

Project Statement for Bear Lines

Two high voltage transmission towers suspend powerlines that traverse Arena Green. These towers stand outside the permitted Arena Green design area. I propose replacing these towers (sited either within the design area or on their current sites).

In keeping with the natural/built setting I propose these towers be built in the form of two standing California Grizzlies placed at opposite ends of Arena Green. Within the bear-forms the structural elements create silhouettes of other animals native to California like the condor, bobcat, heron, puma, etc. Each bear will have a "heart" that is a neon/LED-lit (red/green) Anna's hummingbird (our native hummingbird and acknowledgment of the Amah-Mutsun, our area's First Peoples). These Grizzlies will be at least as high as the current powerlines. The lines will be held up by the paws and the head will rise higher. The nose will be the highest point (red-tipped to warn planes). The bears and their interior creatures will be outlined in dim red LEDs (for the local animals' sake). If possible, the bears will be constructed from a dark-brown steel (not core-ten, but similar) that I've seen used on bridges. They can be 2D or 3D as PG&E allows (PG&E chips in?).

Design Objectives: By their height alone (100'+?) the standing Grizzlies of Bear Lines will draw people from around the world. They tie-in to nature, our Bear Republic, the Amah-Mutsun, San Jose as the first California capital, and they're BIG like Chicago's Bean! They showcase innovation because towers of such appearance are inherently novel. All lighting will be tuned to be sensitive to the local environment, while rendering them visible at night from at least some distance. Net-zero energy design principles will be utilized. If these can be sited where the current transmission towers are, then there's no loss of park space. I would love to see Burnham's principles applied to landscaping Arena Green.

Children will love seeing these bears seemingly walking among our city canyons. There could be a naming contest! Smaller Grizzly or Hummingbird could be placed, beside which selfies taken.

In 49ers/Sharks/Quakes season replace red limning with that team's colors (limited to pre-midnight hours for critters). Funding! Home Spirit!

Passengers on planes will exclaim as they fly over them on approach to SJC! Welcome to San Jose, California's first capital!

Thank you for your consideration. This is fun!