



Gordon J. Wozniak  
Councilmember District 8

CONSENT CALENDAR  
May 22, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmember Gordon Wozniak  
Subject: Panoramic Hill Emergency Access Route Feasibility Study

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council refer to the budget process \$25,000 to match funds requested by the Panoramic Hill Association from the Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund to determine the best location for an emergency access road in the Panoramic Hill area. Because of the geography this area is one of the most vulnerable in Berkeley to a major natural disaster.

BACKGROUND

Panoramic Hill has an estimated 520 residents and about 80 percent are Berkeley residents. They live on and adjacent to the Hayward Fault as well as in a wildlife fire zone. Panoramic is a single loop road, 12 to 18 feet wide, that begins and ends just south of Memorial Stadium. An emergency access route would greatly improve the ability of emergency response personnel to reach the hill, and residents and visitors to escape, in the case of an emergency.

The Hayward fault runs under the lower section of Panoramic Way, just before it crosses the parking lot and bisects the stadium. In the event of an earthquake on the Hayward fault, the Panoramic Hill area will almost certainly be isolated from the City's emergency services, which lie on the other side of the fault to the west.

Because the Panoramic Hill area is located in multiple jurisdictions, including Berkeley, Oakland and the University of California, it is very difficult to address these important life safety issues in a comprehensive manner. However, to achieve a successful solution we need to get the three jurisdictions to develop a joint plan. The first step is to determine the best secondary emergency access route and its engineering feasibility.

The Panoramic Hill Association has spent a lot of time researching the history of this issue as well as the potential challenges to creating an emergency access route. For example, this year, they worked with UC Berkeley faculty and students to develop a GIS map of the neighborhood, including the slope of the hillsides and potential landslide areas. The Panoramic Hill Association has written a grant proposal to the UC Berkeley Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund to do an engineering study to determine the best emergency access route.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

The total cost of the engineering study is approximately \$50,000. Panoramic Hill Association has requested \$25,000 from the UC Berkeley Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund. We are asking the City of Berkeley to match the funds with an additional \$25,000.

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