MINUTES OF THE JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MADERA CITY COUNCIL AND
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MADERA REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA

May 11, 2011
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – CLOSED SESSION
Mayor/Agency Chairperson/Housing Authority Chairperson Robert Poythress called to order the Closed Session for the Regular Meeting of the Housing Authority of the City of Madera and the Joint Special Meeting of the Madera City Council and Regular Meeting of the Madera Redevelopment Agency at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL
Present:
Mayor/Chairperson Robert Poythress
Mayor Pro-Tem/Vice Chairperson Brett Frazier
Council/Agency Member Sally Bomprezzi
Council/Agency Member Gary Svanda

(Note for the record, a vacant Council/Agency member position exists due to the passing of Council/Agency Member Sam Armentrout on May 4, 2011.)

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION
The first fifteen minutes of this portion of the meeting are reserved for members of the public to address the Agency or Council on Closed Session items listed on the Agenda. Speakers seeking to comment on other items are requested to make those comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Speakers shall be limited to three minutes. Speakers will be asked to identify themselves and state the subject of their comment. The Agency and Council are prohibited by law from taking any action on matters discussed that are not on the Agenda, and no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Agency or Council does not respond to public comment at this time.

Mayor/Agency Chairperson/Housing Authority Chairperson Robert Poythress opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting inviting members of the public to address the Agency/City Council.

No comments were heard.

2. CLOSED SESSION
Closed Session items not concluded prior to the Regular Session may be continued at the end of the Regular Session.

2A. Closed Session Announcement – City Attorney
City Attorney Richard Denhalter announced that the City Council would adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 to discuss public employee performance evaluations for the positions of City Administrator and City Attorney as described under items 2B and 2C.

The Council adjourned to closed session at 6:03 p.m. with all members present.

2B. The City Council will hold a Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION.
Position: City Administrator

2C. The City Council will hold a Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Position: City Attorney

2D. Reconvene Closed Session
Closed Session Report – City Attorney
The Council returned from Closed Session at 6:30 p.m. with all members present. Mayor Poythress called for the report by the City Attorney.

City Attorney Richard Denhalter announced that the Council met in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 to discuss public employee performance evaluations for the position of City Administrator and City Attorney. Mr. Denhalter stated that the item has been continued to the end of the meeting.

3. CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR SESSION
Mayor/Agency Chairperson/Housing Authority Chairperson Robert Poythress called the meetings of the Housing Authority of the City of Madera and the Joint Special Meeting of the Madera City Council and Regular Meeting of the Madera Redevelopment Agency to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mayor/Chairperson Robert Poythress
Mayor Pro-Tem/Vice Chairperson Brett Frazier
Council/Agency Member Sally Bomprezzi
Council/Agency Member Gary Svanda

(Noted for the record, a vacant Council/Agency member position exists due to the passing of Council/Agency Member Sam Armentrout on May 4, 2011.)

Agency staff members present: Executive Director Jim Taubert, General Counsel/City Attorney Richard Denhalter, Agency Treasurer/Finance Director David Croff, Redevelopment Manager Bob Wilson, Manuel Ruiz, Neighborhood Preservation Manager, Agency Secretary Sandi Brown, and Office Assistant Elizabeth Ybarra.

City of Madera staff members present: City Administrator David Tooley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor/Chairperson Robert Poythress.

PUBLIC COMMENT – REGULAR SESSION
The first fifteen minutes of the meeting are reserved for members of the public to address the Agency or Council on items which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency or Council. Speakers shall be limited to three minutes. Speakers will be asked to identify themselves and state the subject of their comment. If the subject is an item on the Agenda, the Chairperson/Mayor has the option of asking the speaker to hold the comment until that item is called. Comments on items listed as a Public Hearing on the Agenda should be held until the hearing is opened. The Agency and Council are prohibited by law from taking any action on matters discussed that are not on the Agenda, and no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Agency or Council does not respond to public comment at this time.

Mayor/Chairperson Poythress opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting inviting members of the public to address the City Council/Agency/Commission on non-agenda items.

