

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

Agenda Date: September 19, 2011

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Report on Voices to Vision 2 (V2V2) community information and engagement process on the proposal for the Golden Gate Fields property to be the site of the second campus of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

REPORT BY: Beth Pollard, City Manager

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Receive and file correspondence from the City Manager to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and to The Stronach Group.
- 2) Receive report from Fern Tiger Associates on V2V2 process to date, and approve recommendations for continued communication and community engagement, including:
 - a) The formation of a FTA-facilitated 20-25 member task force willing to commit to participate fully in a series of 5-6 public sessions to focus on the developer's proposal for the waterfront; to monitor and assess changes; to request and understand/analyze information related to the project's impact on the community; to understand tradeoffs, options, and alternatives; and to help determine the strengths and challenges of the proposal as it evolves.
 - b) One more complete series of V2V2 participatory sessions, two citywide mailings with project updates and core facts, and ongoing updating of the website

BACKGROUND

The Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory is seeking a location for a second campus to consolidate and expand its operations. In May 2011, the Golden Gate Fields property was selected as one of six finalists for site selection.

Between 2008 and 2010, the City conducted a community engagement process known as Voices to Vision to identify a community vision for the future of the Golden Gate Fields property. In June 2011, the City Council hired the same consultant who conducted Voices to Vision, Fern Tiger Associates, to inform and engage the community about what the property owner and Lab were proposing for the property.

DISCUSSION

The city, through FTA, has conducted some initial communications and engagement work with the information that has been available. Attached is a report from FTA that summarizes the goals of V2V2; an overview of activities (June through early September); community views regarding positive and negative impacts that could result from the proposed projects (based on information provided by the developer to date), and recommended next steps.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS – Information only

The proposal involves removal of the racetrack and a complete redevelopment of the property for up to 2 million square feet of space, in phases, for LBNL, as well as additional development for commercial purposes, along with parking and access, and open space.

The significance of the size and scope of what is being proposed warrants substantial community understanding and participation. The timeframe for the public to obtain, analyze, and evaluate information has been extremely compressed. Staff has conveyed to LBNL and the property owner, in the attached correspondence, the need for there to be sufficient time, information, and engagement on what is being proposed. Staff has also conveyed to the property owner a concern that no changes have been shown on the proposed plans to reflect comments to date from the community.

Staff believes that continued outreach and involvement is necessary for all the affected parties to work on the possibilities. The recommended next steps for Voices to Vision 2 include mailing information on project updates and documented facts to the community, conducting one more series of participatory sessions with the community, and forming a task force to serve as a platform for deeper exploration, with meetings that would build on one another, about the proposals and possibilities. The meetings of the task force would be open to the public, and are projected to take place monthly over a 5-6 month period. The attached report from FTA provides more information about these recommended next steps.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The proposal is for the property owner/developer to reimburse the City for the continued costs associated with Voices to Vision 2.

Attachments

1. City Manager letter to LBNL Director, September 9, 2011
2. City Manager letter to the Stronach Group, September 14, 2011
3. Voices to Vision 2 Update, September 13, 2011
4. More information available at:
 - a) www.voicestovision.com (Mailed materials, Questions & Answers, Comment Cards, Developer Drawings, 2010 Report, etc.)
 - b) www.albanyca.org – Staff report and attachments under Agendas and Minutes, Waterfront Committee meeting of September 7, 2011:

[2011-09-07-WFC-attach 5.2 - Staff Report](#)

[2011-09-07-WFC-attach 5.2 - Att 1 RFQ](#)

[2011-09-07-WFC-attach 5.2 - Att 2 LBNL](#)

[2011-09-07-WFC-attach 5.2 - Att 3 Econ Impact](#)

[2011-09-07-WFC-attach 5.2 - Att 4 Land Use](#)

[2011-09-07-WFC-attach 5.2 - Att 5 V2V Final](#)

[2011-09-07-WFC-attach 5.2 - Att 6 V2V2 Interview](#)

[2011-09-07-WFC-attach 5.2 - Att 7 V2V2 Background](#)

[2011-09-07-WFC-attach 5.2 - Att 8 Session Summary](#)

[2011-09-07-WFC-attach 5.2 - Att 9 Q&A Handout](#)

[2011-09-07-WFC-attach 5.2 - Att 10 GGF Presentation](#)

[2011-09-07-WFC-attach 5.2 - Att 11 GGF Section Drawing](#)