

FW: 11/16 City Council item 10.3 General Plan Update

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 11/15/2021 4:58 PM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Laurie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:24 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: 11/16 City Council item 10.3 General Plan Update
[REDACTED]

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Council members,

I urge you to continue to protect our beloved Coyote Valley from development. I was born and raised in San Jose, but am a country girl at heart. When I was a child, my dad would take us on Sunday drives through the beautiful valley. We would fish in the ponds and reservoirs, explore the creeks. I will never forget discovering wood ducks and caddis fly larvae, hauling around their self-made stone and stick "houses". I was stoked when I discovered someone on Etsy selling turquoise caddis fly earrings, made by larvae! I proudly wear them and no one can guess what they are except fisherfolk.

I work in mosquito control and for several years my zone was Morgan Hill, and included Coyote Valley. I fell in love with it all over again. It's like another world. Big city life can be over stimulating, and a day in the valley heals my soul.

As kids we used to play in Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River. I would never think to take my granddaughter exploring in those creeks now. I feel very safe teaching her about aquatic life, riparian zones, the local wildlife and agriculture in Coyote Valley. The dogs and I make regular hikes around the trails and ponds off of Monterey. I know very well the space that is in jeopardy of development. I have inspected Fisher Creek hundreds of times. This area is a critical habitat for foxes, bobcats, as well as coyotes, great blue herons, Golden Eagles, Peregrine falcons, as well as many reptiles and amphibians.

I know some of the farmers and ranchers in the area. Most have lived there their whole lives. I count the days until cherry season. If you haven't visited Andy's Orchard, it is a must for tree ripened, sweet, juicy fruits grown in the area.

Non profits are purchasing whatever land they can, preserving it for open space. It is so important!!!

It is considered a carbon sink zone, it is a prime aquifer loading zone. In this critical time of climate change, more than ever we need to preserve these spaces.

One good thing coming out of Covid is families are hiking and biking as families again. Coyote Valley is a wonderful, magical place where families can recreate, explore, exercise, reconnect in this quiet, serene, rich environment.

This proposed development would replace a favorite farm stand where visitors stop for fresh fruits and vegetables. It is also a very popular pumpkin patch. Kids really need diversions from electronics these days. We need more diversions like this valley, it's farm stands, cattle grazing on the hills, creeks to explore, hiking and biking trails, bird watching, so much more.

It is simply irresponsible to develop this land in this valley. We have enough paved, heavily trafficked areas available in the cities. We don't want it spreading to Coyote Valley.

Kind Regards,
Laurie Alaimo
▪ San Jose
95112

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

FW: Public Comment: 11.16 City Council Agenda Item #10.3

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 11/15/2021 4:59 PM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Meehan, Michael <michael.meehan@pln.sccgov.org>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:35 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment: 11.16 City Council Agenda Item #10.3

You don't often get email from michael.meehan@pln.sccgov.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

[External Email]

Good afternoon,

For tomorrow's City Council Agenda Item #10.3, please include the four attached public comment letters – their authors submitted them to me and requested that I ensure these also get to the City Council.

Much appreciated,



MICHAEL MEEHAN
Senior Planner | Agricultural Plan Program Manager

Department of Planning and Development
County of Santa Clara

70 W. Hedding Street | 7th Floor | East Wing
San Jose | CA 95110
Phone: (408) 517-5805
michael.meehan@pln.sccgov.org

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email message and/or its attachments may contain information that is confidential or restricted. It is intended only for the individuals named as recipients in the message. If you are NOT an authorized recipient, you are prohibited from using, delivering, distributing, printing, copying, or disclosing the message or content to others and must delete the message from your computer. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by return email.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To the San Jose Planning Commission, San Jose City Council, County of Santa Clara Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors,

We are small scale, diversified, and innovative farmers. We are also the technical advisors whose daily work is to support such farmers. We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for a vision of Coyote Valley and the broader Santa Clara Valley that includes and embraces agriculture as a means of building ecological and economic prosperity for the region.

Our farms grow nutrient dense food for our communities, using methods that take care of our broader ecosystems. We experiment and model practices that build soil organic matter; foster wide ranging, year round habitat for countless species of wildlife; preserve biodiversity while improving and breeding heritage seeds; and ensure equitable access to healthy, culturally relevant foods. Many of our farms show compelling evidence of the ways in which agriculture can go beyond merely co-existing with conservation.

The Santa Clara Valley flourished thanks to Chinese, Japanese, Mexican, Korean and Filipino workers. Marshy lowlands, and soils degraded by decades of poor practices, were transformed into rich, productive farmland by immigrant sharecroppers, in spite of exclusionary policy that would forbid these very communities from owning land. In this moment we find ourselves within, there is a clear and undeniable imperative to preserve agricultural lands, and to ensure tenure for farmers whose work tends to ecosystems thoughtfully, as an act of multifaceted placemaking.

Our communities have always been relegated to lands deemed “unfarmable.” But our collective wisdom, labor, and tenacity have left the places we inhabit better than they were when we met them. Long term access to land is the investment needed to promote robust regional foodsheds. This valley, with its proximity to markets significant to our farms, offers a unique opportunity for us to farm for our people. Our businesses support and bridge rural and urban populations, caring for relationships, histories, and stories.

The Valley of Hearts' Delight was shaped by the imaginations and hard work of communities like ours. We hope that you see what we see, and that you will work to ensure opportunities for future generations.

Sincerely,

- Kristyn Leach, owner Namu Farm, founder Second Generation Seeds
- Mai Nguyen, owner-operator [Farmer Mai](#)
- Kellee Matsushita-Tseng, farm manager/instructor at the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, UC Santa Cruz
- Nikiko Masumoto, farmer-partner Masumoto Family Farm
- Maya Shiroyama and Jim Ryugo, owners Kitazawa Seed Company
- Scott Chang-Fleeman, owner-operator Shao Shan Farm
- David Mancera, Director at Kitchen Table Advisors
- Janaki Anagha, founding member, CA Farmer Justice Collaborative
- James Nakahara, Farm Business Advisor at Kitchen Table Advisors
- Thea Maria Carlson, Commons Alliance Facilitator at Agrarian Trust, leadership circle at Celebrating Womxn's Leadership in Food, and farmer and land steward at Monan's Rill
- Caiti Hachmyer, owner-operator www.redhfarm.com, Lecturer at Sonoma State University, Core instructor at Bay Area Farmer to Farmer Training Program
- Ashley Rose and Ryan Kauffman, owners-farmers at Good Neighbor Farm
- Dare Arowe, owner-operator of Good Trouble Farm + Table, Produce Safety Alliance Certified Trainer, and Culinary Educator
- Gaby Lee, owner-operator Lunaria Flower Farm
- Kyle Forrest Burns-owner Burns Blossom Farm
- Patrick Bollinger, Owner Foothill Roots Farm
- Keren Ram, former partner-owner Mud Dauber Farm; farmworker at Sweet Roots Farm
- Marianne Olney-Hamel, co-Farm & CSA Manager at the Berkeley Basket CSA
- Tamara Magtoto, worker at P&K Farms

- Kori & Toby Hargreaves, Owners Dawn Creek Farm
- Helena & Matthew Sylvester, Owners Happy Acre Farm
- Moretta Browne, co-Farm & CSA Manager at the Berkeley Basket CSA
- Ana Victoria Salcido, MendoLake Food Hub Project Coordinator
- Caroline Radice, owner of Black Dog Farm & Catering, farmer at the New Agrarian Collective
- Savannah Simmons-Grover, Youth Education Coordinator, Wasatch Community Gardens
- Sarah Ulloa, owner, Good Taste Farm
- Jamie Fanous, Policy Advocate, Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Erica Hernandez, Farm Manager, Colibrí Farm
- Lucy O’Dea & Cody Curtis, owners at Flying V Farm
- Krysten Vinson & Sarah Schwemberger, Owners/Operators, Hideaway Acres Farm
- Mika Maekawa, American Farmland Trust
- Darby Anderson, Sustainable Agriculture Instructor, Michigan State University Extension
- Tanya López, RVT
- Fanny Singer, cook and food activist
- Alice Waters, owner Chez Panisse restaurant, Berkeley & founder of the Edible Schoolyard Project
- Donald Pivec, owner Meandering Farmer
- Emma Emmerich, Emerging Sprouts Forest School
- Matt Stone, Founder/Farmer of Shark City Farms
- Erika Vargas, Regional Coordinator at Kitchen Table Advisors

From: [Tyler Flippo](#)
To: [Meehan, Michael](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to planning commission
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 12:03:35 PM

Hello San Jose Planning Commission and City Council as well as County of Santa Clara Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors,

My name is Tyler Flippo. I am a hay farmer in Coyote Valley and I currently farm over 300 acres of oat hay and alfalfa on private properties throughout the area, within a span of about 3 miles from our ranch. My hay is primarily sold to the public as horse and cow feed but we also feed our own animals on the property. We take the manure from our horses that we have on the ranch and spread it back into the fields as fertilizer. It's a system in which the two components complement each other perfectly.

