

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 3/21/2011

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Resolution 2011-17: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Albany Authorizing the Purchase of the Pierce Street Property Site From Caltrans, and Identifying The Public Uses of the Property

REPORT BY: Judy Lieberman, Assistant City Manager

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution 2011-17, “ Resolution of the City Council of the City of Albany Authorizing the Purchase of the Pierce Street Property Site From Caltrans, and Identifying The Public Uses of the Property.”

BACKGROUND

On January 17, 2011 City Council adopted Resolution 2011-7, authorizing the purchase agreement between the City and Caltrans for the Pierce Street Property. Over the past two months the city has received the Title Report, recorded the CEQA categorical exemption for the purchase, and begun background investigations into design feasibility issues. The purchase price is \$1,900,000.

DISCUSSION/SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The acquisition of the now vacant Pierce Street parcel is critical to moving the City’s maintenance center off of Cleveland Avenue to allow for commercial development to occur, and to relieve the City of ongoing lease payments for the current facility. The development of the maintenance center and the creation of the neighborhood park and the bicycle/pedestrian trail connection on the Pierce Street parcel will provide park, active transportation, and infrastructure improvements to a currently vacant and unused site. The use of portions of the parcel for a neighborhood park and trail will provide needed open space and recreational facilities for a very densely populated portion of the City. The bicycle trail will ultimately connect the Ohlone Greenway/BART station with the Bay Trail.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Purchase of the parcel will use a redevelopment tax increment and other non-General Fund funding sources. Acquisition and development of a City-owned Maintenance Center will relieve the City of the obligation of lease payments, which currently are close to \$200,000 a year. Design, development and maintenance funds for the park space will be determined at a future date. The City will seek grant funds for design and development of the trails.

Attachments:

Resolution 2011-17