

Letter of Support: Measure T Funding for Lake Cunningham Park

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1 attachments (79 KB)

Supervisor Cindy Chavez, Letter of Support, Measure T Funding for Lake Cunningham Park.pdf;

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Honorable Mayor and San Jose City Councilmembers,

On behalf of Supervisor Chavez, please find attached a Letter of Support regarding Measure T Funding for Lake Cunningham Park.

Thank you.

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**Amy Nguyen, Esq., Senior Policy Analyst**  
(Pronouns: She, Her, and Hers)  
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**CINDY CHAVEZ**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT TWO**

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March 14, 2023

200 East Santa Clara Street  
Honorable Mayor & City Council, 18th Floor  
San José, CA 95112

**RE: Annual Report on Measure T Disaster Preparedness, Public Safety, and Infrastructure  
General Obligation Bond Program Proceeds and Allocations**

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my support in maintaining the identified 3.2 million dollars in savings from the purchase of Coyote Valley in the Environmental Protection Fund to remedy the issues of water contamination at Lake Cunningham Park.

We need to fulfill our commitment to environmental water quality projects as was promised to voters when Measure T was on the ballot. Located in the northeast corner of District 8, Lake Cunningham Park is home to a 50-acre lake, stunning meadows, and range of amenities including picnic areas, playground, marina, Raging Waters and the Action Sports Park.

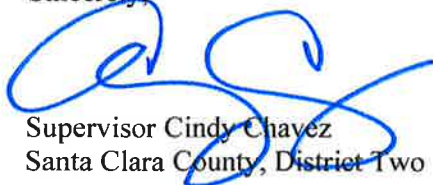
Since the mid-1990s, the water quality at Lake Cunningham has experienced a detrimental decline, which has compromised access to the lake, threatened the environment, and jeopardized the safety of park meadows and amenities during algae blooms or natural flooding on this historical floodplain. For 30+ years, the lake has been off-limits for recreational use.

Park visitors often reference a foul odor in the summer and point out stagnant water.

Unfortunately, deferred maintenance and lack of significant investment will only worsen the conditions present at the park. It is critical to note that the quality of life for East San José residents has been detrimentally affected by airborne contaminants produced by the Reid-Hillview Airport and impacts from high-speed corridors/highways bisecting communities. Lake Cunningham Park is uniquely positioned to serve as a tool for achieving environmental and social equity goals since we know that parks encourage active lifestyles, provide access to open space, strengthen local economies, increase community engagement, and reduce crime.

Please support the recommendation from Councilmember Candelas and Ortiz and make certain that Lake Cunningham Park is put on a pathway towards restoration.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Cindy Chavez  
Santa Clara County, District Two