Although growing hay in this valley is something that I enjoy and that is successful enough to help me make a living, it is not without challenges.

The high traffic in this area makes it difficult to safely get tractors and heavy equipment from our home base to all of the fields we lease. A lot of drivers in the area don't understand they need to yield and wait for tractors for their own safety, and it makes driving farm equipment stressful and meticulous. Luckily we are usually able to choose lower traffic hours early in the morning and late at night to avoid as much traffic as we can, but it is still an obstacle we face daily.

One of the biggest challenges that we are always facing is access to land. We grow all of our hay on leased land, because land values in the area are too high to be able to purchase for farming purposes in order to actually make a profit. While it's relatively easy to find land here to lease for farming, typically land owners will only agree to a one year lease. This keeps me from being able to invest in further farming infrastructure for a property (e.g. reestablishing a well, fertilizing soil, buying new equipment for watering) since there is no guarantee that I will make back what I put into it. Most land owners are only comfortable with short term land leases because of the prospect of being able to sell their land for the extremely high prices that land goes for in this area. This is completely understandable from their point of view but makes it difficult to improve upon the farming practices we have in place.

Overall, we are blessed to be able to do what we do here. Farming this close to one of the biggest metropolitan areas in the state is a challenging but unique opportunity. Farming hay provides for our animals and many others in the area, while also partially funding our livelihood. We are grateful to be a part of agriculture in such a beautiful place as Coyote Valley.

Tyler Flippo
Coyote Canyon Ranch



To the San Jose Planning Commission, San Jose City Council, County of Santa Clara Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors,

My name is Kristyn Leach, I'm a farmer currently leasing land in Yolo County. I am writing to you today to support the zoning provisions that would help to preserve farmland in the Coyote Valley, as well as the broader Santa Clara Valley. As an Asian-American vegetable grower, the unique agricultural history of Santa Clara Valley has been a grounding inspiration to me. As an agroecological farmer who has spent half my life working on farms and building my own farm business, the imperative to build collaborative opportunities that foster synergies between growing food, tending to regenerative, complex dynamics within our ecosystems, and building meaningful, equitable, rural economies has never been more important.

My farm grows Korean and East Asian herbs and vegetables, as well as seeds for Kitazawa Seed Company, which was founded in San Jose in 1917. I have spent the decade of having my own farm exploring no-till practices that could work within an intensive, commercial production regiment. We work with breeders to improve Asian crop varieties to thrive in hotter, drier conditions, adapting rapidly to the climate chaos we work within.

My farm business has spanned two different sites in the Central Valley and has contributed meaningfully during our tenure. At our first location, we built the soil organic matter up from 2% when we started farming there, to 3.4% when we left six years later. In our first season at our new location near Davis, the soil lacked biological activity to the extent that it had turned hydrophobic, and I needed to go through and gently break up the crust of soil that formed when irrigated in order to allow germinating seeds to emerge. We entered into a system wildly out of balance and had to contend with soil disease and a buildup of pest populations. Four years later, we have managed to make some positive strides, through proper crop rotation, reducing soil disturbance, and enhancing the photosynthetic capacity of the soil by growing over 100 different unique crops mixed with native grasses and wildflowers. California poppies burst forth in an understory beneath perilla, chili peppers, long beans, melons, and cucumbers. Lacy Phacelia blooms throughout early summer providing nectar and pollen in the gap between spring and summer production. Barley and oats are mowed and left on the surface, keeping the topsoil cool, encouraging interactions between earthworms, bacteria, and even fungi who rarely have opportunities in annual crop fields. In the fall, our cover crop awakens nestled under the thick residue from the prior season and our undisturbed root matter, left in the soil to break down, provides pathways for rain to percolate and recharge our aquifers. For every 1% gain in organic matter in the field, we build the soil's water-holding capacity by 20,000 gallons per acre.

In the summer, we host educational events ranging from field days for cooperative extension to field trips for young people. We coordinate programs through our CSA boxes that engage families in community science, while ensuring that our seed breeding and heirloom preservation is informed and accountable to the communities who have loved these crops throughout history.

I say all of this to convey some sense of the type of ecosystem I am a citizen of. It's one where every connection and interaction provides opportunities for countless others. Where relationships are iterative, and the sum is always exponentially greater than the parts. As an accidental entrepreneur, I have managed to build a livelihood through my farm and seed business, while also building true generational wealth in the form of leaving a place better than I found it. I have kept my community fed and connected to their ancestral cultures through food. I have helped to preserve biodiversity by growing and increasing seed stock for many crops that are endangered due to the impacts of climate change, urbanization, and economic peril for peasants felt globally. Good farming and seed keeping are acts of placemaking. Decisions are made and weighed with nothing shorter than the next 100 years in mind.

To present the Santa Clara Valley as "unfarmable" is short-sighted, and indicative of a culture that abandons a place once its resources have been thoroughly extracted. If we are to see the types of just transitions that we so desperately need, we need to consider different narratives than the one that has been dominant.

Preserving farmland means addressing regional food security; building resilience so that our landscapes and their inhabitants can better withstand the precarity of climate change; strengthening relationships between rural and urban areas; and assuring our young people and future generations that we considered the world they would inherit and acted with integrity.

I know that small scale, diversified farmers are capable, aspirational, and motivated by desires to serve the multitudes of communities we serve. Many farmers and farmworkers are members of communities who have been barred from owning land (even if their labor was taken to work that land), and as a result, access to stable tenure is the biggest barrier we face. If given the chance, farmers would gladly apply the tenacity and creativity needed to restore and preserve the Valley of Heart's Delight in perpetuity.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my experience.

Kristyn Leach

Owner, Namu Farm

Owner, Second Generation Seeds

To the San Jose Planning Commission, San Jose City Council, County of Santa Clara Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors,

My name is James Nakahara and I am a farm business advisor for Kitchen Table Advisors, a local nonprofit organization which seeks to fuel the long-term viability of sustainable small farms and ranches. I have been a farmworker, a farm business owner, and an orchardist. I now spend my time supporting farmers and ranchers to be successful in the face of numerous systemic, ecological and existential challenges. As part of our ecosystems building work, I have also been a part of several agricultural feasibility studies; some in the Coyote Valley and others throughout California. I have talked to and visited hundreds of farms in California and have had deep and meaningful conversations with those farmers and ranchers about their needs, challenges, goals and aspirations. I have also worked and collaborated with a myriad of government agencies like the RCD/NRCS, USDA, CDFA, Farmlink, CAFF, UCANR, as well as community led grassroots organizations to support local communities whom desire to have greater access to high quality nutritious and ecologically responsible food producers.

My opinion of the report provided by Professor Sumner is that while it contains a detailed analysis of the potential for agricultural viability from a narrowly viewed economic standpoint; it lacks considerations for the equitable, cultural, ecological and communal opportunities that rezoning to agriculture could provide. I would also directly disagree with several of the positions offered in regards to the overall sales and marketing context of growing and selling in the bay area. My beliefs on the matter, which are born out by the success of many of our clients and other successful farms in the area, is quite the contrary. There is in fact a huge growing segment of the population of Bay Area residents demanding higher quality, organically grown food from farms which have a conscientious and ecologically balanced ethos with regards to production methodology. This demand has grown over the last decade, and as such, local restaurants, grocers, and distributors have had to pivot to supplying more and more high quality goods from caring, considerate, and skilled farmers and ranchers.

To give up on agricultural land begs the following questions. What type of engagement and opportunities do you lose by allowing the North Coyote Valley land to become more commercial or retail properties? What opportunities to engage with the broader community? What options to educate around healthy eating, and creating a connection to nature and conservation efforts would you lose? What chances disappear to uplift and support the myriad diaspora of immigrant and native Californian farmers wanting to grow and utilize this space with those goals in mind?

It is very easy to take land out of agriculture, and extremely hard to bring it back. This is something that other institutions have recognized like POST (Peninsula Open Space Trust) and OSA (Open Space Authority), both of which have committed to doing whatever they can to help in preserving any farmland that has potential use in agriculture. It is also worth mentioning that “agriculture” doesn’t just look like highly mechanized row crop farming, no-till grain operations, pastured grazinglands and native perennial restoration all provide ample benefits to soil, as well as the greater ecosystem.

One thing from the report's conclusion that is absolutely correct, is that farming is incredibly challenging. I have been and am in awe of the countless individuals who make a living out of providing nutritional sustenance for their communities. More often than not, all they need is a little bit of support and resources. The hard work of actually farming they have no problem handling on their own.

And in the simplest words, all I am asking is that you give those people a chance. That you lean away from past dynamics and look to a more equitable future that you want to help shape, because that is what these farmers and ranchers are already doing, every day...

