



April 26, 2021

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

SENT VIA EMAIL

RE: Conceptual Support – Market Park at the Barryessa BART station

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council,

The Bay Area Council is a public policy advocacy working to support civic and business leaders in solving our region's most challenging issues. This letter is written in support of concept for the Market Park project in San Jose for its potential to create thousands of housing units near transit.

California is experiencing an unprecedented housing crisis that will worsen without significant intervention. The California Department of Housing and Community Development estimates that the state must build 180,000 new units of housing annually by 2025 to meet projected population growth - over 100,000 more units than we are currently creating. This shortage will disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color. To combat this, every county and city must do its part to produce more housing units to keep up with the growing population.

The Market Park project proposes to create 3,450 new housing units in San Jose, including 500-600 affordable housing units. While we recognize this project is in a relatively conceptual stage, we support the creation of new housing and believe it's critically important to construct housing at transit hubs and adjacent to job centers – reducing sprawl and getting people out of cars and onto transit. This is an infill site within the City of San Jose and fully surrounded on all sides by developed cityscape. A majority of the land area of the existing Flea Market is surface parking lot. This is exactly the type of site that should be utilized for housing development. A transit village would be a significantly better and more intense use than the existing condition.

This site is an excellent candidate for dense, mixed-use development directly adjacent to transit to grow the supply of housing and reduce dependence on cars. We look forward to reviewing details of the project when it is further resolved, and encourage you to support transit-oriented development of this nature.

Sincerely,



Matt Regan
Senior Vice President
Bay Area Council