



Office of the City Manager

INFORMATION CALENDAR

February 12, 2008

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Claudette Ford, Director, Public Works

Subject: Acquisition of 9th Street Drill Track

INTRODUCTION

On June 19, 2007, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 6,986–N.S. authorizing the City Manager to purchase the 9th Street Drill Track in southwest Berkeley from the Union Pacific Railroad Company for an amount not to exceed \$3,008,590. The amount authorized included the purchase price of \$3,000,000 plus \$8,590 in closing costs. The City purchased the property on September 4, 2007. Funds for the acquisition for the property came from a variety of federal, State and local sources.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In addition to closing costs, the City also had to pay the prorated property taxes for the parcels that were acquired. This unanticipated additional cost increased the total closing costs by \$7,243 to a total of \$15,833. To cover this difference, Public Works used \$7,244 from the FY 2008 Capital Projects Fund appropriation. The City will receive a refund of \$7,243 from the State for the prorated property taxes paid by the City.

BACKGROUND

The City's purchase of the 9th Street Drill Track will enable the City to complete the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard extension, a proposed multi-use path connecting Berkeley's 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard to the Doyle Street Greenway in Emeryville. The proposed project alignments will close the existing gap in pathways between the intersection of Heinz and 9th Streets in West Berkeley and the Emeryville City limit, following abandoned railroad right-of-way and existing City roadways. Upon completion, the project will provide a safe, direct bicycle crossing of Ashby Avenue offering cyclists an unbroken, regional route through Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville and into Oakland.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

No future action is required.

CONTACT PERSON

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