I deeply respect the nuance and context with which challenging decisions must be considered. However in this case, the decision before you is fairly straightforward. The questions that you all must ask yourselves is what are your core values, and do those core values align with a diverse group of farmers, ranchers, food activists, and community stakeholders who are asking you to rezone the North Coyote Valley to support the potential for continued agricultural use, or not.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James M Nakahara
Kitchen Table Advisors

FW: 11/16 City Council item 10.3 General Plan Update

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 11/15/2021 4:58 PM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

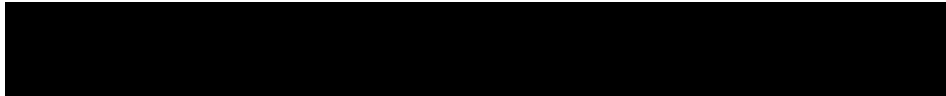
From: Lame [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 3:51 PM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>; alice@greenfoothills.org; megan@greenfoothills.org; deb@keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org; jean@sjparksadvocates.org

Subject: 11/16 City Council item 10.3 General Plan Update



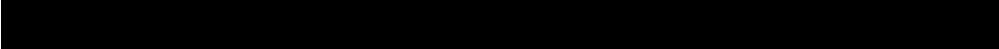
[External Email]

Hi,

Attached please find my letter opposing the proposed warehouse project in Coyote Valley.

~Larry Ames

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



The Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San José,
and Members of the City Council
200 E. Santa Clara St,
San José, CA 95113

via email, sent Nov. 15, 2021

re: 11/16 City Council item 10.3 General Plan Update

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

I write as an individual to join many others in urging you do deny the zoning request for a warehouse facility near Bailey Ave. and Monterey Road in Coyote Valley.

I am proud of the leadership and actions that you have taken these recent years to preserve and protect Coyote Valley. Keeping the valley as rural agriculture and open space helps native species by preserving their habitats and wildlife corridors; it helps the residents of central San José by allowing rainfall to pool and then flow down the Coyote Creek rather than immediately running off as a flash flood; and it helps all the residents of San José by assisting in the replenishment of our clean deep-aquafer drinking water supply. I am proud that I was able to do my part to help a few years ago in your successful “No on B/Yes on C” campaign to protect Coyote Valley from urban sprawl development. And I am proud of San José for working with the various non-profits and funding agencies to help piece together various lands and development rights to permanently protect and preserve large swaths of these sensitive lands.

And now there’s the proposal before you for a warehouse facility, right in the middle of it all. If you were to approve it, it would stand out like a black eye, and it would be a repudiation of all the good work you have been doing.

Please vote to deny the warehouse request.

Thank you,
~Larry Ames,
longtime creek and environmental advocate.

cc: City Clerk and City Manager; Green Foothills; Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful; SJ Parks Advocates

FW: 11/16/21, Agenda Item # 10.3 Coyote Valley (41 local leader signers)

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 11/15/2021 4:58 PM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Juan Estrada <juan@greenfoothills.org>

Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 3:46 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Re: 11/16/21, Agenda Item # 10.3 Coyote Valley (41 local leader signers)

[External Email]

Dear City Clerk,

I have attached an updated Equity and Inclusion letter for 11/16/21, Agenda Item 10.3. The letter now has 41 signers instead of 38 signers.

Could you kindly discard or redact the previously submitted version and replace it with this letter dated 11/15/21? The previous version was dated 11/12/21.

Sincerely,
Juan Estrada



Juan Estrada (he/him)
Advocacy Associate and Organizer
Green Foothills | (650) 968-7243 x351 | greenfoothills.org
Nature is the gift that keeps on giving.
This holiday season, give back by supporting Green Foothills.



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

November 15, 2021

San Jose City Council
City of San Jose

Re: Protecting Coyote Valley is a vote for the environment and equity in San Jose

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

We are 38 local leaders committed to advancing race equity in San Jose and throughout the Bay Area. Historically marginalized communities including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color bear the brunt of climate crisis impacts. We have very little time to make big changes and over the next decade we need to build resilience into the physical environment of our communities. Protecting and restoring at-risk open space and shifting to entirely infill development is an important way to do this.

We support the city staff and general plan task force recommendations for permanent protection of the Coyote Valley region as open space and agriculture. It is urgent that the San Jose City Council approve the General Plan amendments and the related actions in the Staff Report. This is both an environmental and an equity issue, and we urge the City Council to act without delay so we can start protecting and restoring this precious part of our region.

One of the first steps toward race equity is to acknowledge that unless we are descendants of the local Native American tribe, we reside on unceded land. The United States began with the conquest and genocide of Indigenous People. In the San Jose region, we reside on the sacred land of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. For thousands of years, ancestors of the Muwekma Tribe stewarded the Coyote Valley region. Native American people have an inherent stake in any environmental issue in their traditional territory and are uniquely impacted by environmental degradation. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area and the Amah Mutsun Tribe are both members of the Protect Coyote Valley coalition and support the permanent protection of Coyote Valley. Their ancestors understood that if we do not take care of the environment, then we face extinction as a people because we have a codependent relationship with land, wildlife, plants, and the Earth itself.

Low-income, historically marginalized residents stand to gain the most from climate action. Extreme weather events have outsized and long-term impacts on vulnerable communities because they are much less able to recover from the destruction of property and the costs of relocation. There are residents along the Coyote Creek watershed who still have not recovered from the impacts of the 2017 flood in San Jose. The flood, which occurred on Feb. 21, 2017, following heavy storms, caused an estimated \$100 million in damage and forced the emergency evacuation of 14,000 residents of neighborhoods in and around downtown San Jose.

Since Coyote Valley filters residents' drinking water and air and limits the urban heat island effect, its protection is an act of environmental justice. A protected and restored Coyote Valley serves as San Jose's green infrastructure and helps to protect residents downstream from flooding. A developed Coyote Valley would have the opposite effect, increasing flood risk, reducing air quality, putting our water quality at risk, reducing a local water source, and increasing emissions and temperatures.

Furthermore, according to the 2020 study, *The Benefits of Saving San Jose's Coyote Valley: A Case Study in Climate Action Planning*, concentrating infill development in downtown San Jose instead of in Coyote Valley would reduce passenger vehicle greenhouse gas emissions by at least 14,000 metric tons per year. It would also double the percentage of residents (from 1.7% to 3.4%) who can access a quarter of San Jose's jobs within 30 minutes via public transit.

Food security is a real issue for San Jose residents and protecting local farmland is a part of the solution. One in four people in Silicon Valley are at risk of hunger. A new Second Harvest study suggests that 26.8% of the population – almost 720,000 people – qualify as “food insecure.” In the face of the climate crisis, access to locally-grown food matters now more than ever. Coyote Valley is prime farmland and can provide San Jose residents with local, fresh produce. The 7,400 acres of agricultural land could eventually generate \$50 million per year and benefit San Jose by providing access to fresh, sustainable produce. Furthermore, Coyote Valley is one of the last remaining locations in San Jose that is large enough to implement a local regenerative agriculture effort which would include farming and grazing practices that, among other benefits, can help San Jose reach its climate goals by rebuilding soil organic matter – resulting in both carbon drawdown and improving the water cycle. Regenerative agriculture practices have roots in historic Indigenous knowledge of how to work with the land.

Investment in open space is particularly critical for people who are negatively impacted by economic disadvantage, systemic racism, trauma, opportunity gaps, and other challenges. According to a [2020 report from the Center for American Progress and the Hispanic Access Foundation](#), communities of color experience nature deprivation at three times the rate of white Americans. Experiences in nature can help ameliorate high blood pressure, anxiety, sleeplessness and other harmful health conditions associated with environmental racism and the stressors that disproportionately affect communities of color and low income. Preserving ample open space is critical for providing city dwellers with a safe opportunity to exercise while social distancing.

Affordable infill development within the current development footprint of the city is a more efficient use of resources. Prioritizing the health and resilience of our community means making open space investments paired with affordable housing policies and strategies. The City should prioritize resources to develop infill housing. Developing in the Wildland Urban Interface and in rural areas that are prone to fires and floods will only further deplete public resources that can be better spent in other parts of the city. Sprawl inequitably spreads city resources that could be better used on city services such as libraries, parks, affordable housing, and other community services. Infill is more cost-effective for cities and counties, since the infrastructure is already established.

Building infill is better for the local economy and local workers since this type of construction creates better-paying jobs for construction workers. The wage difference between infill and urban sprawl housing building projects is at least 60% and workers who build in downtown cores bring more money home to their families. Moreover, economic studies have shown that very few jobs would be created by the more likely development, warehouses, which provide no significant economic benefit to San Jose by locating them in Coyote Valley.

Acting now is increasingly urgent. Developments over the last year have only increased the need for immediate action on the climate crisis and on taking local actions for environmental

equity and inclusion. This is in the alarmed recognition of the threat of a newly-proposed, 2.3 million square-foot, Amazon-style warehouse for Coyote Valley, paving over farmland and open space and running hundreds of truck trips through wildlife corridors, all combined with more air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. This destructive proposal for Coyote Valley itself makes the case that the City Council should take action without delay to ensure a better future for all, especially including those excluded from the benefits of our system.

