

LANDSCAPING & LIGHTING DISTRICT 1984-1

FY 2026/27 Public Hearing
June 9, 2026



Landscaping & Lighting District 1984-1

- District formed in 1984.
- Amount assessed is not based on property valuation but on the estimated benefit to each parcel:
 - General (arterial) – All residents within San Ramon
 - Special (interior) – Only Zone Residents
- Assessments fund maintenance of landscaping, lighting, and other improvements within each zone.
- 19 Separate Zones – 19 Separate Funds:
 - 2 Citywide Zones
 - 17 Special Zones
- District is reestablished each year by Council Action.
- Compliant with Prop 218 – “Right to Vote on Taxes Act”.

ASSESSMENT RATE VS. MAXIMUM RATE



Levied Assessment Rate

- ▶ Actual assessment charged annually to property owners on property tax bill.
- ▶ Assessments may be increased or decreased by City Council action, up to the maximum assessment rate.

Maximum Assessment Rate

- ▶ “Not to Exceed” assessment amount voted on and approved by property owners for each Zone.

PROPOSED ASSESSMENT RATES FY 2026/27



Zone	Current Max. Assessment Rate	Current Annual Assessment FY 2025/26	Proposed Annual Assessment FY 2026/27	Change
*1 – Citywide Lighting	\$35.98	\$35.98	\$36.70	+\$0.72 increase
*2 – Citywide Landscape	\$77.73	\$77.73	\$79.28	+\$1.55 increase
3 - Canyon Lakes	\$110	\$80	\$90	+\$10 increase
17 - Henry Ranch	\$375	\$275	\$300	+\$25 increase
*19 - Glass House	\$16,118.06	\$16,118.06	\$16,440.72	+\$322.66 increase

- Maximum Assessment Rate increases are capped at 2% (Feb. 2026 CPI = 2.5%, 2025 = 2.7%).

UNDERFUNDED SPECIAL ZONES



Special Zone	Projected Negative Balance Year
Zone 1 – Citywide Lighting	FY 2032/33
Zone 5 – Summerwood Loop	FY 2030/31
*Zone 6 – West Branch	FY 2033/34
*Zone 7 – Bent Creek	FY 2031/32
Zone 10 – Old Ranch Estates	FY 2033/34
*Zone 11 – Village Parkway	FY 2032/33
*Zone 12 – El Nido	FY 2033/34
Zone 14 – Four Oaks	FY 2031/32
Zone 19 – Glass House	FY 2031/32

* At Maximum Assessment Rate

ZONE 6 – WEST BRANCH

Public Outreach – Next Steps

01

Additional Resident Meeting Required

A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to allow residents to review options in greater detail, ask questions, and provide direction prior to any recommendation being advanced. This step is critical and should not be rushed.

02

Engineer's Report & Assessment Process

Any change in the Maximum Assessment will follow the required process under the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 and Prop 218 notice requirements.

03

Staff Recommendation

Following resident input, staff will develop a recommendation for the Finance Committee and City Council.

FY 2026/27 PLANNED PROJECTS



The following are the proposed new Zone-specific projects. Amounts shown represent the funding requests for FY 2026/27.

Location	Project	Amount
Zone 11- Village Parkway	Landscape Infill	\$1,000
Zone 12 – El Nido	Landscape Infill	\$1,000
Zone 16 – Thomas Ranch	Landscape Infill	\$1,000
Zone 19 – Glass House	Landscape Infill/Fence Picket Replacements	\$1,000

FINAL STEPS TO REESTABLISH THE DISTRICT



Steps taken annually by the City Council and Finance Committee:

- 01 ☒ Adopt a Resolution Describing New Improvements and Ordering the Preparation and Filing of the Engineer's Report - March 24, 2026 – Complete
- 02 ☒ Finance Committee reviews the reserve study and preliminary FY 2026/27 operating and capital budget. - April 29, 2026 - Complete
- 03 ☒ Approve the Engineer's Report and Adopt a Resolution of Intention to Levy and Collect Assessments and Setting a Public Hearing – May 26, 2026 - Complete
- 04 ☐ Conduct a Public Hearing and Adopt a Resolution Confirming the Diagram and Assessments and Levying the Assessments – June 9 , 2026
- 05 ☐ File final Engineer's Report, with the Assessment Roll and the Assessment Diagram, with Contra Costa County Assessor's Office – August 10, 2026

