



PRESS RELEASE

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COUNCIL APPROVES PURCHASE OF LONG SOUGHT AFTER LAND

Property Owned by S.F. Public Utilities Commission Since 1930

PLEASANTON, *Calif.* — The City Council tonight voted to authorize the purchase of 3.18 acres of land from the S.F. Public Utilities Commission (PUC) across from the library for \$4.2 million. Tonight's unanimous vote caps several years of on and off negotiations to acquire the land in the heart of the city.

“We’re very excited to have this property, which we have had our eye on for some time,” said Nelson Fialho, City Manager for Pleasanton, adding that “the timing couldn’t be better given that we are at the beginning of an important downtown planning update, which will define the future of how our downtown looks and feels for the next generation.”

The property, known as the Old Bernal Parcel, is actually two lots immediately adjacent to one another, located at 401 and 403 Bernal Ave. The S.F. PUC purchased the land along with 510 acres

along Bernal Avenue in 1930 when they acquired the Spring Valley Water Works, and up until 1949, the S.F. PUC had pumped groundwater from the nearly 100 wells located on the property.

Recognizing the value of this property, situated in the heart of downtown Pleasanton, the City Council made its purchase a priority and placed it on the City Council Work Plan Priorities. Tonight's approval to move forward on the purchase will allow staff to include this new acquisition in the City's upcoming planning process and update of the Downtown Specific Plan, the task force for which will begin meeting in January 2017. The land is currently designated for public and institutional uses within the City's General Plan, which allows for such uses as libraries and public parking to name a few. Housing is not considered an allowable use within the General Plan's Public and Institution land use designation.

"We want to encourage everyone to attend the upcoming Downtown Specific Plan Task Force meetings, which will begin next month and last anywhere from around 18 to 24 months," Fialho concluded.

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