We sign this letter as community leaders working to confront and address issues of equity in San Jose and throughout the Bay Area region. We believe that the health of people and our communities is inextricably tied to caring for our remaining working lands and wild places.

Sincerely

Chairwoman Charlene Nijmeh

Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area Chairwoman

Chairman Valentin Lopez

Amah Mutsun Tribal Band Chairman

Blanca Alvarado

Former Santa Clara County Supervisor

Rod Diridon, Sr.

Former Santa Clara County Supervisor

Jim Beall

Former California State Senator

Tamara Alvarado

Firekeeper with Calpulli Tonalehqueh

Michele Lew

The Health Trust CEO

Gregory R. Kepferle

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County CEO

Darcie Green

Latinas Contra Cancer Executive Director

Gabriela Chavez-Lopez

Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley Executive Director

Milan R. Balinton

African American Community Service Agency Executive Director

Mary Jessie Celestin

Director of San José Strong Founder and Executive

Anjee Helstrup-Alvarez

MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana Executive Director

Victor Vasquez

SOMOS Mayfair Co- Executive Director

Saul Ramos

SOMOS Mayfair Co- Executive Director

Dilza Gonzalez

SOMOS Mayfair Lead Organizing Coordinator

Josué García

Saiasi Group CEO

Cayce Hill

Veggielution Executive Director

Deb Kramer

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful Executive Director

Dennis Lozano

Anti-Racist San Jose Moderator

Maria D. Martinez

SOMOS Mayfair / Navegador

Si Se Puede Collective Site Supervisor FRC

Nelly B. Miranda

SOMOS Mayfair Fuertes Program Coordinator

Tom Myers

Community Services Agency Executive Director

Smita Patel

San Jose General Plan Task Force Member

Jessica Paz Cedillos

School of Arts and Culture at the Mexican
Heritage Plaza Executive Director

Esther Peralez-Dieckmann

Next Door Solutions Executive Director

Sibella Kraus

Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE)
Executive Director

Susan Butler-Graham

Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley Team Member

Roma Dawson

District 1 neighborhood leader

Megan Fluke

Green Foothills Executive Director

James P. Reber

San Jose Parks Foundation Executive Director

Jason Su

Guadalupe River Park Conservancy Executive
Director

Justin Wang

Greenbelt Alliance Advocacy Manager

Margarita Arroyo

SOMOS Mayfair Site Supervisor at Cesar
Chavez FRC

Cruzsilla Gutierrez

SOMOS Mayfair Finance Department-Contracts
administrator

Brian Schmidt

Mid-Peninsula Water District Board President

Alice Kaufman

Green Foothills Legislative Advocacy Director

Juan Estrada

Green Foothills Advocacy Associate and
Organizer

Mayra Pelagio

Latinos United for a New America Executive
Director

Regina Celestin Williams

SV@Home Executive Director

Dorsey Moore

Open Space Authority Santa Clara Valley
Director - District 4

FW: Replacement letter: 11/16/21, Agenda Item 10.3 Coyote Valley (41 signers)

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 11/15/2021 4:58 PM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Juan Estrada <juan@greenfoothills.org>

Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 3:59 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Replacement letter: 11/16/21, Agenda Item 10.3 Coyote Valley (41 signers)

[External Email]

Dear City Clerk,

Thank you to your team for your assistance today.

I have attached an updated Equity and Inclusion letter for 11/16/21, Agenda Item 10.3. The letter now has 41 signers instead of 38 signers.

Could you kindly discard or redact the previously submitted versions and use this letter dated 11/16/21?

Sincerely,
Juan Estrada



Juan Estrada (he/him)
Advocacy Associate and Organizer
Green Foothills | [redacted] greenfoothills.org
Nature is the gift that keeps on giving.
This holiday season, give back by supporting Green Foothills.



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

November 16, 2021

San Jose City Council
City of San Jose

Re: Protecting Coyote Valley is a vote for the environment and equity in San Jose

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

We are 41 local leaders committed to advancing race equity in San Jose and throughout the Bay Area. Historically marginalized communities including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color bear the brunt of climate crisis impacts. We have very little time to make big changes and over the next decade we need to build resilience into the physical environment of our communities. Protecting and restoring at-risk open space and shifting to entirely infill development is an important way to do this.

We support the city staff and general plan task force recommendations for permanent protection of the Coyote Valley region as open space and agriculture. It is urgent that the San Jose City Council approve the General Plan amendments and the related actions in the Staff Report. This is both an environmental and an equity issue, and we urge the City Council to act without delay so we can start protecting and restoring this precious part of our region.

One of the first steps toward race equity is to acknowledge that unless we are descendants of the local Native American tribe, we reside on unceded land. The United States began with the conquest and genocide of Indigenous People. In the San Jose region, we reside on the sacred land of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. For thousands of years, ancestors of the Muwekma Tribe stewarded the Coyote Valley region. Native American people have an inherent stake in any environmental issue in their traditional territory and are uniquely impacted by environmental degradation. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area and the Amah Mutsun Tribe are both members of the Protect Coyote Valley coalition and support the permanent protection of Coyote Valley. Their ancestors understood that if we do not take care of the environment, then we face extinction as a people because we have a codependent relationship with land, wildlife, plants, and the Earth itself.

Low-income, historically marginalized residents stand to gain the most from climate action. Extreme weather events have outsized and long-term impacts on vulnerable communities because they are much less able to recover from the destruction of property and the costs of relocation. There are residents along the Coyote Creek watershed who still have not recovered from the impacts of the 2017 flood in San Jose. The flood, which occurred on Feb. 21, 2017, following heavy storms, caused an estimated \$100 million in damage and forced the emergency evacuation of 14,000 residents of neighborhoods in and around downtown San Jose.

Since Coyote Valley filters residents' drinking water and air and limits the urban heat island effect, its protection is an act of environmental justice. A protected and restored Coyote Valley serves as San Jose's green infrastructure and helps to protect residents downstream from flooding. A developed Coyote Valley would have the opposite effect, increasing flood risk, reducing air quality, putting our water quality at risk, reducing a local water source, and increasing emissions and temperatures.

Furthermore, according to the 2020 study, *The Benefits of Saving San Jose's Coyote Valley: A Case Study in Climate Action Planning*, concentrating infill development in downtown San Jose instead of in Coyote Valley would reduce passenger vehicle greenhouse gas emissions by at least 14,000 metric tons per year. It would also double the percentage of residents (from 1.7% to 3.4%) who can access a quarter of San Jose's jobs within 30 minutes via public transit.

Food security is a real issue for San Jose residents and protecting local farmland is a part of the solution. One in four people in Silicon Valley are at risk of hunger. A new Second Harvest study suggests that 26.8% of the population – almost 720,000 people – qualify as “food insecure.” In the face of the climate crisis, access to locally-grown food matters now more than ever. Coyote Valley is prime farmland and can provide San Jose residents with local, fresh produce. The 7,400 acres of agricultural land could eventually generate \$50 million per year and benefit San Jose by providing access to fresh, sustainable produce. Furthermore, Coyote Valley is one of the last remaining locations in San Jose that is large enough to implement a local regenerative agriculture effort which would include farming and grazing practices that, among other benefits, can help San Jose reach its climate goals by rebuilding soil organic matter – resulting in both carbon drawdown and improving the water cycle. Regenerative agriculture practices have roots in historic Indigenous knowledge of how to work with the land.

Investment in open space is particularly critical for people who are negatively impacted by economic disadvantage, systemic racism, trauma, opportunity gaps, and other challenges. According to a [2020 report from the Center for American Progress and the Hispanic Access Foundation](#), communities of color experience nature deprivation at three times the rate of white Americans. Experiences in nature can help ameliorate high blood pressure, anxiety, sleeplessness and other harmful health conditions associated with environmental racism and the stressors that disproportionately affect communities of color and low income. Preserving ample open space is critical for providing city dwellers with a safe opportunity to exercise while social distancing.

Affordable infill development within the current development footprint of the city is a more efficient use of resources. Prioritizing the health and resilience of our community means making open space investments paired with affordable housing policies and strategies. The City should prioritize resources to develop infill housing. Developing in the Wildland Urban Interface and in rural areas that are prone to fires and floods will only further deplete public resources that can be better spent in other parts of the city. Sprawl inequitably spreads city resources that could be better used on city services such as libraries, parks, affordable housing, and other community services. Infill is more cost-effective for cities and counties, since the infrastructure is already established.

Building infill is better for the local economy and local workers since this type of construction creates better-paying jobs for construction workers. The wage difference between infill and urban sprawl housing building projects is at least 60% and workers who build in downtown cores bring more money home to their families. Moreover, economic studies have shown that very few jobs would be created by the more likely development, warehouses, which provide no significant economic benefit to San Jose by locating them in Coyote Valley.