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION



- City Council conducts the Public Hearings; and
- Consider approving this Resolution confirming the Landscaping & Lighting District No. 1984-1 assessment diagram and assessments; and
- Levying the Landscaping & Lighting District No. 1984-1 assessments for Fiscal Year 2026/27.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?





THE PRESERVE LANDSCAPING & LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

FY 2026/27 Public Hearing - June 9, 2026



BACKGROUND

- District formed in 2018.
- Assessments fund maintenance of public landscaping and other improvements.
- Most improvements maintained by the City in FY 2025/26.
 - Roundabouts have not been accepted by the City but will be during FY 2026/27.
- Maximum Assessment Rate is tied to inflation and the February CPI.

FY 2026/27 PLANNED ZONE PROJECTS

- Ginkgo biloba trees, located in the park strips and center median on Faria Preserve Parkway, are in decline due to rodent damage and wind. Staff will consider California native trees or other suitable replacements for the location.
- Adding a “binder” to the DG (gold decomposed granite) path. The path, on the east and west sides of Faria Preserve Parkway, is failing due to a couple of factors;
 - It’s on a slope, allowing rain and irrigation water to run, carving fishers.
 - Insufficient binder during installation or installed during rainy weather.
- Infill of dead and dying plant material.

* Binder or Stabilizing Agent creates a firm, durable surface by binding aggregate particles together.

PROPOSED ASSESSMENT RATES FY 2026/27

Proposed <u>Maximum</u> Assessment Rate	
Proposed Maximum Assessment Rate	\$455.06
Current Maximum Assessment Rate	\$443.96
\$ Change	+\$11.10

- The Maximum Assessment Rate increases annually with the Feb. CPI (2026 = 2.5%).

Proposed <u>Annual</u> Assessment Rate	
Proposed Annual Assessment Rate	\$315.15
Current Annual Assessment Rate	\$295.99
\$ Change	+\$19.16

FINAL STEPS TO REESTABLISH THE DISTRICT



Steps taken annually by the City Council and Finance Committee:

- 01 ☒ Adopt a Resolution Describing New Improvements and Ordering the Preparation and Filing of the Engineer's Report - [March 24, 2026 – Complete](#)
- 02 ☒ Finance Committee reviews the reserve study and preliminary FY 2026/27 operating and capital budget. - [April 29, 2026 - Complete](#)
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STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

- City Council conducts a Public Hearing; and
- Consider approving this Resolution confirming The Preserve Landscaping and Lighting District assessment diagram and assessments; and
- Levying The Preserve Landscaping and Lighting District assessments for Fiscal Year 2026/27.



QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

SAN RAMON TEEN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 2026

Presented by Varsha Jonnalagadda

**Denotes Committee*

2025 - 2026 TEEN COUNCIL MEMBERS

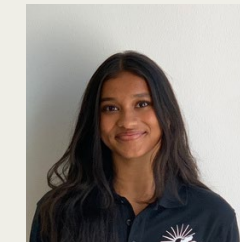
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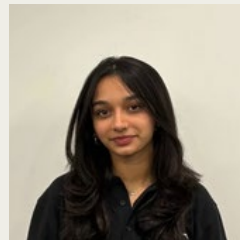
Chair
Varsha Jonnalagadda



Keerthi Eraniyan



Sandra Joseph



Vice Chair
Tanya Grewal



Neil Thella



Naina Rana



Divij Bhatia



Arshia Ghatak



Veer Singh



Ananya Bollapinni



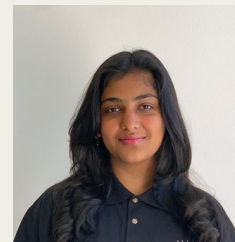
Nishka Gouri



Ishaan Garg



Eva Brooks



Suhani Goyal



Kaashvi Patil



Vihaan Choudhary



Rishab Guntuku



Siddharth Verose*

Mya Chan*

AD HOC COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In order to meet the various goals for the 2025 - 2026 school year, temporary, project-based committees were formed to spearhead various assignments.

