

Vietnamese American Community Center Project Update

November 17, 2009

Q Why is the Vietnamese American Community Center (VACC) project on hold?

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency's proposed FY2009-10 Revised Capital Budget and FY2010-15 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are significantly scaled back from the FY2009-10 Spending Plan adopted by the Board in June 2009. The need for these reductions is driven primarily by the State raid of redevelopment money and a lagging economy. With the latest State raid, the Agency is faced with setting aside \$75 million over the next two years. This action has led to the proposed postponement of significant projects, including the VACC project until FY2013-14.

Q Are there monies committed to the VACC project?

The City of San Jose and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency (SJRA) have currently committed \$2.75 million for the VACC project. The breakdown is as follows: \$1.15 million from the City of San Jose and \$1.6 million from the Agency, which is now proposed to be available in FY 2013-2014.

Q What is the likelihood that this project will go forward in FY2013-14?

It is important to note that each project is reviewed and re-evaluated on an annual basis to determine project feasibility. Significant projects, including the VACC project, must be postponed until the economic situation improves or the State take is resolved. If the financial prospects are favorable among funding priorities, the City and the Agency can move forward with the project in FY2013-14.

Q How can we move this project forward in FY2012-2013?

The VACC Project Task Force and other interested community members can appeal its case to City Council members at any time. An important date to note:

December 15th - Adopt FY2009-10 Agency's Operating and Capital Budget and FY2009-13 Five Year CIP (1:30 pm Council Chambers).

The meeting can also be watched online at www.sanjoseca.gov/civiccentertv.

After the current SJRA budget is adopted, it will be important for interested community members to monitor and remain active advocates for the project through future budget cycles. As noted above, project priorities are reviewed annually, so the City Council/Redevelopment Agency Board will want to know that the project remains a community priority as it considers funding decisions in the future.

Q What are the City's immediate plans for the Shirakawa Center?

The City of San Jose staff will move out of Shirakawa Center and into Seven Trees Community Center (3590 Cas Drive) by August 2010. In the short-term, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services has proposed to use this center as a City of

San Jose Transition Center for mid-level youth offenders for a period up to one year (from Thursdays to Saturdays only, 6 pm – 2 am). This program, co-sponsored by San Jose Police Department and Santa Clara County Probation, will begin in Spring 2010.

Although the Shirakawa Center has been considered a potential location for the VACC project, it is important to note that the City continues to explore facility re-use or property sale scenarios on an ongoing basis in order to meet the City's financial need to meet service priorities. There is currently no proposal to sell or convert the Shirakawa Center to another long-term use, but such proposals may be considered. The City and the Agency will have to delay the process of the VACC project site location, programming and initial design until the project is ready to move forward.

Q What is the City's plan for presenting the status of the VACC project to the community?

The Agency will mail out updated information to all who attended the September 12th VACC Vision Event and various community groups. All communication materials regarding the VACC project will also be available through our website (www.sjredevelopment.org/vacc.htm) in English and Vietnamese.

Q Assuming adoption of the proposed Agency budget in December, will work on the VACC project immediately stop?

In accordance with the original commitment to the Task Force, the City and the Agency will submit a report (known in the City as an "Information Memorandum") regarding the VACC project to City Council/Redevelopment Agency Board in February 2010. The report will summarize the work of the VACC Project Task Force and document a set of guiding principles for this project, based on input from the Task Force and the community. This document is intended to guide future project work once funding becomes available.

Q Is the VACC Project Task Force able to submit its own report?

The City and the Agency plan to submit the above referenced memorandum in February 2010. The VACC Project Task Force as a formal body may submit its own report to City Council members (by mail or hand delivery) if so desired. However, it is staff's intent that the memorandum reflect the consensus view of the Task Force, and expects Task Force members to advise staff during drafting of the memorandum if this intent is not being achieved.

Q Given that funding has been moved out, will the VACC Project Task Force still exist or will the process be re-created?

The current VACC Project Task Force will conclude its work upon completion of the report to the City Council/Redevelopment Agency Board. This report will outline a set of guiding principles and process recommendations for future consideration, potentially including the role and composition of the advisory board(s).