



AGENDA REPORT

SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting Date: August 20, 2013

Agenda Item 9A
Approvals:
City Manager [Signature]
Dept. Head _____
Attorney _____
Finance [Signature]

Department: City Manager [Signature]
Prepared By: Laura Ferguson, Public Information Officer

Subject: **CITIZEN NAMING CONTEST FOR HIGHEST POINT IN SAN CLEMENTE**

Fiscal Impact: Yes. There will be costs associated with implementation of the naming contest dependent on City Council direction. The funds will be transferred from the Council Contingency Fund (#001-203-44900) to Other Operating Supplies Fund (#001-203-42490) and would cover the Council-decided items. Potentially this may involve a prize for the winner of the contest; a survey monument set in concrete; directional signage; and a wooden bench installed on concrete pad. A community service bench project is already underway for placement in what is believed to be the same vicinity as the highest point (see below).

Summary: At the July 16th City Council meeting, Councilmember Lori Donchak proposed a naming contest for the highest point in San Clemente. The point, which has an elevation of 1,010 feet, would be identified with a survey monument with concrete base, and directional signage leading people to the highest point (the sign would also serve to divert walkers away from the Richard and Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy). A sitting bench and garden surround was also suggested, with potential involvement by the Talega Garden Club to install low maintenance plants around the designated seating area.

Background: The purpose of the contest is to promote civic pride and good health through outdoor activity and leveraging the popularity of the San Clemente Coastal Trail to other trails in San Clemente's trail system by naming and publicizing the highest point. This particular point is located on the north portion of the Cristianitos Trail about one-half mile up from the trail access point at Avenida Talega (see Exhibit 1).

Discussion: It is necessary to determine the ownership of the property prior to installation of the items proposed and if necessary, obtain permission from the landowner. Engineering provided staff with GPS coordinates for the North Cristianitos Trail, and based on the data in the GIS system that is utilized by the City, detailed maps were created by the City's GIS Specialist. As you will see on the secondary map which zooms into the location of the highest point (see Exhibit 2), it does not appear to be entirely within City boundaries. The Assistant City Engineer indicated that supposedly the trail is within an easement that is just within the City boundary, but the City GIS boundary line shows parts of the trail as being outside of the City limits. To be 100% accurate, a survey of the area would be necessary to confirm the City boundary location and see how it compares to where the trail is. GIS data on record shows the owner of the trail portion within the City limits as being Talega Associates.

Staff contacted Talega Maintenance Corporation (TMC) and informed the Executive Director about this proposed project should the items be placed on property owned by Talega. Though TMC supports the placement of these items on Talega property, they cannot speak for property outside of this. Also, the City would need to address maintenance of the installed items.

Staff was also informed by TMC that the Talega Moms Club has a memorial bench project underway with funding already secured. The bench, to be installed by a Boy Scout troop, is slated for installation in, or in close proximity to the highest point. If the survey monument is placed in the same location as this bench, it may make sense to extend the concrete base of the monument to create a pad for the sitting bench. With regards to a small garden at the site, irrigation is lacking so drought tolerant plantings would be the best option in lieu of an ornamental garden.

Recommended**Action:**

STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council:

- 1) Determine the items to be approved and funded from the Council Contingency Fund for the highest point naming contest.
- 2) Direct staff to have the site surveyed to determine ownership.
- 3) Direct staff to hold a citizen naming contest for the highest point.
- 4) Direct staff to commemorate the highest point with a survey monument.
- 5) Direct staff to integrate the name of the highest point into the City's trail map when reprinted in the future.
- 6) Authorize the placement of directional signage leading walkers to the highest point on the Cristianitos Trail. This signage will also deflect walkers from the Richard and Donna O'Neill Conservancy located on The Reserve that borders San Clemente.

