July 24, 2012

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 329
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Funding request for Civic Center Campus capital improvements

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Appropriate $2 million from the one-time reserve for capital improvements as outlined below
2. Direct staff to work with the ad hoc Board subcommittee on specifics of the design surrounding the proposed capital improvements

SUMMARY
On July 10, 2012, staff made a presentation at a Board of Supervisors study session about the current and future activities and projects around the Marin Center Veteran’s Auditorium, “Christmas Tree” lot, Civic Center Drive, and the future Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (“SMART”) Civic Center station. In summary, the proposed infrastructure improvements, described below, have the following goals:

- Integrate ADA accessible pedestrian connections from the future SMART station to other County facilities at the Marin Center and to the Civic Center
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and connections along the same route
- Improve Civic Center Drive circulation and traffic safety
- Improve the sense of scale and welcoming for the Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center Campus northern entrance
- Collaborate, partner with, and integrate multiple agency and entity plans/projects (SMART, Golden Gate Transit, Marin Transit, County of Marin, City of San Rafael, Agricultural Institute of Marin, and the local community)
- Leverage grants or other funds, and share costs with partners

If this request is approved, staff would proceed with studies and design development for these infrastructure improvements that will have multiple benefits for the entire Civic Center Campus. The specific recommendations are as follows:

- Plan and design all potential future improvements in this area now in a comprehensive, complementary approach to encourage a strong connection to the Civic Center, to meet the Civic Center Campus Master Design Guidelines and include green/sustainable project elements, creating a prominent northern entrance to Civic Center Campus; include landscape elements along the west side of Civic Center Drive to the Merrydale overcrossing
• Plan for the resurfacing of Auditorium Lot in the existing configuration with bioswales and landscape/irrigation upgrades; include the widening of the sidewalk on north side of Memorial Drive; incorporate relevant North San Rafael Promenade plan elements; provide infrastructure for future solar photovoltaic (PV) options and electric car charging stations (note the funding for the construction of this would be from future year’s Capital Improvement Programs)

• Work with the City of San Rafael to study implementing either a traffic light or a roundabout configuration at the intersection of Peter Behr Drive, Civic Center Drive, and Memorial Drive and other safety improvements along Civic Center Drive

• Design an ADA accessible pedestrian and bicycle path of travel from the SMART station to Hall of Justice entrance

• Design an upgrade to the surface treatment, paving and accessibility at the Veteran’s Memorial on Avenue of the Flags

• Coordinate with all relevant County departments, the City of San Rafael, SMART, all local transit agencies and the Agricultural Institute of Marin to design the Christmas Tree lot and connections to public streets

• Work with Community Development Agency to study a photovoltaic plan for the Christmas Tree and Auditorium parking lots with a design that will be complementary with the National Historic Landmark Civic Center

Staff will continue to work with the ad hoc Board of Supervisors’ subcommittee on specifics of the design surrounding the proposed capital improvements.

FISCAL IMPACT:
If approved by your Board, two million dollars would be allocated from the one-time reserves to the Capital Projects. Staff would return to the Board for the award of design and construction contracts.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

REVIEWED BY:  
[X] Finance  
[ ] N/A

[ ] County Counsel  
[X] N/A

[ ] Human Resources  
[X] N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Submitted by:  
David Speer
Facilities Planning and Development Manager

Reviewed by:  
Matthew H. Hymel
County Administrator

cc:  Jim Farley, Director, Department of Cultural Services
     Roy Given, Director, Department of Finance
     Bob Beaumont, Director, Department of Public Works
     Brian Crawford, Director, Community Development Agency
     Linda Dahl, Director, Marin County Parks

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