

NOVEMBER BALLOT MEASURE – EL CAMINO PARK RESERVOIR, PUMP STATION & WELL

This November, Palo Alto voters will have the opportunity to voice their opinion on an advisory measure regarding whether an area under El Camino Park should be used for an underground water storage reservoir and well to supply the City of Palo Alto with water during an emergency, the existing pump station replaced with modern equipment in its same location, and all existing park facilities fully restored upon completion of construction. This advisory measure will allow voters to indicate their approval or disapproval of the ballot proposal and will appear on the November 6th 2007 ballot.

On March 5th 2007, the City Council approved the construction of a new underground reservoir and well beneath El Camino Park and the replacement of the Utilities Department's existing pump station (Lytton Station). These new facilities are components of the Emergency Water Supply and Storage Project (the project) [EWS](#) . Council made its decision after evaluating the Final EIR for the project, the recommendation of the Planning and Transportation Commission and numerous reports by City staff.

Before selecting El Camino Park, City staff considered numerous potential reservoir, pump station and well sites in Palo Alto and Stanford. In March of 2005, City staff presented an initial evaluation of the seven potential sites to representatives from the residential and business communities at focus group meetings. Using feedback from these meetings and information from City of Palo Alto Utilities staff, the City Council identified four sites for further consideration in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process: El Camino Park, Town and Country Center and two in the vicinity of Stanford Shopping Center. These sites appeared to be viable due to many factors, such as their geographical location and elevation, proximity to existing water lines, and ability to accommodate an underground reservoir and well and nearby pump station.

The El Camino Park location has several advantages compared to the other sites considered:

- Placing the reservoir and well beneath El Camino Park will not displace or disrupt existing residences and business.
- Placing the reservoir and well beneath El Camino Park eliminates the need to construct a new pump station, since the existing pump station within El Camino Park will be replaced. No additional park space will be used to replace the existing pump station.
- In addition, construction costs will be substantially reduced since placing the reservoir near Lytton Station allows for an efficient underground connection to the existing Lytton Station building, and eliminates the need to construct long runs of underground piping between the reservoir and pump station.

- Placing the new well and reservoir near the existing Lytton pump station building allows for replacement of its aging 1950's-era equipment.
- Historically, the highest producing well sites have been in north Palo Alto near San Francisquito Creek. The closer a well is to this creek, the greater the chance that the well will be high yielding. El Camino Park is closer to the creek than two of the three alternative reservoir and well sites.
- The use of El Camino Park for the underground reservoir, well and pump station will not permanently impact current park uses, since all existing park facilities will be fully restored upon the completion of construction.
- No parking spaces will be permanently lost due to the use of El Camino Park for the underground reservoir, well and pump station.