will incur greater costs without resolving the issue of the competing expectations within the community concerning this project. I am hopeful that the artists recommended by the Civic Arts Commission can work with the City to modify their proposal so as to best to meet the City Council's expectations, while also considering the current built-out environment of the water tank and related structure(s).