

From: [Handler, Elisabeth](#)
To: [Downtown West Project](#)
Subject: FW: statement/messages on AB900
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 8:04:48 AM

From: Handler, Elisabeth
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2020 1:18 PM
To: Davis, Rachel <Rachel.Davis@sanjoseca.gov>; Kline, Kelly <Kelly.Kline@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Walesh, Kim <Kim.Walesh@sanjoseca.gov>; Wilcox, Leland <Leland.Wilcox@sanjoseca.gov>
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I am going to send a zoom invite so we can strategize on a few messages to have ready on the failure of SB995/AB900, per Kim's request. I have pasted below Kim's exchange with Janice Bitters/Spotlight, the first one to follow up with us on the issue.

Janice,

Yes, we realized this too on Tuesday. The failure of SB995 was a surprising and disappointing setback.

I've attached a link to our August 19, 2019 Info Memo that described the benefits of AB900 to the City—a) facilitates timely implementation of the Google project and its associated benefits (affordable housing, construction jobs, etc.) b) prevents project delay and uncertainty from complicating the intricate coordination required between planning for BART, rail, and station construction, and the integration needed between the new transportation infrastructure and Google's mixed-use development.

"AB 900 facilitates timely delivery of project benefits to the community by streamlining CEQA and project approval litigations. Under AB 900, any legal challenges get filed in the Court of Appeal, and the Court issues its decision within nine months to the extent feasible.

In San José, the benefits of timely development in the Diridon Station Area include: affordable housing, open space and infrastructure improvements, construction and permanent jobs, green building in support of Climate Smart, property tax revenue, public amenities, and Community Benefit funds for anti-displacement, job training, and other community-identified priorities. In addition, prolonged uncertainty (2, 5, 10 years) regarding the start of Google-related construction would significantly complicate coordinated planning for BART, rail, and station construction, and the integration needed between the new transportation infrastructure and Google's mixed-use development for a good customer experience. "Timely implementation" was identified as a shared goal in the City's MOU with Google in order to maximize integration with planned transit projects and achieve the benefits of implementing the Diridon Station Area Plan."

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c38bcfdcc8fedd5ba4ecc1d/t/5d5c5e61e1d5150001a6fdf2/1566334563522/DSA+Update+-+Info+Memo+-+081919.pdf>

We are exploring options about how to respond to this setback.

Thanks,

Elisabeth

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