



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS



March 14, 2019

Mayor Liccardo and City Councilmembers
City of San Jose

Re: March 19 Agenda Item 3.3: Mayor budget

Honorable Mayor Liccardo and San Jose City Council members,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, the California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter, and the Committee for Green Foothills are local organizations that protect and promote open space, parks, riparian corridors and the species that live in these important landscapes. Together, we have engaged in support of good planning in the City of San Jose (Measure T) hoping that funding will be available to improve green infrastructure and secure Coyote Valley as open space for generations to come.

We appreciate Mayor Liccardo's effort to craft a balanced budget, and thank the Mayor for proposing to direct the City Manager to dedicate resources to negotiating purchase of parcels in Coyote Valley and for considering Coyote Valley a "gift for future generations".

We also support the implementation of Climate Smart San Jose, the efforts to reduce trash through the BeautifySJ campaign, and the effort to fund programs to address painful homelessness in San Jose.

Respectfully,

James Eggers
Executive Director
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Shani Kleinhaus
Environmental Advocate
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Alice Kaufman,
Legislative Advocacy Director
Committee for Green Foothills

Linda Ruthruff,
Conservation Chair
California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter

From: Alie Victorine <>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 8:56 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: mayor's budget memo Item 4

Alie Victorine

March 11, 2019

Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council Members

City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, California 95113

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Council Members:

The Coyote Meadows Coalition is a united group of residents dedicated to making the 50-acre city-owned parcel along Coyote Creek between Story Road and Highway 280 into a beautiful open space park for recreational enjoyment and ecological education. Coyote Meadows has been and is currently heavily-impacted by homeless encampments. We are highly-encouraged by Item 4 in the Mayor's Budget Memo regarding homelessness and the city's efforts to help people transition to jobs and housing. Any efforts to reduce homelessness, especially along our creeks and watersheds is to be applauded and supported.

In cooperation with Deb Kramer's Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, we coalition members, along with hundreds of volunteers including Mayor Sam Liccardo, have spent countless hours picking up trash in and along Coyote Creek only to return a month later to find the area trashed worse than before. Most of the trash is from homeless encampments. We have worked side-by-side with Downtown Streets Team as well as with residents of these encampments who have welcomed us, accepted our trash bags, and eagerly cleaned their areas. Many of these unhoused individuals have lamented that there is no easy way to dispose of their collected trash.

Expanding work opportunities for our unhoused neighbors will not only clean up our streets, creeks and public spaces, but using their labor to help restore and preserve our creeks, streams and trails would have a measurable ecological impact as well. Our realization of Coyote Meadow as parkland would be within reach

Coyote Meadows Coalition supports the mayor's and council's efforts to find innovative and bold solutions to homelessness. It is both a humanitarian and environmental crisis. As residents who envision a beautiful parkland that will protect our riparian corridor and watershed while offering access to nature for San José families, we applaud your efforts and would welcome such a program to Coyote Meadows.

Sincerely,

Alie Victorine

Coyote Meadows Coalition Lead



March 18, 2019

Honorable Mayor and City Council
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

RE: Support for Mayor's March Budget Message for its inclusion of high-quality child care and preschool elements

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

As local community leaders in education, early childhood development, nonprofit services, and philanthropy, we were thrilled by your actions at the March 5th City Council Meeting to prioritize child care, early education, and paid family leave. The addition of these policy priorities was a strong step towards our collective goal of making San Jose our state's most family-friendly city.

As such, we wholeheartedly support the Mayor's March Budget Message for its inclusion of high-quality child care and preschool elements. Our support also extends to other family-friendly city initiatives, including increasing or easing the development of new childcare facilities, expanding the pilot of existing child care programs offered through the City's PRNS and Library Departments, and providing fully-paid family leave for city employees.

San Jose continues to face a crisis of affordability. Thousands of families struggle to afford high-quality child care and preschool, and too often, our children enter local schools unprepared to succeed. It is a major barrier to securing and maintaining stable work, and after housing, it is the second-greatest drain on family budgets.

But by ensuring our youngest residents are both a policy and budgetary priority for San Jose, we can propel the development of more high-quality child care and preschool options that ultimately lower the cost of care, maintain and increase quality standards, and ensure our children are on a path for success from the first day they enter kindergarten.

We respectfully request for your vote to support the Mayor's March Budget Message for its inclusion of high-quality child care and preschool elements and welcome your continued partnership to ensure San Jose is the state's most family-friendly city.

Sincerely,

FIRST 5 Santa Clara County
Santa Clara County Office of Education
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

cc: City Clerk