Acting now is increasingly urgent. Developments over the last year have only increased the need for immediate action on the climate crisis and on taking local actions for environmental

equity and inclusion. This is in the alarmed recognition of the threat of a newly-proposed, 2.3 million square-foot, Amazon-style warehouse for Coyote Valley, paving over farmland and open space and running hundreds of truck trips through wildlife corridors, all combined with more air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. This destructive proposal for Coyote Valley itself makes the case that the City Council should take action without delay to ensure a better future for all, especially including those excluded from the benefits of our system.

We sign this letter as community leaders working to confront and address issues of equity in San Jose and throughout the Bay Area region. We believe that the health of people and our communities is inextricably tied to caring for our remaining working lands and wild places.

Sincerely

Chairwoman Charlene Nijmeh

Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area Chairwoman

Chairman Valentin Lopez

Amah Mutsun Tribal Band Chairman

Blanca Alvarado

Former Santa Clara County Supervisor

Rod Diridon, Sr.

Former Santa Clara County Supervisor

Jim Beall

Former California State Senator

Tamara Alvarado

Firekeeper with Calpulli Tonalehqueh

Michele Lew

The Health Trust CEO

Gregory R. Kepferle

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County CEO

Darcie Green

Latinas Contra Cancer Executive Director

Gabriela Chavez-Lopez

Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley Executive Director

Milan R. Balinton

African American Community Service Agency Executive Director

Mary Jessie Celestin

Director of San José Strong Founder and Executive

Anjee Helstrup-Alvarez

MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana Executive Director

Victor Vasquez

SOMOS Mayfair Co- Executive Director

Saul Ramos

SOMOS Mayfair Co- Executive Director

Dilza Gonzalez

SOMOS Mayfair Lead Organizing Coordinator

Josué García

Saiasi Group CEO

Cayce Hill

Veggielution Executive Director

Deb Kramer

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful Executive Director

Dennis Lozano

Anti-Racist San Jose Moderator

Maria D. Martinez

SOMOS Mayfair / Navegador

Si Se Puede Collective Site Supervisor FRC

Nelly B. Miranda

SOMOS Mayfair Fuertes Program Coordinator

Tom Myers

Community Services Agency Executive Director

Smita Patel

San Jose General Plan Task Force Member

Jessica Paz Cedillos

School of Arts and Culture at the Mexican
Heritage Plaza Executive Director

Esther Peralez-Dieckmann

Next Door Solutions Executive Director

Sibella Kraus

Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE)
Executive Director

Susan Butler-Graham

Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley Team Member

Roma Dawson

District 1 neighborhood leader

Megan Fluke

Green Foothills Executive Director

James P. Reber

San Jose Parks Foundation Executive Director

Jason Su

Guadalupe River Park Conservancy Executive
Director

Justin Wang

Greenbelt Alliance Advocacy Manager

Margarita Arroyo

SOMOS Mayfair Site Supervisor at Cesar
Chavez FRC

Cruzsilla Gutierrez

SOMOS Mayfair Finance Department-Contracts
administrator

Brian Schmidt

Mid-Peninsula Water District Board President

Alice Kaufman

Green Foothills Legislative Advocacy Director

Juan Estrada

Green Foothills Advocacy Associate and
Organizer

Mayra Pelagio

Latinos United for a New America Executive
Director

Regina Celestin Williams

SV@Home Executive Director

Dorsey Moore

Open Space Authority Santa Clara Valley
Director - District 4

FW: Agenda item 10.3, 11/16/21 Council agenda -- Joint Letter Supporting Mayor and Councilmembers Memo

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 11/15/2021 4:59 PM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Alice Kaufman <alice@greenfoothills.org>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:48 PM
To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: shani kleinhaus [REDACTED]; Susan Butler-Graham [REDACTED] Idruff psychology [REDACTED]; Justin Wang <jwang@greenbelt.org>; deb@keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org; James Eggers <james.eggers@sierraclub.org>; Mathew Reed <mathew@siliconvalleyathome.org>; Mossing, Mackenzie <Mackenzie.Mossing@sanjoseca.gov>; Chapman, Helen <helen.chapman@sanjoseca.gov>; Ramirez, Lucas <lucas.ramirez@sanjoseca.gov>; Tran, David <david.tran@sanjoseca.gov>; Smith, Marlee <marlee.smith@sanjoseca.gov>; Madero, Angel <Angel.Madero@sanjoseca.gov>; Groen, Mary Anne <maryanne.groen@sanjoseca.gov>; Pearce, Michael <Michael.Pearce@sanjoseca.gov>; McGarrity, Patrick <Patrick.McGarrity@sanjoseca.gov>; Lomio, Michael <Michael.Lomio@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughes, Scott <scott.hughes@sanjoseca.gov>; Quevedo, Matthew <Matthew.Quevedo@sanjoseca.gov>; Brilliot, Michael <Michael.Brilliot@sanjoseca.gov>; Rivera, Robert <robert.rivera@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda item 10.3, 11/16/21 Council agenda -- Joint Letter Supporting Mayor and Councilmembers Memo

You don't often get email from alice@greenfoothills.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

[External Email]

Hello Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

Attached please find the joint letter in support of the memo from Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers Jimenez, Peralez, Cohen and Foley from the following organizations:

- Green Foothills
- Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
- Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley
- Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful
- California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter
- Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
- Greenbelt Alliance
- SV@Home

Thank you for your attention to these comments.



Alice Kaufman (Pronouns: She/Her/Hers)
 Legislative Advocacy Director
 Green Foothills | (650) 968-7243 x313 | greenfoothills.org
Nature is the gift that keeps on giving.
This holiday season, give back by [supporting Green Foothills](#).



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



November 15, 2021

San Jose City Council
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA

Re: Agenda Item 10.3 - Coyote Valley General Plan Amendments

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

The undersigned organizations support the staff recommendations and the memorandum from Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers Jimenez, Peralez, Cohen and Foley. In particular, we urge the Council to ensure that any new uses for the parcels on the east side of Monterey Road will be, as expressed in the Mayor and Councilmembers' memo, "compatible with broader environmental objectives to equitably preserve Coyote Valley for San José's diverse community."

Now is the time to protect Coyote Valley for its wildlife habitat and connectivity, flood and groundwater protection, farmland, open space recreational opportunities, and climate resilience. In voting to approve the staff recommendations, this Council will be in the forefront of climate action both in California and the nation. Please vote to approve the staff recommendations.

A New Vision For Coyote Valley

Since 2019, the City of San Jose, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (OSA), and Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), have acquired approximately 1400 acres of open space land in North and Mid-Coyote Valley for permanent conservation. These historic conservation purchases ushered in a new era for Coyote Valley. As stated in the Memorandum that was unanimously approved by the City Council in November 2019:

Coyote Valley has captured the imagination of San Joseans for generations, but also has sat within the crosshairs of development proposals— for everything from Apple’s world headquarters, to campuses for Tandem, Cisco, and Xilinx, to tens of thousands of units of housing. Only recently did we start to embrace **a more future-focused vision for Coyote Valley - one that views nature and green infrastructure as our allies in the face of climate change.** Our residents got it quickly, though—when we presented this vision to voters through Measure T, it passed with 71 percent of the vote....

In keeping with the will of the voters, **the plan for Coyote Valley should focus on a comprehensive vision and set of goals that embrace nature and green infrastructure.**¹

By approving the staff recommendations, the City Council will be affirming the new vision for Coyote Valley as described above.

Monterey Road Study Must Protect Wildlife Connectivity

One of the most important benefits provided by Coyote Valley’s open space is wildlife connectivity. Coyote Valley, located between the southern end of San Jose and the northern boundary of Morgan Hill, is one of only two remaining landscape linkages between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the rest of the state of California. Without a pathway to migrate out of the Santa Cruz Mountains, animal populations would suffer from genetic isolation. The Central Coast population of mountain lions was named a candidate for listing as an endangered or threatened species in 2020; these big cats need room to roam and to find suitable mates, as do other species.

Monterey Road, which runs north-south through Coyote Valley, is currently a roadkill hotspot. Numerous animals, including mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, badgers, deer, foxes, and even pond turtles, are regularly hit and killed on Monterey Road. Surveys of roadkill data in the Coyote Valley area suggest that Monterey Road is the most serious barrier to wildlife movement in Coyote Valley -- worse than Highway 101.² Thus, although Coyote Valley is a critical corridor for wildlife movement, it is also a very fragile and impacted one. **Any future study of potential allowable development along Monterey Road must also address the problem of how to ensure wildlife are able to cross the barrier of this roadway.**

¹ Memorandum by Mayor Liccardo, Vice-Mayor Jones, and Councilmembers Foley, Jimenez and Peralez, November 6, 2019 (emphasis added).

² Santa Clara County Wildlife Corridor Technical Working Group, Coyote Valley Subcommittee. 2019. *Recommendations to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions on the Monterey Road corridor in Coyote Valley, Santa Clara County.*

San Jose's General Plan contains the following actions:

ER-7.4 To facilitate the movement of wildlife across Coyote Valley, work with the appropriate transportation agencies to replace portions of the median barrier on Monterey Road with a barrier that maintains human safety while being more permeable to wildlife movement and implement other improvements to benefit wildlife movement.