*TEEN WELLNESS
AD-HOC*

OTCA AD-HOC

*AMBASSADOR PROGRAM
AD-HOC*

*SENIOR TECH DAYS
AD-HOC*

I. TEEN WELLNESS



Ad-Hoc Chair: Suhani Goyal

Goal: Research and execute partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and committees to promote teen wellness, mental health, and recreation.

Approved 2026–2027 work plan/ key initiatives:

- Peer- led transition program for incoming high school students
- Student speakers in mental health presentations
- Story- to- art program for creative student expression
- Created student- focused survey ideas to better understand teen wellness needs

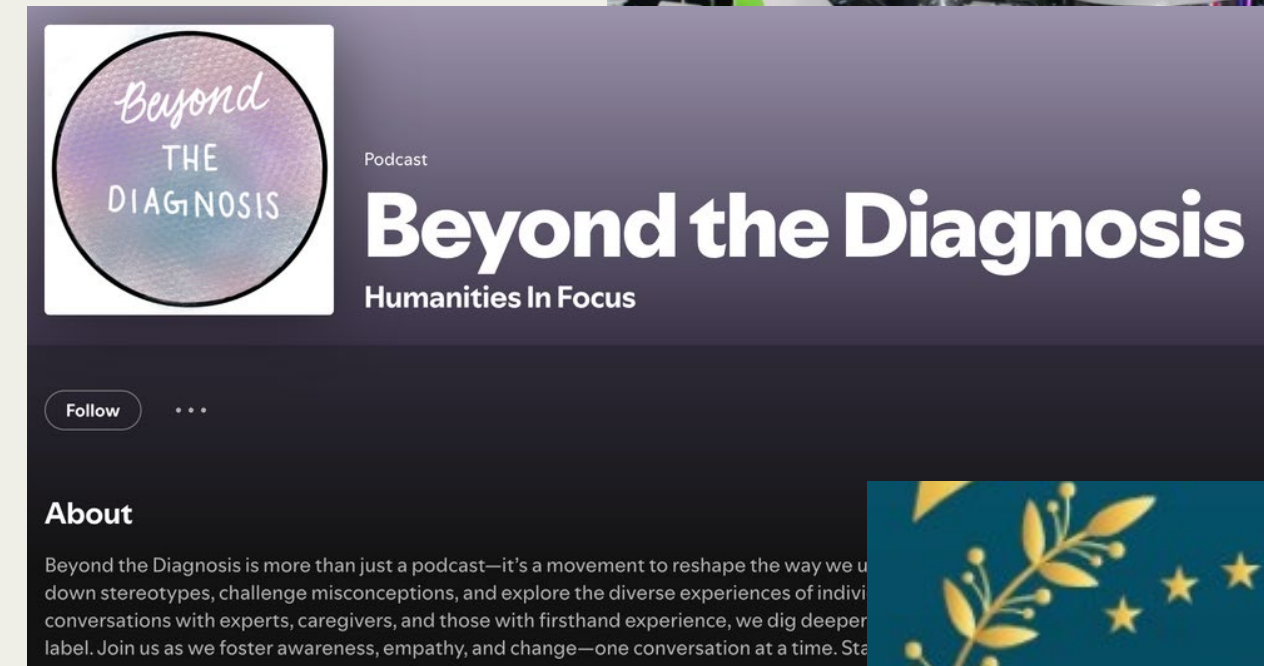
II. OTCA (OUTSTANDING TEEN CITIZENSHIP AWARD)



Ad-Hoc Chair: Ishaan Garg

Recognizes teens who significantly improve the quality of life in San Ramon

The selected nominee was **Danya Prakash**, Senior at California High School



Danya's contributions:

