

07/14/09

6B.3

Santa Clara Plays Fair

www.SantaClaraPlaysFair.org

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Madame Mayor, Santa Clara City Councilmembers and City Staff, thank you & good evening. I'm Bill Bailey and I have lived in Santa Clara for 20 years. I am the Treasurer of Santa Clara Plays Fair<dot>org. All of us are volunteers.

The show presented by the San Francisco 49ers this evening is impressive. But it should be noted:

First -- The stadium footprint is about 13 to 14 acres. Stadium proponents want to 'plop' it on only 17 acres with virtually no adjacent parking. Compare this to Candlestick, with at least 8,000 parking spaces on 84 acres. A Santa Clara site is a huge logistical leap backwards – for us.

Second -- Term Sheet Exhibit 7 from June 2nd just told all Santa Clarans clearly that the Fixed Ground Rent payable to the City is estimated at only \$8 Million dollars over forty years. That's an average of only \$200,000 a year.

Third -- The presentations from June 23 made clear that Convention Center space amounting to TWO and ONE HALF ACRES inside a ONE BILLION DOLLAR NFL stadium is expected to earn only a miserable \$157,000 a year.

Fourth – As you approve Item 6B3 this evening, note that the RDA dollars you've spent for consultants alone now stands at \$1,950,000. After two years of this, we have virtually nothing to show for any of that money that truly benefits our City or its residents.

Why is Santa Clara settling for so little in exchange for a \$114M subsidy? In every category, a stadium gives us peanuts while pouring money into the pockets of the 49ers alone. In fact, it's becoming even clearer why it was necessary for the 49ers and certain of our leaders to hijack State Senate Bill 43 last week for the purpose of limiting the choices of Santa Clarans.

But only last Friday, I saw a city meeting the needs of its residents. From the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Reach 3 of the Creek Trail, I then bicycled clear to the Sunnyvale Storm Pumping Station and back. The trip only convinced me that subsidizing a 49ers stadium in Santa Clara will negatively impact everything, including creek trails, that we do for our residents – and that the consultants' own reports prove just that.

Thank you.

William F. Bailey

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