ER-7.5 Support the on-going identification and protection of critical linkages for wildlife movement in the Mid-Coyote Valley.

These actions in the Envision 2040 General Plan should be included in the scope and goals for any potential study of increased allowable uses along Monterey Road.



Bobcat kill on Monterey Road. Photo by Pathways for Wildlife.

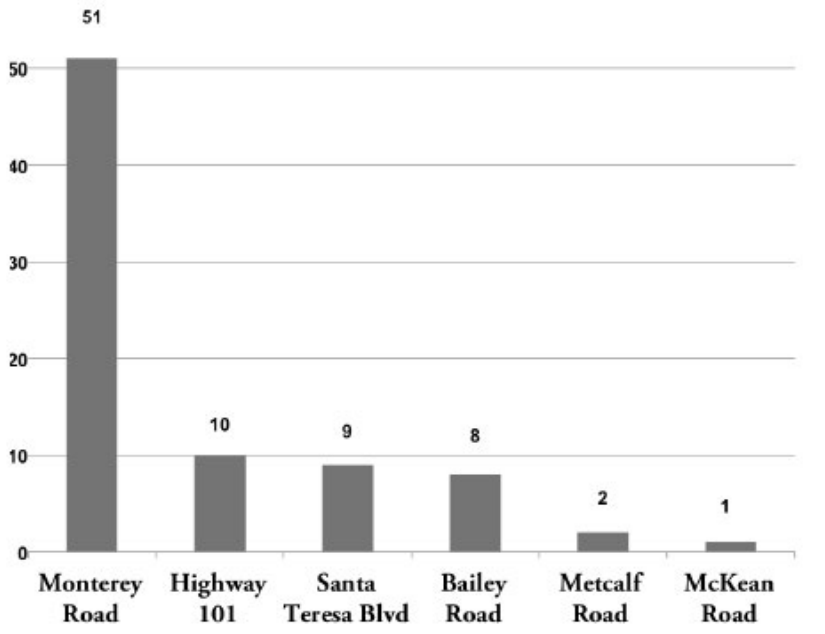


Figure 7 • Number of roadkill on major roads in the study area. Of 81 total, 51 were on Monterey Road.

Source: Santa Clara County Wildlife Corridor Technical Working Group, Coyote Valley Subcommittee

Monterey Road Study Must Reflect Coyote Valley's Rural Character

In spite of the vehicle traffic along Monterey Road that results in so many animals being struck and killed, this corridor is still a rural area. It is outside the Urban Service Area and thus has no access to city sewer infrastructure or other urban services, leaving any uses along this corridor to solve issues such as wastewater treatment. Any future study of potential uses along the Monterey Corridor must reflect this reality and not allow uses that are urban in nature or that would allow an intensity of use that is incompatible with the surrounding area.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Alice Kaufman, Legislative Advocacy Director
Green Foothills

Shani Kleinhais, Ph.D., Environmental Advocate
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Susan Butler-Graham, Team Coordinator
Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley

Deb Kramer, Executive Director
Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

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

James Eggers, Executive Director
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Justin Wang, Advocacy Manager
Greenbelt Alliance

Regina Celestin Williams, Executive Director
SV@Home

Fwd: Coyote Valley Rezoning

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 11/16/2021 8:11 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Julia King <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 5:47:55 PM

To: Rivera, Robert <robert.rivera@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Coyote Valley Rezoning

[External Email]

Greetings All,

Please find the attached letter from property owners at 10384 Dougherty Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037 regarding the proposed zoning changes in south Santa Clara Valley.

Sincerely,

Julia King
[REDACTED]

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Bubba's Lowbed Service, LLC

Heavy Equipment Hauling

November 15, 2021

City of San Jose
Planning Commission
200 E. Santa Clara Street
3rd Floor, San Jose, CA 95113

Subject: City of San Jose: Changes to the General Plan Land Use Transportation Diagram, Zoning map and Municipal Code. File Nos. GP21-012/GPT21-002/C21-031/PDC21-033/PP21-012. Coyote Valley and Redistribution of Planned Growth-Proposed Zoning Changes in South Coyote Valley, Santa Clara County, California

Dear City of San Jose,

This letter is in response to the proposed zoning changes in south Santa Clara Valley for areas which are within the City of San Jose, in which our property at 10384 Dougherty Avenue occurs. We own and operate our business, Bubba's Lowbed Service, LLC. from 10384 Dougherty Avenue, a 10-acre property, which has two- and one-half acres of land zoned heavy industrial, west of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks within the City of San Jose. The remaining seven- and one-half acres of this property is zoned agricultural and occurs with the County of Santa Clara. The two parcels are recognized under the 10384 Dougherty Avenue address while they occur in two different jurisdictions of the city of San Jose and Santa Clara County.

Bubba's Lowbed Service (BLS), a locally owned and operated small business, has been headquartered on the heavy industrial zoned land (city of San Jose) since its purchase in 2005. The purchase of this property was suggested by Jim Lanz, formerly a Zoning Investigator with the County of Santa Clara Zoning Department. Mr. Lanz counseled BLS that the heavy industrial zoning on the two- and one-half acres adjacent to the railroad tracks at 10384 Dougherty Avenue would provide the company with legally permissible land use associated with the operations of BLS which includes the parking and storage of lowbed trucks and trailers, heavy equipment parking, and any other activities needed to facilitate the day-to-day operations of this company.

BLS provides tractor and equipment transport for the San Francisco Bay Area, facilitating construction, renovation, paving, emergency repairs, and many other facets of the construction industry of the region. The company requires a heavy industrial land zoning designation to legally operate. The storage of the lowbed trucks and trailers is not permissible on any other land use zoning designation within Santa Clara County and/or the City of San Jose. BLS has experienced Santa Clara County zoning violations when attempting to operate on properties with agricultural and rural residential zoning designations. The purchase of the property at 10384 Dougherty Avenue, with heavy

Bubba's Lowbed Service, LLC

Heavy Equipment Hauling

industrial zoning, was made with the requirement to comply with zoning ordinance specifications to operate this business.

The proposed zoning changes to south Coyote Valley as shown in *Attachment G: Coyote Valley – Existing and Proposed Land Use Designations and Proposed Coyote Valley Agriculture Overlay* maps, as presented in Coyote Valley and Redistribution of Planned Growth meeting on October 29, 2021 by the City of San Jose, show that lands currently zoned as heavy industrial at 10384 Dougherty Avenue will be converted to agricultural zoning. The change from heavy industrial to agricultural zoning would put BLS in violation of the zoning ordinance. This business is owned by two local residents who are 4th generation Californians and it employs 12 local residents in south Santa Clara valley. BLS provides a needed service to the Bay Area and its evolving construction industry, whether it be delivering tractors to build the Apple Computer complex, moving paving machines from I-680 at 2 am, or delivering excavators for emergency repairs at Lexington reservoir. BLS provides a necessary service to the Bay Area construction industry including public and private sector clients. Additionally, BLS has a history of hauling farm equipment to Coyote Valley and would like to continue helping the farmers that still exist in Coyote Valley. Eliminating the support services that farmers need to exist will not help forward the goals desired by this proposed zoning change.

BLS has not seen information presented by the City of San Jose which explains how this business will be able to continue its operations, be compensated for the loss of their livelihood, be provided a property zoned with heavy industrial land use to continue operation, or any plan to address the displacement of this business as a result of this proposed zoning change. The property at 10384 Dougherty Avenue was purchased at a premium due to its zoning. BLS is only able to run its business on a property that is zoned heavy industrial and removing this zoning will in effect eliminate this business. If the 10384 Dougherty property is zoned agricultural it cannot be sold for the same value as heavy industrial for which it was purchased; and if BLS attempted to sell this property, which has proposed agriculture zoning, and sought to acquire another piece of property with heavy industrial zoning it is unlikely the selling price for agricultural land would be equal to the cost of purchasing heavy industrial land elsewhere in the Santa Clara Valley. Additionally, there is a cost in relocating this business to another location. There appears to be a huge financial loss for BLS and the real potential to bankrupt this business by the act of rezoning the heavy industrial land to agricultural.

The history of the property at 10384 Dougherty includes 15 years of use for the current owner Bubba's Lowbed Service. GoogleEarth aeriels allow for the open-source review of land use from 2021 to 1998 and non-agricultural activity is evident 23 years ago. Visible use of the property as a wooden truss manufacturing facility can be detected during 2004. Additionally, the site was known as a lumber yard in the 1970's; and therefore, it has a heavy industrial land use record for at least 50 years. The historical use of this property for heavy industrial uses, to which it is zoned, is well established by publicly available resources.

Bubba's Lowbed Service, LLC

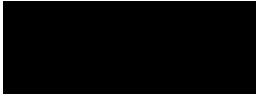
Heavy Equipment Hauling

The proposed changes in zoning from industrial to agricultural lands would potentially result in the inverse condemnation of our property. The agricultural lands have a much lower value and it is common that non-irrigated agricultural lands are being farmed with a trade for weed abatement only. No monetary value can be gained from renting agricultural land to other farmers.