- Raising \$400,000 funds for her nonprofit, Humanities in Focus
- Starting a podcast to raise awareness
- Serving as a youth ambassador for the National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse
- Working with mayors and school boards on drug prevention initiatives



III. SENIOR TECHNOLOGY DAYS

Program Overview

GOAL: Help San Ramon seniors feel more comfortable using electronic devices

Organized 4 Senior Technology Days at the Alcosta Senior & Community Center

New workshops:

- Cybersecurity
- Basic “How To...” technology support

Future Intergenerational Program Idea: Game Day



San Ramon

Teen Council Presents

SENIOR TECH DAYS

Sessions in which teens assist seniors with their personal devices, and answer technical questions. Sign up at the front desk at ASCC, or call 925-973-3250 for a 15 minute appointment.

10:00AM - 12:00PM
NOV 10, 2025 | JAN 5, 2026
FEB 17, 2026 | MAR 13, 2026

Alcosta Senior and Community Center
9300 Alcosta Boulevard

IV. AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



Ad-Hoc Chair: Arshia Ghatak

**SAN RAMON
TEEN COUNCIL
PRESENTS**

TEEN COUNCIL
AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Open to All Grades 6-12

Work with
Teen Council
and use your
voice to make
a difference

**Information &
application**

For more information
and to download the
application, visit
SRTeen.org.

