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November 5, 2019

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

RE: Actions Related to the Purchase and Sale of the Brandenburg and Sobrato North Coyote Properties (Item 19-1026)

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Council Members:

It is my great pleasure to share my support for the Mayor and City Council to adopt and finalize the purchase of the Brandenburg and Sobrato North Coyote Properties to further expand and protect the Coyote Valley. This is a significant moment in our city's history and efforts to help preserve and protect some of our most vulnerable natural resources. It is because of the cumulative and collaborative leadership of the Mayor, City Council, the Peninsula Open Space Trust, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority and others that this day is possible. This is truly an innovative public and private partnership.

With this action, not only do we have the opportunity to preserve 937 acres of irreplaceable open space, one of the largest municipal investments in natural infrastructure in California's history, but we can also help serve as a model for other local governments. For over 40 years, these lands have been under tremendous pressure to be developed. I am grateful to help play a role in to protect Coyote Valley from further development and help champion opportunities like those offered through Measure T to permanently preserve this remarkable place for people, wildlife, and our environment.

Our natural environment is our first line of defense against climate change and this investment in Coyote Valley is consistent with the State's climate-resiliency goals. Along with the recent signing of Assembly Bill 948, which—for the first time in history—designates Coyote Valley as a landscape of statewide significance and creates the Coyote Valley Conservation Program, this is a game-changing effort towards ending the decades-long urban sprawl mentality and speaks to the broad support for preserving and restoring precious resources throughout California.

I would like to express my gratitude to our city leaders, stakeholders, and advocates for realizing our common vision for Coyote Valley and who were instrumental in this week's actions to help preserve this last bastion of open space within San Jose for future generations.


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