No comments were offered.

Mayor/Agency Chairperson/Housing Authority Chairperson Robert Poythress recessed the Joint Special Meeting of the Madera City Council and Regular Meeting of the Madera Redevelopment Agency at 6:35 p.m. and called for the items as listed on the regular meeting agenda of the Housing Authority.

Mayor/Agency Chairperson/Housing Authority Chairperson Robert Poythress adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Housing Authority of the City of Madera at 6:38 p.m. and reconvened the Joint Special Meeting of the Madera City Council and Regular Meeting of the Madera Redevelopment Agency at 6:40 p.m.
Mayor/Agency Chairperson called for the items as listed on the Consent Calendar.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4A. Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Special Meeting of the Madera City Council and Special Meeting of the Madera Redevelopment Agency – April 13, 2011 (City/Agency)

4B. Listing of Warrants Issued from April 9, 2011 to May 6, 2011 (Agency)

4C. Monthly Financial Reports – Redevelopment Agency (Agency)

4D. Monthly Financial Reports – Code Enforcement (City)

4E. Code Enforcement Activity Report (City)

4F. Consideration of Resolutions Approving an Amendment to the Agreement with Krazan and Associates for Environmental Services for Soil and Groundwater Remediation at 1350 East Yosemite Avenue and Amending the 2010/11 FY Agency Budget (Agency)


Mayor/Chairperson Poythress asked members of the Council/Agency Board if there were items on the Consent Calendar they wished to have pulled for further discussion. No requests were made to pull items for further discussion.

Mayor/Chairperson Poythress called for a motion to approve the items presented on the Consent Calendar.

On motion by Council/Agency Member Svanda, seconded by Council/Agency Member Bomprezzi, the Consent Calendar was approved by a unanimous vote of 4/0 resulting in the approval of the minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Special Meeting of the Madera City Council and Regular Meeting of the Madera Redevelopment Agency for April 13, 2011 and the adoption of Resolution MRA-1470 and MRA-1471.

MRA-1470

RESOLUTION OF THE MADERA REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, MADERA CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH KRAZAN AND ASSOCIATES INC., FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOR SOIL AND GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION IN THE CITY OF MADERA AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRPERSON TO EXECUTE THE AMENDED AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MADERA REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MRA-1471

A RESOLUTION OF THE MADERA REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MADERA, CALIFORNIA AMENDING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOND FUND 60500 FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 BUDGET

5. PROJECTS AND REPORTS

5A. Report on the Neighborhood Outreach Program (City/Agency)

Mr. Manuel Ruiz, Neighborhood Preservation Manager, presented the staff report noting that 50 years prior there was no need for code enforcement and no need to remind neighborhoods that it is to their advantage to know each other because there was a natural concern for one another. Today’s Neighborhood Block Leadership Program exists for that purpose; to exhibit the need for neighbors to know each other better, to develop leadership, to self-enforce a new code of neighborhood standards that are acceptable to each resident. Mr. Ruiz advised that the Council will receive information on the purpose and benefit of this program through the efforts of our Neighborhood Outreach Coordinators, Christina Herrera and Tim Farrell.

Tim Farrell addressed the Council reporting that as outreach specialists they are catalysts for citizen engagement and participation and they are currently working with their neighborhood block leaders to
address their areas of concerns and to help facilitate any discussions on shared interest. He said that the objective of the program is to develop neighborhoods by investing in the people, and in return people will invest in themselves, their neighbors and their institutions. Mr. Farrell reviewed the benefits of the program, which included upholding standards and values; mobilizing, inform and communicate; active citizenship; culture of volunteerism; increase awareness of community and city services; leadership development; promote a healthy lifestyle; execute Vision 2025; and make neighborhoods attractive to outsiders.

Christina Herrera addressed the Council concerning the block leader program. She noted that she has been asked by citizens, “What are the benefits to my becoming a block leader?” She said you will be communicating and sharing information with each other and working on issues of your neighborhoods, and by carrying and knowing of each other, you can build a strong core within your neighborhood. Once your core has been established, she said, you will be the voices of your neighborhood and only you can make the difference.

