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*Executive Director*

**TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL**

April 29, 2021

Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and Members of the City Council  
City of San José  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Councilmembers Arenas, Davis, Carrasco, Cohen, Foley, Jimenez, Mahan, and Peralez.

**Re: The Kelsey Ayer Station**

On behalf of SV@Home and our members, we strongly urge council to take action to support necessary funding for The Kelsey Ayer Station project in San José.

As affordable housing remains a pressing need in San José, SV@Home has been a longstanding supporter of The Kelsey's proposed mixed-income, mixed-ability development at 447 N. First Street. The Kelsey's proposed 115-unit development will provide 89 new homes affordable to low- and very low-income families that earn between 20% and 80% of area median income. Importantly, the proposed development includes 28 homes for people with developmental disabilities, an underserved population that lacks housing choices across the County.

The location of this development near Japantown/Ayer Station is well-planned. The studio apartments in particular are ideal for those working in employment centers like Downtown San José or North San José, allowing residents to commute by light rail and avoid contributing to traffic in the area. Ayer Station's location near Downtown provides easy access to local and express VTA bus lines. Transit-accessibility is helpful for all residents, but is especially important for the individuals with developmental disabilities who depend on transit.

The Kelsey Ayer Station is a model for fostering inter-connectivity between the disabled and non-disabled communities. It is bringing a neighborly spirit to an intentional community where a culture of inclusivity is fostered between the 140 residents of mixed incomes and abilities. When paired with programming open to surrounding residential neighborhood, The Kelsey Ayer Station reinforces the importance of community to battle isolation, something we have all experienced in the past 12 months.

The Kelsey team has worked diligently to ensure this innovative project is adequately funded; however, The Kelsey Ayer Station needs this critical vote to enable the project's success. We urge Council to support this development and approve Item 8.1 to adopt a resolution for funding without delay.

Sincerely,



Leslye Corsiglia  
Executive Director  
SV@Home