

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO  
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE October 30, 1981

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Council Members  
FROM: Victor V. James, Jr., Administrative Officer  
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT - COMPOSITION OF A TASK FORCE TO  
ACQUIRE THE RAVENSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SITE

The composition of the Task Force is reasonably related to its purpose, namely to acquire the Ravenswood High School Site.

The acquisition question poses a number of legal, financial and procedural questions that dictated its composition. The size of the Task Force is dictated by function, not numbers. Although, it is clearly understood that it is the prerogative of Council to amend the recommended composition.

However, it is the recommendation that Council approve the recommended Task Force composition.

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VVJ/cbd

# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE October 30, 1981

**TO:** Victor V. James, Jr., Administrative Officer  
**FROM:** Russell V. Averhart, Management Analyst  
**SUBJECT:** CONSIDERATION OF THE COMPOSITION OF A TASK FORCE TO ACQUIRE THE RAVENSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SITE

### BACKGROUND

Since its closure on June 30, 1976, the Ravenswood High School has remained a subject of continuous debate concerning its future. Community sentiment has always been to preserve the entire site for institutional purposes: education, open space, recreational, and governmental usage.

Sequoia Union High School District, which owns the site, is anxious to dispose of the property, thus avoiding yearly maintenance costs. The School District desires to see the site designated for residential development, which would maximize the School District's return from the sale. The final land use designation for the site will be decided, in the future, by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

### TASK FORCE PURPOSE

The Task Force will be established for the express purpose of acquiring the high school site. The Task Force should keep in mind that it is community sentiment to preserve the entire site. Hence, the Task Force should look at alternatives that clearly accomplish that purpose, i.e., allow for purchase of the entire site.

### TASK FORCE ISSUES

The following is a list of basic subject areas to be addressed by the Task Force:

- 1) Legal Aspects:
  - A. What public agencies or non-profit organizations have standing to purchase the site?
  - B. What impact does the Naylor Bill (AB#859) and the educational code have on the purchase of the entire site?
  - C. What specific type of legal agreements/arrangements are available to affect the purchase?

TASK FORCE ISSUES

1) Legal Aspects: (Continued)

- D. Under what conditions can the East Palo Alto Municipal Council acquire federal funds to acquire the site; what state funds can be used?
- E. If the site is purchased by the County, what will the new city have to do to reacquire it?

2) Financial Aspects:

- A. What type of funds (federal, state, local, etc.,) are available to purchase the site?
- B. Are there any special funding sources that a public agency can qualify for; especially the County of San Mateo?
- C. Are there special sources of funds available to the Ravenswood Recreation and Park District?
- D. What types of funds will the new City of East Palo Alto qualify for?

3) Steps Necessary to Acquisition

- A. What steps need to be accomplished to affect the purchase; plus, establishment of a timetable for completion of the process?

RECOMMENDED TASK FORCE COMPOSITION

The composition of the Task Force should be directly related to the purpose; acquisition of the high school site. Additionally, its composition should be made up of individuals who (1) have decision-making authority, (2) technical expertise, (3) a direct interest in the outcome, and (4) members from the East Palo Alto Community at-large.

Therefore, the recommended composition of the Task Force is as follows:

Representation from:

- 1) East Palo Alto Municipal Council
- 2) Ravenswood Recreation and Park District
- 3) Citizens of East Palo Alto
- 4) Sequoia Union High School District
- 5) San Mateo County: County Manager's Office

Representation from: (Continued)

- 5) San Mateo County: East Palo Alto's Deputy District Attorney  
Planning Commission
- 6) Byron Sher - Assemblyman (District 21)

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RVA/cbd