**Application
Deadline**

Completed
applications are due
Friday, October 14
by 4:30pm

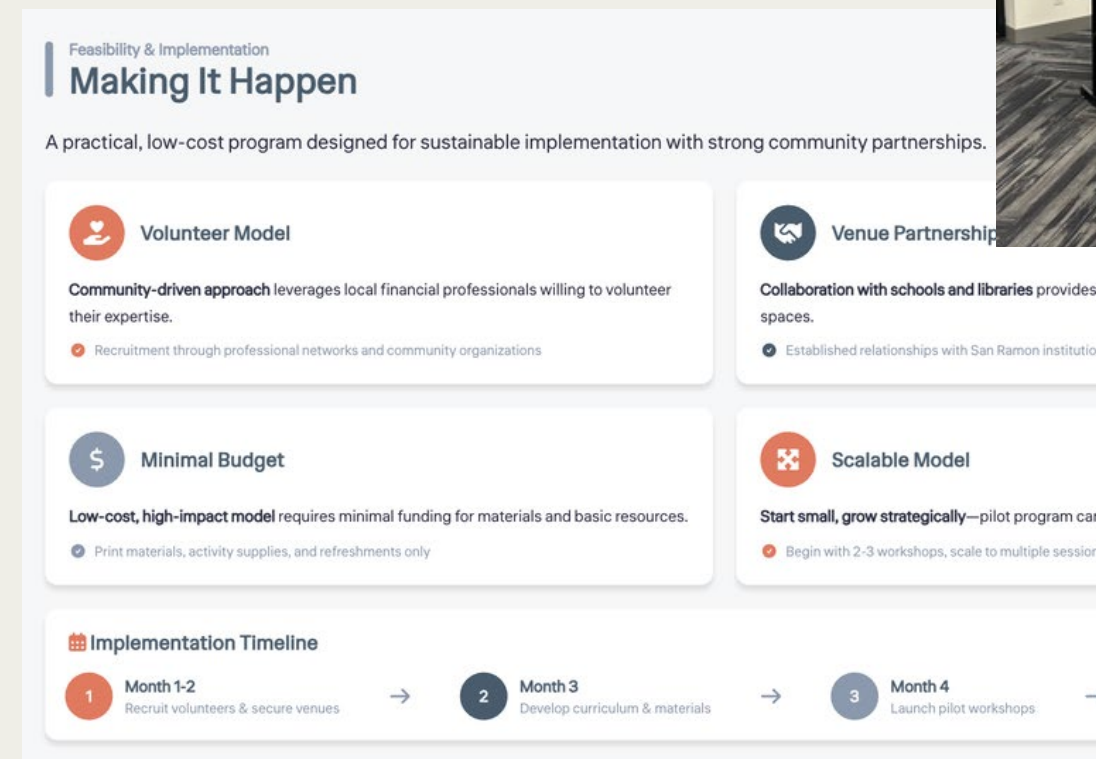
SRTEEN.ORG



IV. AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

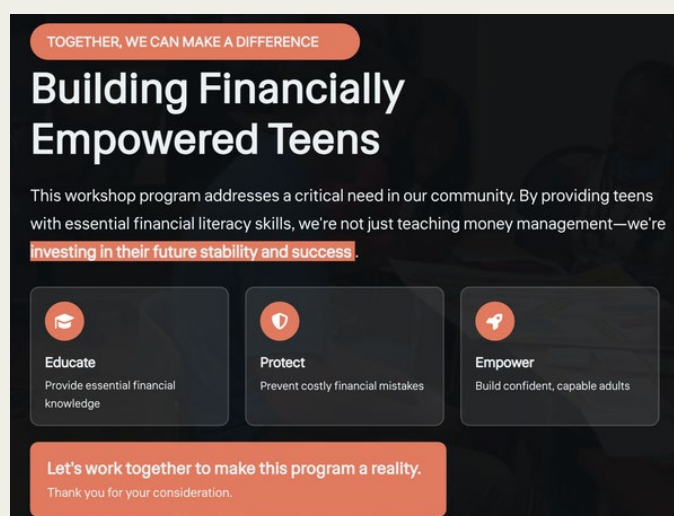


From January to March 2026, ambassadors created presentations on key issues for teens in the San Ramon community



Topics included:

- Youth financial literacy
- Public speaking insecurity
- Environmental issues
- Youth mental health
- Career guidance and life beyond school



TEEN COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT



Teen Council members remain active by participating in a variety of events including **Senior Technology Days, Teen Job Fair, and Tri - Valley YAC Roundtable.**



RECOMMENDED TEEN COUNCIL GOALS for 2026-2027

1. Review the San Ramon Teen Council Bylaws to ensure alignment with existing City goals, and the board's ability to make meaningful impact in addressing teen needs within the City of San Ramon.
2. Strengthen and expand partnerships with local organizations, businesses, advisory committees, and staff to support teen wellness, mental health, recreation, and resource sharing, while leveraging community spaces, and intergenerational opportunities such as Senior Tech Days.
3. Recognize and celebrate teen achievements by continuing and enhancing programs like the Outstanding Teen Citizenship Award and partnering with other programs or platforms that highlight youth contributions and community impact.

RECOMMENDED TEEN COUNCIL GOALS for 2026-2027

4. Increase engagement with the middle school population through the ambassador program and work with staff to connect with the correct agencies to advance initiatives for high school students to connect with peers and middle school students in a mentorship capacity, teaching specific technical skills.

5. Enhance Teen Council's outreach, visibility, and communication efforts by developing a coordinated strategy that includes social media expansion, community partnerships, and increased promotion of programs, events, applications, and opportunities.

6. Continue to establish necessary Ad Hoc committees to support the Teen Council's effort to appropriately represent teens in San Ramon and continue to build upon successes in addressing mental health, intergenerational opportunities, mentorship, and skill-building opportunities, and helping connect San Ramon teens to resources.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS!!

Nishka Gouri
UC SAN DIEGO
COGNITIVE SCIENCE



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS!!

EVA BROOKS

UNDECIDED

PUBLIC POLICY



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS!!

mya chan

UC RIVERSIDE

PUBLIC POLICY + CRIMINAL LAW



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS!!

varsha jonnalagadda

UC BERKELEY

DATA SCIENCE



Thank you!

Public Comment on Flag Policy

Good evening, Mayor and Councilmembers.

My name is Garry, and I'm here because the City's current approach to flying cause-based flags on government property is neither neutral, nor consistent, nor fair to all residents. It is time for this Council to correct that.

When the City chooses to fly a flag representing a particular social or political viewpoint, it is not simply "celebrating diversity." It is making an **official governmental endorsement** of one perspective over others. That is not the role of a municipal government.

