

City Council Questions

April 14, 2020 Council Meeting

ITEM 4.2 FINAL MAP APPROVAL, TRACT NO. 10517, 2005 ROCK STREET

1. The staff report identifies the developer as "MV Cantera 2019 Inc." Did Dividend Homes sell the entitlement, and, if so, when? Or, is "MV Cantera 2019 Inc." the same entity as Dividend Homes?

Dividend Homes is the parent company for MV Cantera 2019 Inc. and continues to be the developer of the project.

ITEM 4.4 FINAL MAP APPROVAL, TRACT NO. 10525, 1950 MONTECITO AVENUE

1. The staff report identifies the developer as "The Redwoods at Montecito LLC." Did Dividend Homes sell the entitlement, and, if so, when? Or, is "The Redwoods at Montecito LLC" the same entity as Dividend Homes?

Dividend Homes is the parent company for The Redwoods at Montecito, LLC. and continues to be the developer of the project.

ITEM 7.1 AMENDMENT TO CALPERS CONTRACT FOR ALL EMPLOYEES - ORDINANCE (SECOND READING)

1. Since this is a second reading, can it be on the consent calendar?

CalPERS requires that contract amendments be considered by Council as a regular business item.

ITEM 7.2 APPROPRIATION OF CDBG FUNDS FOR COVID-19 RENT RELIEF PROGRAM

1. How many households (that are renters) have been helped with the initial \$500,000? What is the average amount households have received?

As of April 13, 2020, 160 households have received financial assistance from the COVID-19 Rent Relief Program (C-19 RRP). Currently, a little over \$330,000 of the City funding has been expended with an average of approximately \$2,085 of assistance per household for April rent. With CSA sending out between 5-15 rent relief checks daily, the initial City funding should be depleted by early next week. There are an additional 548 applications currently being processed, and another 659 clients in the queue for CSA staff to contact.

2. In the staff report on page 2 it says "the first set of approved applications resulted in rent checks of approximately \$2,000." Is this the monthly rent that households that applied for help are paying? If not, what is this?

The C-19 RRP provides rent relief by covering the gap between an eligible household's rent and what they can pay. Therefore, the approximately \$2,000 average payment is the average gap. Depending on the situation, the gap could in fact be the entire rent (ex. total loss of employment

and therefore the inability to pay any rent) or a just portion of the rent (ex. partial loss of wages and therefore the ability to pay partial rent).

3. How many Mountain View households (that are renters) have received help from the Countywide Rent Relief Program (through Destination Home/Sacred Heart)? What is the average amount received?

CSA staff estimates that approximately 10 Mountain View households received assistance from the Countywide Rent Relief Program. It is unknown what the average amount of assistance was received.

4. Given that the demand exceeds the funding, how are applicants prioritized?

The C-19 RRP includes various guiding principles and program design parameters. One of the key parameters is a streamlined review process to 1) facilitate administrative efficiency given the significant caseload and 2) disbursing funds quickly given the urgency of the needs and the importance of stabilizing tenant living situations. Therefore, the program has been administered on a first-come, first-served basis for clients meeting the following eligibility criteria:

- Must meet one of the COVID-19 related impacts including the following:
 - Loss of employment
 - Reduced employment/wages
 - Increased medical costs
 - Increased childcare costs
- Household must be residing in a Mountain View rental unit or room with current lease agreement
- Other situations may qualify on a case by case basis as determined by CSA staff

At the time the C-19 RRP was approved, no additional direction was provided regarding prioritization the clients. Should Council wish to provide prioritization parameters, staff will work with CSA staff to modify the C-19 RRP and implement that direction. CSA staff notes that if prioritization parameters are put in place, it will likely increase administrative effort and could significantly slow down the ability to respond to immediate needs, in large part because prioritization is possible only when all the requests for rent relief are processed and evaluated against each other. As noted above, CSA still needs to contact over 650 clients to begin the intake and evaluation process. Conversely, under the current first-come, first-served process, CSA has streamlined the application process where they are able to intake and process an application and have the landlord paid in approximately one week.

CSA staff does also note that, of the 160 households that have received financial assistance to-date, 61% of the households were extremely low income, 15% were very low income, 22% were low income, and 2% were moderate income. Therefore, it appears that the majority of the funding is already flowing to those most in need.

5. Have we conducted the annual CDBG fund application process yet? We usually expend General Fund monies for public services and I am wondering if any of those organizations would qualify for the COVID-19 relief allowable expenditures such as the Meals on Wheels program?

Due to COVID-19, the CARES Act extends the Annual Action Plan process, which is the process by which Council considers the CDBG funding allocations. As such, while Council usually conducts this process in April, the FY 2020-21 CDBG funding applications will be heard by the Council on June 30, 2020.

In addition, typically, the City has awarded public service sub-recipients two year allocations. FY 2020-21 would be year two of their allocation so typically, the Council would not consider public service applications this year. However, this has been a City policy and not a HUD requirement. Therefore, if Council is interested in considering additional public service funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic from the City's FY 2020-21 allocation, the Council may choose to do so. Please note that the HRC has made their FY 2020-21 CDBG funding recommendations at their February 6, 2020 meeting.

If any of the City funded (CDBG or General Fund) public service sub-recipients provide a service that addresses the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, they would be eligible for the CARES Act CDBG funding.

ITEM 8.1 PUBLIC ART APPROVAL FOR MORA PARK AND PYRAMID PARK

1. Since the Council requested integration of art pieces with park elements at Pyramid Park, and the recommended pieces are not integrated, were there no submissions that were integrated into park elements?

The Visual Arts Committee is the advisory body who makes recommendations public art for Mora and Pyramid Parks. The selection process includes criteria for selecting public art which includes quality, durability, and functionality. In October 2019, City Council approved Mora and Pyramid Park conceptual plans with the desire for functional public art within the parks. The Call for Artist encouraged artist to propose functional public art within the public park infrastructure such as benches, bike racks, and elements which could be incorporated into the concrete pathways/walkways. Mora Park received 10 submissions and Pyramid Park received 11 submissions (7 submissions from both parks were from the same artists). For Pyramid Park, 7 submissions were art sculptures to be viewed by the public and 4 submissions had "integrated" public art into park elements (three benches and one bike rack). The Visual Arts Committee (VAC) recommended the Adrian Litman art sculpture because of the quality, durability and resistance to vandalism; and the desire to diversify the type of public art for Mora and Pyramid Parks.

2. If we were to increase the public art budget to 2% for either or both parks, where would the extra funds come from?

The projects are funded from Parkland Dedication Fees. The additional funding for Mora Park public art of \$10,000 can be funded from the project's contingency budget for a total of \$20,000. Meanwhile, Pyramid Park construction has not been funded and is part of the 2020-2021 Capital Improvements Program. The proposed Pyramid Park budget can absorb the additional funding of \$20,000 in public art budget for a total of \$50,000.