



## **PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

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**From:** [Pat Marriot](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #8 MARCH 28,2023  
**Date:** Saturday, March 25, 2023 4:48:14 PM

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Council Members:

#### 8. SVCE Decarbonization Grant Program Agreement

The only reason I paid attention to this item was because the Palo Alto Daily Post mentioned “energy generating workout equipment, a solar charging table, and an outdoor learning lab,” none of which are noted in the agenda.

I have many concerns about this proposal:

**LOCATION:** Report says it would be “adjacent to a playground, the police station, youth center, library, history museum, baseball fields, and City Hall.” Where exactly would it be and how big would it be? We have more demands for park space than we can currently satisfy: dog parks, pickle-ball, bocce ball, parking places...

**USE:** “Utilizing the Energization Station as an outdoor gym, classroom, office, or study center ... a space to either exercise, work, play, learn, charge their vehicle and/or explore the area.”

- **Safety:** Who would be responsible for safety? If anyone can hop on a treadmill or bike, there’s a reasonable chance for someone to get hurt. Who’s liable for injuries and/or lawsuits? Why would it be better for children to do homework outdoors vs. in the library or community center where there’s some adult supervision?
- **Maintenance:** “The lab will be equipped with tables, chairs, whiteboards, and shelves.” How about weather damage? What about vandalism? Who’s responsible for bringing everything indoors? Where would the items be stored?

**BUDGET:** “The City of Los Altos is requesting \$200,684 to design and construct the Energization Station. The City will contribute at least \$8,500 to this installation and additional funding if necessary.” Most projects run over time and over budget. Whatever is spent initially, how much will be required over time to repair and replace damaged or stolen equipment from an outdoor facility?

**STAFF TIME:** There’s no assessment of oversight or maintenance on what appears to be a relatively complex project. The city is already short-staffed.

- “During the course of the Project and for three (3) years thereafter from the receipt of the final Grant Funds, the Recipient agrees to maintain, intact and readily accessible, all communications, data, documents, reports, records, contracts, and supporting materials relating to the Project, as SVCE may require. The Recipient agrees to have financial and compliance audits performed as SVCE may require.”
- “Public Tours will be given by City staff ... colorful signage and the dynamic energy display unit will inform users about renewables, decarbonization, and the grid.” How

many years did it take to get signage in the orchard?

**CONFLICTING NEEDS:** “Electrical Upgrades at Grant Park Community Center- The City of Los Altos is currently working on upgrading electrical capacity at the Grant Park Community Center ....” Is that true? Has work been started? The Grant Park upgrade has been funded and discussed for years, but I’m not aware there’s any work going on yet. It is far more important to use city funds and staff time at Grant Park before considering an “energization” station.

This project is a very low priority and is fraught with risks. I urge you to reject it before any more time is spent on it so we can focus on more important issues facing the city.

Thanks for listening,

Pat Marriott