City flagpoles are not community bulletin boards. They are instruments of government speech. And when the government elevates one cause, it automatically excludes others. That is unavoidable.

This is why many cities — including some of the most diverse in the country — have already adopted strict, viewpoint-neutral flag policies. They limit municipal flagpoles to the U.S. flag, the state flag, the city flag, and the POW/MIA flag. Nothing else. No exceptions. No selective endorsements.

That is the standard of fairness and neutrality our city should uphold.

Right now, we do not have that. Instead, we have a system where the City chooses winners and losers among viewpoints. And once the City opens the door to cause-based flags, it cannot legally or ethically deny other groups the same access — including groups whose messages many residents would strongly oppose. That is a path to division, controversy, and unnecessary conflict.

A neutral policy avoids all of that.

Let me be clear: **This is not about targeting any group. It is about protecting the integrity of government speech and ensuring equal treatment for everyone.**

I am asking this Council to adopt a clear, simple, and defensible policy: City flagpoles are for official government flags only. No social, political, ideological, or advocacy-based flags — from any side, for any cause.

This is the only approach that treats all residents equally and keeps the City out of ideological battles it should not be fighting.

I have submitted a written policy proposal for your review. I am asking you to place this issue on a future agenda and take action. Residents deserve clarity, consistency, and neutrality from their government. Thank you.

Flags cities should *not* fly to avoid legal, political, and community problems

1. Advocacy or cause-based flags

These are the most legally risky because they express a viewpoint. Examples include:

- Pride flags
- Thin Blue Line / Thin Red Line
- Pro-life or pro-choice flags
- Environmental movement flags (e.g., climate activism)
- Political movement flags (e.g., BLM, Gadsden, Proud Boys, Confederate etc.)

Why cities avoid them: Flying one cause flag means the city is engaging in **government speech**, which courts say must be *viewpoint-neutral*. If a city flies one cause flag but denies another, it risks lawsuits for discrimination or compelled speech.

2. Religious flags

- Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or any faith-specific flag
- Scripture-based banners

Reason: Flying a religious flag can violate the Establishment Clause by appearing to endorse a particular faith.

3. Political party or campaign flags

- Republican or Democratic Party flags
- Candidate flags (e.g., “Trump 2024,” “Biden 2024”)

Reason: Cities must remain politically neutral and cannot use public property to promote partisan messaging.

4. Flags of private organizations

- Corporate flags
- Nonprofit organization flags
- Social clubs or fraternal organizations

Reason: Cities are not permitted to endorse private entities unless part of a formal partnership or sponsorship agreement.

5. Flags that could be considered divisive or exclusionary

Even if not explicitly political, some flags create community conflict and undermine trust in government neutrality.

What cities *can* safely fly

These are universally recognized as government speech and are legally safe:

- **U.S. Flag**
- **State Flag**
- **City Flag**
- **POW/MIA Flag**
- **Flags required by state law** (varies by state)

California law (Gov. Code §430–439) outlines required displays of the U.S. and California flags at public buildings and facilities.

Why neutrality matters

Courts have repeatedly ruled that when a city flies a flag, it is **government speech**, not a public forum. That means:

- If a city flies *one* advocacy flag, it must be prepared to fly *all* advocacy flags.
- If it refuses, it risks lawsuits for viewpoint discrimination.

This is why many cities adopt a “**government-flags-only**” policy — the cleanest, safest, least divisive option.

The real issue: not the flag, but the *policy*

Cities that fly cause-based flags often face:

- Annual political fights
- Accusations of favoritism
- Pressure to approve other advocacy flags
- Legal risk if they deny some groups but approve others

This is why many cities adopt a **government-flags-only** policy.

Balanced Conclusion

Flying a Pride flag can **help vulnerable residents feel safer and more included**, but it also **divides the broader community and erodes trust in government neutrality**. Both impacts are real and documented.

**I REQUEST THAT SAN RAMON STAY NEUTRAL AND FLY ONLY
FEDERAL, STATE AND CITY FLAGS**

Garry Chaban