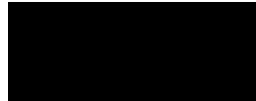
We are requesting to review information that shows your plan to address our business displacement due to your implementation of zoning changes on our property. Please provide us the City of San Jose's plan in writing to compensate BLS for the loss of our heavy industrial zoning for which we paid fair market value. We welcome correspondence regarding this subject and an equitable solution to this dramatic zoning alteration of the property we purchased to operate our business which requires this zoning designation.

Please feel free to contact the partners listed below regarding the issues presented in our correspondence.

Sincerely,



Mike King



David Nisich



Fwd: Monterey Corridor and GP Designation for Coyote Valley; Council Hearing Nov. 16, 2021 - No. 11

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 11/16/2021 8:13 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: mnash([REDACTED])
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 9:17:27 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Monterey Corridor and GP Designation for Coyote Valley; Council Hearing Nov. 16, 2021 - No. 11

[External Email]

Hon. Mayor Sam Liccardo and members of the San Jose City Council,

I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective. Farming is a beautiful, wonderful endeavor and passion, but not a recommended livelihood in Silicon Valley.

Since 1927, closing in on 100 years, The Saso Family has been in Coyote, I am in the 4th of 6 generations to stick their feet in the ground and know hard work. I have been a seasonal farmworker for more than **50 years**, working with my family.

My dad operated Ken's Coyote Market, working 7 days a week nearly 365 days a year, except Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving. My Grandparents operated an apricot stand at the corner of their orchard. My mom started Saso Kids with us four kids. There used to be a line of fruit stands along Monterey Road. They moved to Redwood City, Gilroy and the Central Valley.

My parents Ken and Annie Saso have worked tirelessly. They also made sure their children were educated.

My husband, Dave Nash is a Vice-President [REDACTED] formerly an [REDACTED] employee who enjoyed a fantastic commute.

Son Buddy Nash (student)– Civil Engineering Major at LMU.

*He wanted to farm - we all want him to be employed.

I am a SJSU Graduate

- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

- Minor in Urban Planning
- MBA

I learned a few basic economic rules (degree not needed):

1. Don't enter an industry that everyone is running away from
2. Recognize your barriers to entry – and to continuing-operations.
 - a. Want to farm in Silicon Valley, the most expensive \$\$\$\$ area in the US. Your investment will go farther where infrastructure is available.
 - b. Identify your farm labor – wages are going up and who will do it?
 - c. No guaranteed water rights – political hot topic
 - d. Where are you going to live – at what standard of living
 - e. Family in your future? – can that be supported?

In trying to articulate my perspective I recalled this article:

AFTER 40 YEARS OF WAITING, COYOTE VALLEY AND THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE FARMED IT FINALLY FACE THE TRANSITION FROM RURAL TO URBAN

"The save-the-farmland issue is never properly about the last acre," says Carol Whitesides of Modesto's Great Valley Center, a non-profit organization studying farmland issues.

"You can get to a tipping point where agriculture is no longer viable. Silicon Valley probably lost its critical mass a long time ago, but maybe the discussion will spill over to ag regions that are still viable."

"There's a lot more involved in farming than just having the land," says Nancy Richardson, executive director of the Farm Bureau of Santa Clara County. "How can they compete when the guy in the San Joaquin Valley is paying a minuscule amount to truck his product to the canners?"

Quoting Ken Saso:

"Thank God we're survivors," he says. "Everyone says that this is really Coyote's time now."

The excerpts above were taken from an article written in 1999. By Tracie Cone Published: Sunday, June 6, 1999 Edition: Morning Final Section: West

My dad Ken was 55 years old at the time. He had already fought:

- to keep his property,
- fought non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and
- Fought for the property rights that were agreed to by SJ and
- His Rights to choose whether to develop or keep farming.

2021

My brothers and I are the age of our parents in the article. We are the next generation. Ken and Annie, by no means are stepping aside.

They are appreciative of the willingness of San Jose to work together to honor the 1958 obligations made by the City of San Jose.

Thank you for your time and dedication.

Maria Saso Nash

Maria Saso Nash



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fwd: Comment Letter for 11.16 City Council Agenda Item 10.3

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 11/16/2021 8:10 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

1 attachments (122 KB)

STB Comment Letter_CoyoteValleyZoning.pdf;

Got a lot coming! Happy Tuesday!! :-)

From: Joshua Quigley <jquigley@savesfbay.org>

Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 5:12:54 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Comment Letter for 11.16 City Council Agenda Item 10.3

[External Email]

Please include this letter in the council packet for the Coyote Valley Zoning ordinance update discussion tomorrow.

Thank you,

Josh Quigley
Policy Manager
Save The Bay
jquigley@savesfbay.org

www.saveSFbay.org | [@saveSFbay](https://twitter.com/saveSFbay)

60 YEARS STRONG

SAVE THE BAY

Invest in a Climate-Resilient Future

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



November 15, 2021

San Jose City Council
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Agenda Item 10.3 General Plan and Zoning Updates for Coyote Valley

Mayor Liccardo and Members of the Council:

On behalf of Save The Bay, the largest regional organization working to protect and restore the San Francisco Bay for people and wildlife and promoting climate resilience throughout the Bay Area, we urge you to support the staff and general plan task force recommendations for the permanent protection of Coyote Valley. Coyote Valley represents one of the largest opportunities that San Jose has to demonstrate its strong commitment to reducing the city's contribution to climate change and promoting a new vision for the city that is more resilient, equitable, and sustainable.

Conserving open space and agriculture in North Coyote Valley supports San Jose's bold climate change strategies.

San Jose has established itself as a regional leader in setting targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change through Climate Smart San Jose. That plan's bold vision calls on San Jose to break from past development patterns that accommodate sprawl, and instead focus new denser development within the existing built environment to reduce vehicle miles traveled and the associated carbon emissions. The Council recently set an even higher target of making San Jose carbon neutral by 2030. This type of progressive leadership is crucial to reduce future impacts from climate change beyond what is already occurring but allowing the development of the largely rural Coyote Valley undermines the city's goal.

Furthermore, the city is currently developing a Natural and Working Lands amendment to Climate Smart San Jose that evaluates strategies for utilizing undeveloped lands to meet the plan's ambitious goals. The draft natural and working lands technical analysis confirms that these areas, like Coyote Valley, are "a foundational element of San Jose's greenhouse gas reduction strategy", but that "the ability for these NWLs to sequester carbon into the future will depend on the choices we make today¹". That is the choice that is before you as you consider the zoning updates to protect Coyote Valley.

Protecting Coyote Valley provides additional climate resilience and environmental benefits to San Jose's most vulnerable residents.

We recognize that a broad coalition of groups representing San Jose's Black, Latinx, and Indigenous residents have called on the city to support the positive impact that open space and agriculture zoning in Coyote Valley would provide. Save The Bay fully supports this coalition and asks you to give full consideration to the concerns raised in their letter.

¹ <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/78097/637692077302400000>

Restricting commercial and industrial uses from the undeveloped areas of Coyote Valley and prioritizing open space and agriculture will protect water quality in Coyote Creek and the surrounding groundwater aquifer, provide flood risk attenuation for downstream residents, create additional recreational opportunities that promote public health, and protect air quality in the valley. Since San Jose's low income and historically disadvantaged communities bear the burden of environmental injustice and climate risk, prioritizing these lands to promote health, safety, and access to recreation should be the city's aim.

San Jose faces a strong urgency to act now.

The costs of inaction in the face of climate risk are significant. Urban heat, impacted air quality, and increased flood risk all add to the San Jose's liabilities. As city leaders, you have recognized this with your commitment to greenhouse gas reductions and with your support for the use of nature-based green infrastructure to improve climate resilience. As the city pursues strategies to reduce carbon emissions and secure funding to retrofit existing neighborhoods with new resilience measures, it is apparent that the costs of doing so after development occurs are far higher than proactive conservation and smart growth.

Coyote Valley represents a chance for the City of San Jose to put its carbon reduction plans and commitment to climate smart growth into practice. But this opportunity will be lost if development is allowed to proceed. By choosing today to adopt the staff and task force recommendations, you can demonstrate that the City's leadership isn't limited to ambitious planning documents but is resulting in real change in how San Jose grows. We urge you to make this change real and protect Coyote Valley for the benefit of all San Jose residents.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of David Lewis.

David Lewis
Executive Director

Fwd: Coyote Valley

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 11/16/2021 8:10 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Dee Wood [REDACTED]**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 5:24:59 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo
<TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Coyote Valley

[External Email]

Please follow the decision of the General Plan Task force to change the designation of North Coyote Valley from Industrial to Open Space/ Agriculture. The land must stay unpaved to help with flood control and filling of aquifers. We do not need hundreds more of trucks added to the traffic on Rte 101 in that area. We need the land to stay available to wildlife migration. We have paved most of Silicon Valley and developed it. Once it is lost it cannot be returned. Please make this change before we regret it.

