

Larry Ames, Chair, Dist. 6 N'hd Leaders Group  
Hope you've seen our letter.

[6/9/22]

We thank Steve Borkenhagen & the SJ Light Tower Corp for their love of SJ.  
We love SJ, too.

We have major concerns w/ the proposed Proj.  
esp. w/ the initial plans to place it by an environmentally sensitive streamside habitat  
and the impacts to wildlife, migrating birds, and even spawning salmon.

With all the jobs and housing planned for the Downtown West district,  
we need to keep Arena Green a publicly-useable public park:  
the affordable- and market-rate housing being built nearby won't come w/ private  
backyards, and Arena Green will be their main "outdoor life".

We now hear of re-siting the project at Plaza de Cesar Chavez.  
Less environmental impacts (good!),  
but the Plaza is the very **heart** of SJ and it is already very well used: summer concerts,  
"Christmas in the Park"; year-round for out-flow from Civic & Convention Center events  
and as staging area for field-trip to The Tech.

There is a privately-funded **Draft Concept** Plan from 2018 for the Plaza  
that aims to honor Cesar Chavez w/ more than just the name of the park.  
This plan does talk of including a Light Tower (in a fairly historic form),  
but it's shown as spanning a street or standing on a street island:  
not taking city parkland – and it shown as an ornamental feature **enhancing** the park  
rather than a "major attraction" **dominating** the park.

If you must build your tower, also buy the land for it: **make** a park, don't **take** a park.

We wish your gift could be something useful rather than something frivolous:  
help w/ equity imbalances by funding, for example, scholarships for Family Camp and  
sustainable city park improvements.  
Or if you want to give us an iconic structure, help us enhance the planned  
"transit destination" at Diridon Station.

[timed-out; not read...]

We would welcome a beautiful, **sustainable, useful** addition to our city. Thank you.