Mr. Farrell continued the presentation explaining that their goal is to make it fun for people. He said that Officer Durbin Loren has been assisting with a number of the neighborhood watches and some of the topics discussed can scare off residents so we want to make sure when we reach out to people, that we make it fun for them. He said very often because neighbors do not know each other, they have to start from ground-zero providing suggestions on how to get to know your neighbors. He gave the example of his neighborhood where they are forming a network and his wife went to 6 neighbors with a basket of cookies and within one week they had 4 neighbors come to their door. He referenced a popular movie “Pay it Forward” where a kid starts a class project and touches the lives of 3 people then asks those 3 people to touch 3 people and it grows from there. Mr. Farrell told of one of their neighborhood leaders, Francisca Gutierrez, and her and her husband’s experience in their neighborhood when their car was stripped in front of their home. Initially, when the incident happened, Mr. Gutierrez asked his neighbors if they saw or heard anything, and because there was a lack of trust between neighbors no one would come forward. Mr. Farrell said the Gutierrez’ have made an effort to get to know their neighbors and lend a helping hand, and as a result over the past two years there has been a significant change in their neighborhood. These actions created an environment of trust as well as an environment of participation.

Mr. Farrell said recently when Mr. Gutierrez came home in the evening, he received a knock on his door and it was one of his neighbors telling him there was a suspicious red car in his driveway today. Mr. Farrell said this is just one example when block leaders get involved in their neighborhoods and meet their neighbors.

Mr. Farrell reviewed photos of various past events and reported on a block party event to be held on May 12 at Bay Court, where neighbors will block off the cul-de-sac and have a neighborhood B-B-Q. He referenced a quote related to forming block neighborhoods as follows: “By making connections with one another and keeping them going over time, people are able to work together to achieve things they either could not achieve by themselves or could only achieve with great difficulty.”

Mr. Luis Ceja, Block Leader, residing at 956 Drysdale Way, Madera addressed the members of the City Council/Agency Board updating them on the activities of their neighborhood block group. Mr. Ceja said that he has spoken to Tim and said it is about creating a culture more than just a program. He said that he hoped that this program stays around Madera for a long time, because it is going to take a long time to be able to establish the culture here that we need in the City of Madera. Mr. Ceja noted that their block activities seem to draw out neighbors who have not yet been contacted; people are hungry for this type of activity. He said the Neighborhood Watch meetings also are a deterrent for crime. He said the program is moving slowly but in time it will lead to a more thriving type community, which we are looking for. Many people are looking for this type of program, he said, but they need someone in a leadership role, like Tim and Christina, to tell them this is something you should be doing and you have the support of the City Council. He said he did not know why that was the case because he believes adults have a hunger, but are just waiting for someone to give them permission. Mr. Ceja said as long as we have leadership on the Council that is willing to support this type of program, there is no doubt we will have the thriving community we are looking for and we envision. He said that he saw the neighborhood, the people and the families as
the foundation of any community, and he said that if we manage it well and get out there, everything else will fall in place.

Mayor Poythress made the observation that Mr. Ceja’s comments are coming from the heart of a great community member. He said that he could not have expressed the importance of the program better. He commented that Mr. Ceja is correct; the program is a foundation to better things. Good things don’t happen over night, he said. They happen slowly, but you have a firm foundation and you move from there. Mayor Poythress expressed his appreciation for his leadership in his neighborhood, and with the help of Christina and Tim, it has been an outstanding success. Mayor Poythress added that we are starting to see the neighborhood groups develop in all sectors of the City, and it’s really neat to see.