I am a 40 year resident of Santa Clara County It is most important to me to preserve the little of the agricultural land that is left.

Let's think of all residents of this county, not only those who want to make more money. Wildlife has a hard enough time already.

Dolores M Wood

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fwd: Please vote YES to rezone Coyote Valley for agriculture and open space

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 11/16/2021 8:11 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Kristine Karnos <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 5:58:58 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; info.ca.norcal@mothersoutfront.org <info.ca.norcal@mothersoutfront.org>
Subject: Please vote YES to rezone Coyote Valley for agriculture and open space

[REDACTED]

[External Email]

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

As a San José resident, I urge you to protect our climate and the health of our Bay Area green spaces and wildlife by voting in favor of rezoning Coyote Valley for agriculture and open space.

Coyote Valley plays an important role as a wildlife corridor, enabling the life in our hills and mountains to maintain healthier populations and move around as needed to adapt to climate conditions and emergencies (floods, wildfires, etc.). Coyote Valley also plays an import role as a carbon sink, absorbing carbon emissions, and protects downtown San Jose from flooding during the heavy rain events (think "atmospheric rivers", "bomb cyclone", from October news). These events are expected to become more common as the climate heats up.

Every new commercial development that tries to go into this area brings more traffic and roads, threatening wildlife crossing, destroying native habitat and causing more pollutants to reach our groundwater. A warehouse proposal is one of the worst possible uses of this land, as it destroys open space and considerably increases vehicle emissions throughout this area.

Please follow city staff's recommendations and vote to preserve Coyote Valley as farmland and open space, to make San Jose more climate-resilient, and to give our local wildlife a chance to survive.

Thank you,

Kris Karnos

San Jose, 95124

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fwd: Agenda Item 10.3 for November 16, 2021 City Council Meeting

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 11/16/2021 8:12 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Hedy [REDACTED]**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 7:42:09 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Agenda Item 10.3 for November 16, 2021 City Council Meeting

[External Email]

Gentlemen:

I am against industrial development in the Coyote Valley in the vicinity of Bailey Avenue and Santa Teresa Boulevard and wish to express this to the council at this time. It is a major through area for wildlife between the Diablo Range and the Santa Cruz mountains and I believe would endanger their habitat. Our lives depend on a balance with nature and its ecosystems. My suggestion is for this land to remain in its most natural state as is possible. I am hopeful the council will vote to keep this part of San Jose undeveloped and to use it as open space as has been done with the Laguna Seca area.

Sincerely,
A Voting Citizen
Hedwig Gonchar

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fwd: 11/16 City Council item 10.3 General Plan Update

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 11/16/2021 8:13 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Matthew Spadoni [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 8:38:43 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: 11/16 City Council item 10.3 General Plan Update

[REDACTED]

[External Email]

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

The Coyote Valley MUST not be developed, now or ever in our future. We all have an obligation to honor Sacred Lands and do our best to return lands to descendants of the ancestral peoples whose culture and livelihood was based in these lands. The Coyote Valley is within the ancestral homelands of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. The sale of these lands for warehouses would just be a further continuation of the cultural genocide experienced by Indigenous Peoples in the Bay Area and across the world.

The Coyote Valley is an enormous respite for people, wildlife, plants and all other forms of organisms. We need to be working towards decolonizing our future, rethinking our economies and how our society functions. How long would the sites used for warehouses really last? Our descendants several generations from now would be kicking themselves looking at dilapidated warehouses that only served a purpose for a hundred years, when their great grandparents could have preserved the coyote valley in perpetuity for infinite generations to come. Let our great grandchildren look happily on the choices we make about Coyote Valley in the present. Please, our future is at stake here, and it is worth far more than some warehouses.

Sincerely,
Matthew Spadoni
San Jose/CommUniverCity

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fwd: Item # 10.3 November 16, 2021. Please vote in Favor of Staff Recommendation. Protect Coyote Valley for our children

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 11/16/2021 8:13 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Surjeet Patel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 9:07:03 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Item # 10.3 November 16, 2021. Please vote in Favor of Staff Recommendation. Protect Coyote Valley for our children

[External Email]

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,

We are grateful to live in a city that has shown such vision when it comes to protecting the environment and caring for its citizens. Thank you for your leadership in this regard.

But after four decades, we are weary and discouraged to see Coyote Valley's fate once more hanging in the balance. So we are writing to request you to please support the staff recommendation and protect -- once and for all -- this precious natural resource and one of the few remaining remnants of not just our valley's agricultural heritage but also the sacred lands of those who came before us.

Our granddaughter, who was born and brought up in San Jose is now away at college. But one of her first stops when she comes to town (after visiting us, of course :) is to head to the Spina Farms stand on Bailey Rd. We and our grandchildren love being able to hike in the open space and to see tractors plowing the fields as they go through the valley.

Coyote Valley is their heritage. Having access to nature's bounty, open space and agriculture close to where they live should be an inalienable right for all of San Jose's children.

We hope you will support the recommendation of the General Plan Task Force and the City Staff.

Sincerely,

Surjeet and Rasik Patel



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fwd: 11/16 City Council item 10.3 General Plan Update

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 11/16/2021 8:14 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Valerie Niles [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 7:28:23 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Davis, Dev <dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: 11/16 City Council item 10.3 General Plan Update

[REDACTED]

[External Email]

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

I care about Coyote Valley and its future. Keeping Coyote Valley as open space and preserving the agricultural lands in San Jose is crucial in San Jose's goal to be a green city. This place is important because the undeveloped land serves as a carbon sink, where the trees, grass, and other plants take in CO2 and store it in themselves and underground. What's ultimately at stake here is the potential for climate resiliency with over 1000 acres of wetlands and 2500 acres of floodplain, which act as a sponge to let rainwater soak into the soil, helping to control flooding down stream, like we saw in 2017. This land is the ancestral homeland of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. I want Coyote Valley to be a jewel to reflect the latest agreements from the recent International Climate Conference to help with climate change resiliency and being a leader in sustainability in Silicon Valley.

Sincerely,
Valerie Niles
San Jose, District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fwd: Vote YES at today's City Council Meeting: Rezone Coyote Valley for Agriculture and Open Space

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 11/16/2021 8:36 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Deborah Garvey [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 8:15:06 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Vote YES at today's City Council Meeting: Rezone Coyote Valley for Agriculture and Open Space

[External Email]

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

As a 23-year San José resident and three-year supporter of Mothers Out Front, I urge you to protect our local environment by voting in favor of rezoning Coyote Valley for agriculture and open space. Such rezoning will protect 314 acres of remaining developable land in the North Coyote Valley, and complete our investment in conserving Coyote Valley's environmental benefits. As you well know from the plans submitted by Texas developer Crow Holdings Industrial, current zoning permits the area to be developed into two massive warehouses, the length of over six football fields, with up to 5500 workers.

I argue rezoning Coyote Valley for agriculture and open space is the most economically beneficial and productive use of the land. Coyote Valley provides valuable environmental services:

1. As a carbon sink, Coyote Valley absorbs carbon emissions that would otherwise contribute to climate change.
2. Coyote Valley safeguards water quality and absorbs floodwaters that spill over from Coyote Creek during heavy rainstorms, thereby protecting downtown San Jose and vulnerable neighborhoods along Coyote Creek from flooding during heavy rain events. Such storms are expected to occur more frequently and with greater intensity because of climate change.

3. Coyote Valley is the last remaining undeveloped area between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range, making it an important wildlife corridor. Loss of North Coyote Valley means wildlife will have no access to the Santa Cruz Mountains for breeding or climate-adaptation purposes.

Please follow the recommendation of the General Plan Task Force and vote to preserve Coyote Valley as farmland and open space. Make San Jose more climate-resilient.

Thank you for taking real action to protect the environmental wellbeing of our City's residents, both human and wild.

Deborah L. Garvey, PhD



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fwd: Coyote Valley Open Space

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 11/16/2021 8:36 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Paul Schomberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 8:35:17 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Coyote Valley Open Space

[REDACTED]

[External Email]

As a 4th generation resident of the Santa Clara Valley, I urge you to please save some of our last remaining green space from being developed. As a kid, I was able to roam this beautiful valley and see orchards and wildlife all around. Now my grandkids see concrete and traffic everywhere they go.

The south county between downtown and Gilroy is one of the few places close enough for them to hike up the hills, look out, and see beautiful green space which not only provides wildlife habitat, but gives us peace, tranquility, and growing plants (which produce oxygen in a time when we are running out of time to stop the worsening effects of climate change).

I'm begging you, for the sake of everyone's physical and mental health, to find solutions to stop further development. Perhaps money cannot be the driving force in this critical time. If city, county and open space trusts can combine their efforts, everyone will be better off, as will our planet.

Carleen (Ambrosini) Schomberg

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.