



SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

March 15, 2017

Hon. Mayor Liccardo and City Council
City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95114

Submitted electronically

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members;

I write to urge your support of item 5.1: “Actions Related to the St James Park Management District Fund.”

SPUR is a strong supporter of high quality public open space in our cities, which supports a walkable environment and improves the quality of life particularly in dense urban cores like Downtown San Jose. We also support using the most effective mechanisms to deliver and support open space through multi-sector partnerships and active stewardship.

In 2015, SPUR published a white paper entitled, “[A Roadmap for St James Park, A strategy for bringing St. James Park to life through innovative governance and stewardship](#).” This publication is based on in-depth engagement with city staff, community stakeholders, and the private sector and presents research into national best practices in parks management. It recommends an approach to St James Park that creates a dedicated funding source and creates a multi-sector nonprofit conservancy under strong public oversight to provide focused stewardship of the park.

The item before you today is a significant step in developing this new stewardship model. It establishes a funding source that will greatly improve operations and programming and helps ensure that new development will support a thriving public realm.

We urge you to vote in favor of these actions.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Grant
Urban Design Policy Director

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