Mrs. Francisca Gutierrez, residing at 921 South B Street, Madera addressed the members of the City Council/Agency Board updating them on the activities of their neighborhood block group. Mrs. Gutierrez said she was born in Fresno, but raised in Madera. She is married with two sons. She said that she is the President of the PTA for Sierra Vista School, and her passion for the community started with her involvement at the school. She is a team mom for the minor league, and recently she graduated from her general business occupation class. Additionally, she said she is a team captain for the anti-graffiti program. She said that her husband is also involved in the program. Mrs. Gutierrez said that she is involved in the program to be a role model to her family, friends and neighbors, and said that she has much to learn. This program provides opportunity for her to learn and take the information to “her people.” She said when she refers to “her people” she is referring to both English and non-English speaking Hispanic people. She encourages them to take English classes and keeps them informed of the services provided by various agencies in Madera. She said her goal is to become an advocate in every way to her community. She said she is attempting to know her neighbors better and encourage them to get to know each other better so that they can trust each other, and to encourage better morals in their lives and their surroundings. She said that she held her first block party on April 9th and that broke the ice. Since then, you can see the difference in the way her neighbors approach each other since the party. She said they speak to each other and call each other by name. It makes them feel better inside and that is where it starts. She expressed her appreciation to the anti-graffiti program for their support and giving her the opportunity to be part of the neighborhood block program.

Mayor Poythress thanked Francisca for her involvement and assured her that she is the right person for the job, and not just for her neighborhood, but the entire community. He added that he was really proud to count her as a teammate and commended her for her participation.

Councilmember Frazier reiterated Mrs. Gutierrez’s desire to be an advocate for her community, and said she already is an advocate for the community.

Councilmember Bomprenzi added that Mrs. Gutierrez is an inspiration to her, noting that she has lived in the same neighborhood for 30 years and used to know all her neighbors, and now she only knows the neighbor next door. She said that she would love to kick off the program in her neighborhood. Member Bomprenzi complimented Christina Herrera for her enthusiasm and passion for the block party program, saying that she is a real motivator as well.

Mrs. Lisa Killion, residing at 3087 Chianti Avenue, Madera, addressed the members of the City Council/Agency Board updating them on the activities of their neighborhood block group. Mrs. Killion said she is new to the block party leadership program. They have held two block parties with the third party scheduled for May 29th. Mrs. Killion said that she has lived in Madera since 1978 and the majority of her life she spent growing up in the rural area surrounding the city where they had no neighbors. She said she is a graduate from Madera High School and was also a 4-H member and participated in FFA. Her first jobs were in ag-related jobs. She attended Madera Community College and graduated from Fresno State. She teaches at Howard Elementary School and has taught 1, 2, 3 and now 8th grade. Mrs. Killion said her husband grew up in the Ranchos and is now working for Madera County Fire. She and her husband reside in Madera and are rooted in the community with no intention to leave. They have two daughters and reside in a neighborhood that they love. She said she loves Madera and resents hearing people say there is
nothing to do here when she sees lots of opportunities to get involved. Community involvement, she said, is the key to feeling safe in your area and neighborhood. She said that she is working to be a role model for younger people and show them they have to take pride in their community and have to work hard to keep it running. She said that she presents the anti-graffiti program to her students, and wants to get rid of the gang problem, the graffiti problem, and wants there to be more activities that makes kids want to stay and raise their families in Madera. She said she did not understand why people go to the movies in Fresno and Clovis when we have a theater here in Madera. She said that when you start putting money into your town, you take more pride in your community. She commented that by being involved, she hopes to accomplish security in our neighborhoods and strengthen our community.

Mayor Poythress expressed his appreciation for her involvement and noted her passion saying it is exactly what we are looking for in our block captains and community members.

Tim Farrell, asked the Council if they had other questions. There were no further questions.

Council Member Frazier expressed his appreciation to Tim and Christina for their energy in facilitating the program. He said that their passion is exuding from the many community residents that they have touched. They have gone beyond the theme of the movie "Pay it Forward" to touch three lives.

5B. Update on the State Budget (Agency)
Mr. Taubert presented the staff report stating that at the meeting of April 13, the Council was informed of the CRA compromise proposal and SB450 and neither has been acted on. He said that a second major reform bill has been introduced, SB286 by Senator Rod Wright. He said that the positive coming out of the two bills is there is now more talk about reform than elimination. Mr. Taubert continued that all the reform legislation has been introduced by members of the Democratic Party, and that is a positive.