Attachments:

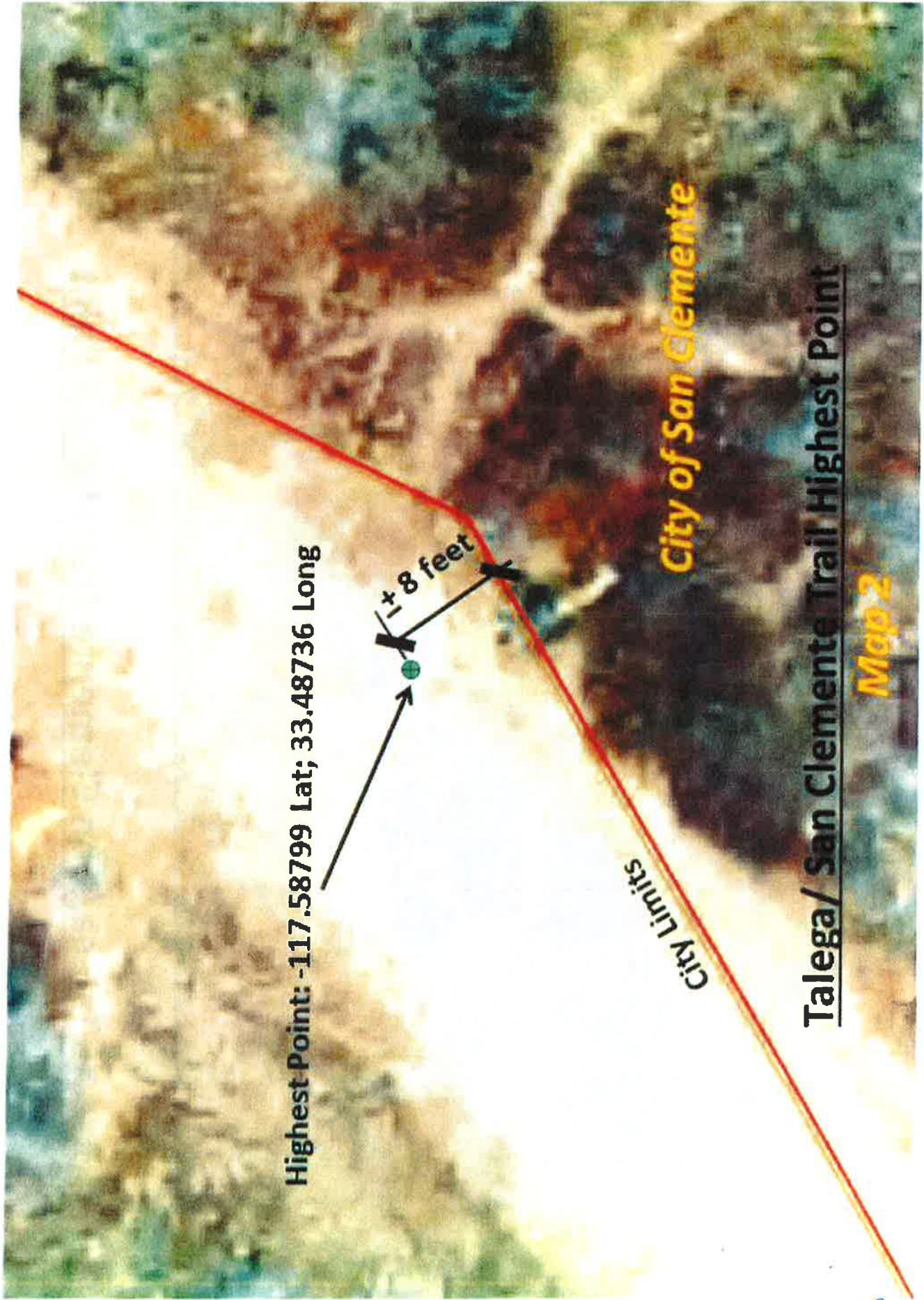
Exhibit #1 - San Clemente Trail Highest Point Detail 1
Exhibit #2 - San Clemente Trail Highest Point Detail 2

Notification:

Brian Taylor, Executive Director, Talega Maintenance Corporation
Laura Coley Eisenberg, Vice President, Open Space & Resource Management at Rancho Mission Viejo



Talega/ San Clemente Trail Highest Point



Highest Point: -117.58799 Lat; 33.48736 Long

± 8 feet

City Limits

City of San Clemente

Talega/ San Clemente Trail Highest Point

Map 2

9A-4