

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4015
FAX (916) 651-4915

DISTRICT OFFICE
2105 S. BASCOM AVE.
SUITE 154
CAMPBELL, CA 95008
TEL (408) 558-1295
FAX (408) 558-1296

SENATOR.CORTESE@SENATE.CA.GOV
WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/CORTESE

California State Senate

SENATOR
DAVE CORTESE

FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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TRANSPORTATION

November 14th, 2021

San Jose Mayor and City Council
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: GP21-012, GPT21-002, C21-031, PDC21-033, PP21-012 - Changes to the General Plan Land Use Transportation Diagram, Zoning Map and Municipal Code for properties within North, Mid- and South Coyote Valley associated with the Envision San José 2040 General Plan Four-Year Review

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

I write to you today in support of the staff proposal implementing the San Jose General Plan Task Force's recommendations regarding Coyote Valley as was presented in their November 5th memo. These recommendations include General Plan amendments and action items that protect North and Mid-Coyote Valley from development (except the limited areas that are already developed). These changes would be consistent with the State of California's decision to establish the Coyote Valley Conservation Program, which designated the region as an "area of statewide significance" through state legislation, AB 948 (Chapter 356, Statutes of 2019).

I was proud to serve on the Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan Task Force, a strategy supported by California's Cap and Trade funding through the State's Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program to protect remaining farmlands from conversion to development as a nature-based climate strategy. I know that much of Coyote Valley remains in active agriculture and farms at the edge of Silicon Valley that can help address future food security and contribute to a robust local agricultural economy.

The City Council recently approved a resolution at the Climate Smart San Jose Study Session to be carbon neutral by 2030. San Jose is showing exemplary leadership at a time when, during COP26 in Scotland last week, countries are struggling to get the world back on track. Protection of our natural and working lands is necessary in ensuring we reach this goal of carbon neutrality. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Cortese

California State Senator, District 15