



Agenda Date: 8/15/2006
Agenda Placement: 6E

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Michael Stoltz for Robert Peterson - Director
Public Works
REPORT BY: Juan Arias, PRINCIPAL PUB WORKS ENGINEER , 259-8374
SUBJECT: Historical Courthouse Stained Glass Installation Project - Right of Entry Agreement Approval

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Public Works requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign an agreement with Gordon Huether at no cost for the term September 1, 2006 through September 11, 2006 to install a stained glass skylight fixture at the Historic Courthouse.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A community effort led by Judge W. Scott Snowden, sponsored by the Napa County Historical Society, and funded by local community donors, has resulted in the restoration of a stained glass insert to be installed in the dome of the Historic Courthouse. Board of Supervisor's approval of a right of entry for the installation of the stained glass is required.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Categorical Exemption Class 1: It has been determined that this type of project does not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. [See Class 1 ("Existing Facilities") which may be found in the guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act at 14 CCR §15301; see also Napa County's Local Procedures for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act, Appendix B.]

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Napa County Historic Courthouse was completed in 1879 and has been in continuous use since that time. The dome in the hall between the two courtrooms on the second floor was originally adorned with stained glass.

On February 21, 1879, the Napa Daily Register described a walk through the new building: "On gaining this floor the most beautiful part of the building is reached. A flood of colored light pours down through a bell-shaped dome, giving light and relieving by its brilliant coloring the dead white of the walls and ceiling." By the early twentieth century the stained glass was gone, lost perhaps to damage from the earthquake of 1906, and the dome was covered with a false ceiling for several generations. In 2006 a community effort to restore the stained glass dome was led by Judge W. Scott Snowden, sponsored by the Napa County Historical Society, and funded by local legal community donors. This work of art, designed and constructed by Napa artisan Gordon Huether, recreates the historic design and classic beauty which graced the Courthouse so long ago.

As a condition of the stained glass installation in the Historic Courthouse dome, staff requested that the structural adequacy of the existing skylight frame be confirmed by a structural engineer. To comply with that request, the Napa County Superior Court hired Ross Drulis Cusenbery Architects of Sonoma, as they were the original designers of the skylight frame as part of the Historic Courthouse remodel project in 2004. Ross Drulis Cusenbery in turn hired Dasse Design, a structural engineering firm, to assess the frame's structural adequacy prior to scheduling installation. Structural adequacy has been confirmed.

Staff also requested that the structural adequacy of the glass itself, in the form of stamped engineered plans, be submitted to Public Works by the design engineer hired by Mr. Huether. Installation of the stained glass is scheduled prior to the dedication ceremony tentatively set for September 11, 2006.

A right of entry and installation agreement has been executed by the installing contractor and now needs to be approved and executed in order to be in compliance with the applicable legal procedures. All other legal requirements with regard to scope, indemnification, term, and insurance are addressed in the agreement. City of Napa Fire Department has been consulted and has signed off on conformance to the jurisdiction's current fire code and requirements.

Public Works staff will return to the Board in a few weeks for consideration and possible acceptance of donations of the stained glass fixture and two paintings depicting the Napa Valley in 1879 by local Napa artists Joanne Ortega and Suzanne Ortega donated by the Hon. W. Scott Snowden.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey