RESOLUTION NO. 2019–66

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO REQUESTING EVALUATION OF A POTENTIAL LIBRARY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT'S REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND SUPPORTING THE DISTRICT'S INCLUSION OF SUSTAINABLE ACCESS STUDIES AND STRATEGIES IN THE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

WHEREAS, the City of El Cerrito supports transit-oriented development; and

WHEREAS, the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station as identified in the City's 2014 San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan is located in Downtown El Cerrito, the City's entertainment/theater and shopping district that serves as the southern gateway to the City; and

WHEREAS, transit-oriented development at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station would help fulfill objectives identified in various City planning documents including the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, Climate Action Plan, and Strategic Plan, and responds to the Climate Emergency; and

WHEREAS, development at the El Cerrito Plaza Station would deepen a sense of place and community identity, strengthen the City's partnership with BART, promote the everyday use of transit, and serve as a catalyst to attract private investment to El Cerrito; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2016-68 authorized the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) to study and pursue Transit-Oriented Development opportunities and a potential new library at the El Cerrito Plaza station; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2016-68 also supported transit-oriented development, reduced parking requirements, and affordable housing at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station as soon as possible, and;

WHEREAS, the BART Board's September 1, 2016 Executive Decision Document similarly authorized the General Manager to execute a MOU between BART and the City of El Cerrito to pursue feasibility related to transit-oriented development including a potential new library at the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station; and

WHEREAS, the MOU was executed in 2018 and BART and City staff have met regularly on the topic and recommend that the next step in the feasibility process would be to issue an RFQ to attract a highly qualified development team to develop a transit-oriented development, including scenarios with and without a library; and

WHEREAS, BART has held two public open houses to present and discuss the many factors driving future TOD at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station on August 14, 2019 and October 3, 2019; and

WHEREAS, AB2923 (Bay Area Rapid Transit District; transit-oriented development) was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2018 directing BART to adopt new transit-oriented zoning standards for each BART station by July 1, 2020; and
WHEREAS, staff from the two agencies have collaborated in drafting Goals and Objectives to meet both agencies' priorities at the station; and

WHEREAS, BART's Request for Qualification (RFQ) will include development of a scenario that includes a potential library as a requirement; and

WHEREAS, the RFQ will require that the developer fund development of Sustainable Access Studies and Strategies that maintain station access for at least the number of customers affected by the reduced number of commuter parking spaces, which shall include special consideration for customers that live further than one-half mile from the station.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of El Cerrito requests evaluation of a potential library to be included in the Bay Area Rapid Transit District's Request for Qualification and supports the District's inclusion of Sustainable Access Studies and Strategies in the Transit-Oriented Development Process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on November 19, 2019 the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Pardue-Okimoto; Councilmembers Fadelli, Lyman and Quinto
NOES: Councilmember Abelson
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on November 21, 2019.

Holly M. Charléty, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto, Mayor