



August 4, 2000

2000 Board of Directors

Jim Towery

President

Vic Giacalone

Vice-President

Bob Hayes

Treasurer

Kelly Kline

Secretary

Betsy Bryant

Drina Collins

Patricia Compton

Joan Corsiglia

Bill Del Biaggio Jr.

Gerry DeYoung

Vera Fisher

Mary Ellen Fox

Terri Fukuda

Amy Glad

Dorothy Goble

Jean Gomes

Elliott Green

Leslee Hamilton

George Hinoki

Virginia Holtz

Jennifer Hull

Mel Hulse

Tom Hutson

Desiree La Maggioro

Jeff Lawson

Elma Rosas Martinez

Doug McLendon

Trish Newfarmer

Mike O'Kane

Jay Perrine

Dave Sandretto

Keith Watt

Nanci Williams

Suzanne Wolf

Ken Yeager

Council of Advisors

Gloria Duffy

Jerry Estruth

David Pandori

Executive Director

Kathleen Muller

www.grpg.org

U.S Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District Planning Division
Attn: Nina Bicknese
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Dear Nina,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens Corporation, I am submitting comments on the Draft General Re-Evaluation Report/Environmental Impact Report and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Modifications to the Guadalupe River Project, Downtown San Jose, CA.

We are strongly supportive of the Proposed Action, as described in the report dated June 2000, with the addition of comments and concerns listed below.

Continuous Trail Access

We have been vocal advocates for the inclusion of a continuous trail system on both sides of the river (to the extent that is possible), in order to provide recreational opportunities and to serve as an alternative transportation corridor. The Guadalupe River Park is being developed in a densely populated urban area. Thus the inclusion of pedestrian undercrossings under the major cross streets is a safety issue as well as an enhancement to the recreational experience. We further urge you, when designing and constructing the proposed trails and access points, to ensure that they allow the most complete usage of the park by all segments of the community.

Inlet/Outlet Structures

A major issue of concern for us is the design of the inlet and outlet structures for the proposed box culverts, particularly the inlet structures downstream of Santa Clara Street and St. John Street. We were unaware of the potential impact of these structures at the time of the public scoping sessions on proposed modifications to the Authorized Project in November 1999, and thus did not comment on them at that time.

Our concern has to do with the size and prominence of these structures at one of the most central and visible spots along the river. We urge the Corps to work closely with City of San Jose, the Redevelopment Agency, and the

GRPG-1

GRPG-2

Guadalupe River Park Task Force to integrate the structures into the landscape and minimize their visual impact as much as possible. This is an area of intense public use, immediately across from the San Jose Arena. If the view of the river from the Santa Clara Street Bridge is dominated by massive, yawning, concrete structures, we fear there will be a negative public response to the flood control project.

GRPG-2

More importantly, we wish to express concern regarding public safety. We believe consideration should be given to a design for the inlet and outlet structures that prohibits, or at the least discourages, children and the homeless from entering the box culverts.

GRPG-3

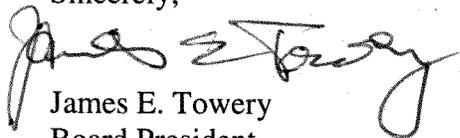
Educational Opportunities

We believe there are many opportunities to incorporate educational elements into the design of the project that will further enhance the public's appreciation for the history of the Guadalupe River and understanding of the flood control project. These might include incorporating murals or other graphics on vertical retaining walls, interpretive signage at the inlet structures, or some hands-on children's interpretive component. While we are not providing specific suggestions, we believe various educational opportunities should be explored during the design stage. They might serve the dual purpose of being informative *and* providing mitigation for some of the hardscape necessary for flood protection.

GRPG-4

Thank you very much for inviting us to comment on this proposed plan and for your consideration of our recommendations. We appreciate the Corps' sensitivity in dealing with the environmental issues, recreational components, and other competing concerns inherent in this project. As community advocates for the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens we sincerely hope the flood control project remains on schedule for completion by the end of 2002. We look forward to seeing your final report.

Sincerely,



James E. Towery
Board President