Mr. Taubert reviewed the Summary of Redevelopment Reforms, attached to the staff report related to SB286. He said SB450 primarily focused on housing and said there are 10-12 agencies that either don't do housing or spend more money coming up with housing ideas as opposed to coming up with housing. This senate bill deals more with the reporting. He said the key changes deal with consolidating and updating redevelopment agency reporting. He said the primary reporting deals with job creation, reducing poverty levels in the project areas, reducing crime, reduction in vehicle miles traveled through infill development, and transient-oriented development. He stated that this legislation and the previous legislation introduced will not have a significant impact on how we do business. The data they are requesting is available and is typically included in the annual report. He commented that staff has not seen anything introduced in any bill that causes us concern.

Chairperson Poythress asked if there were questions or additional comments. There were none.

Mr. Taubert presented the staff report introducing the 2010/11 Annual Report and 2011/12 Preliminary Budget. He said that the report makes the assumption that we will exist. Based upon that premise, he said, the report complies with California Redevelopment Law, beginning with Health and Safety Code Section 33080. Mr. Taubert said since January 10th when the governor came out with his proposal to eliminate redevelopment, it has been somewhat challenging, and essentially placed our ability to plan for projects that were not ready to go today in a holding pattern. He said moving forward since that time has been a little tough. Mr. Taubert continued that we were in a tough position prior to the governor's proposal due to the economy and drop in the property values. He said we are hopefully that both will be turning around in the very near future. Mr. Taubert referred the Agency Board to the table on page 7 of the report related to the fund balances for the coming year. He said these projections are significantly better than what they were last year. Because of the concept that is out there that redevelopment is out of money, to put it in perspective, he added, there has only been 5 or 6 years that he has been involved in redevelopment that we have been in a better cash position. He said he is not saying this is good because of the economy. He said for the most part we have never had $20-$30 million in the bank; but we are not
in a bad cash position. We can do projects. He said that previously we used to complete projects in the $100,000 to $150,000 range and there are a lot of good projects that you can do for that amount of money. What we did, he said, back-to-back is build a police station, a youth center, a skate park, a $2 million project on Lake Street and the RDA building. We are not in a position now to do big ticket items, but we are in a position to go back to basics where we spend the money in a way that generates private investment. He said we are not broke, but we don't have $20 million in the bank and we have to be judicious until the economy turns around. Mr. Taubert continued with the staff report, referring to pages 10-11. He said the Agency owns quite a bit of property and some of that property is locationally challenged. However, he said, we do have a lot of good commercial property that he believes is well positioned. When the traffic signal goes in at Yosemite and Elm streets, the property along the north side of Yosemite that the Agency owns totals 33,000 square feet, and large enough for commercial development. He said that we own the parking lot across the street from Griffin Hall and it is a very clean piece for development. He said we own the property around our building, which should be an advantage to a potential developer. The focus will be on marketing these properties. Mr. Taubert referred to the loan activity illustrated on page 12 and said there was a good amount of loan activity last year. On page 13, he reviewed the pass-through payments, and said for the County of Madera, we passed-through 90% of what they would have received if we did not exist. We are not stopping their ability to fund fire and police. Madera Cemetery, Flood Control, and Mosquito districts - we fund 100% of what those special districts would get if we did not exist. And, he said, Madera Unified, we fund 43%. He commented that it is a myth when the governor says redevelopment agencies are taking money from all these agencies. Thirty percent of our annual tax increment is passed through to other government agencies. Referring to page 27, Mr. Taubert said one of the reasons redevelopment is under attack is because of what they do not spend on housing and how much of their housing money is spent on administration. He said that SB450 will limit it to 15%. Referring to the third column which says "Required 20% Set Aside," he said that is the money we are required to spend on housing in that year. For example, he said, in 2006-07 we were required to spend $1.5 million and we spent $1.6 million; in 2007-08 required to spend $1.6 and we spent $2.3 million; in 2008-09 required to spend $1.7 million and we spent $2.3 million, and the last two years we have only been able to afford the 20% set aside. My point, Mr. Taubert said, is we have made a commitment and met our commitment to affordable housing. In terms of administration costs, we range from 9-12%; we do not spend a lot of money on administration costs in Madera. Referring on page 36 in the housing section, Mr. Taubert said the new legislation requires us to do things within a certain time period, but then they take all our money and eliminate our ability to complete projects. One of the things that we have to take into consideration, for example the assembly of property for the Riverwalk Subdivision and the Midtown Village Subdivision and the Courthouse project, is the demolition of units. Within a time period of 5 years we have to replace 41 units and 73 bedrooms. They treat replacement housing by unit and bedrooms. Last year we did not have a stellar year in housing, but we did replace 13 units and 42 bedrooms. The quandary is they require us to do it and they take our money and we can't do it.

In terms of the Budget Report, Mr. Taubert advised we are proposing the Yosemite and Elm Signalization project and the completion of the Lake Street Project and both will probably be at the front end of the fiscal year. He said depending upon the news received from Mr. Kidwell (County Assessor), we anticipate modifying budget. Mr. Taubert concluded that this is the foundation of where we are at, and asked if there is something that the Board would like to see more or less of. He reported that we will submit the final document at the June meeting for approval and prior to that meeting we will distribute over 300 copies to the community. He said that we have asked Tim and Christina for the names of their block leaders because we think it is important as people become engaged in the community that we keep them informed of what is happening. Mr. Taubert asked if there were comments or questions.

Agency Member Bomprezzi asked if Mr. Taubert had heard anything about a possible church going into the Mervyn's facility. Mr. Taubert said that he had heard that, as well as several other alternatives, and added that he would rather see something that generates sales tax and property tax, but he doesn't like seeing an empty building either.

Chairperson Poythress asked if there were other questions/comments. There were none.
Mr. Taubert asked for a consensus to bring the report and budget back for final approval at the June meeting. The Agency Board concurred.

6. AGREEMENTS
There are no items for this section.

7. HOUSING
There are no items for this section.

8. GENERAL
There are no items for this section.

9. AGENCY MEMBER REPORTS
Council/Agency Member Bomprezzi said that she attended the Jesse Owens games at MLK this past weekend and said that she talked to Don Holly who said that he wanted to do a special tribute to Sam at next year's 25th anniversary of the games, because Sam was so supportive of him and his games.

Member Bomprezzi congratulated Mr. Taubert on the e-mail received on the Grand Jury findings on the Agency, adding it was an excellent report.

Member Bomprezzi expressed her appreciation to David, Jim and Gary, saying how proud she was of them and to be a part of this team for the outstanding job they did at Sam's memorial service.

Mayor/Chairperson Poythress reported that he attended the 24-hour Relay for Life event and Car Show, noting that it was an outstanding community event and illustrated an outpouring of support for each other. He said that he and Council Member Svanda attended the Relay for Live event at Monroe School, which was another great event with the students raising $2,000 for the fight against cancer.

Mayor/Chairperson Poythress expressed his appreciation to staff for their support and attendance at the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

No additional comments were presented.

2. CLOSED SESSION
Closed Session items not concluded prior to the Regular Session may be continued at the end of the Regular Session.

Mayor Poythress called to reconvene the Closed Session portion of the meeting.
The City Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:34 p.m. and returned to the Council Chambers with all members present at 8:12 p.m.

Closed Session Report
Mayor Poythress announced the Closed Session report and stated that the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem have been authorized to serve as an ad-hoc committee to seek outside legal counsel for the purpose of gathering information concerning certain HR policy.

10. ADJOURNMENT
On motion of Council/Agency Member Svanda, seconded by Council/Agency Member Bomprezzi, to adjourn the meeting, Mayor/Chairperson Poythress adjourned the Joint Special Meeting of the Madera City Council and Regular Meeting of the Madera Redevelopment Agency at 8:13 p.m.

Sandi Brown, Agency Secretary

Mayor/Chairperson Robert Poythress

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