

Subject: Coyote Valley Development

Dear Mr. Crabtree:

I am very much opposed to the proposed development in the Coyote Valley. Apart from the important issues of sprawl and loss of agricultural land, I believe the environmental impacts of development are unacceptable. Consider a single example: on the serpentine soils of Coyote Ridge a striking assemblage of native wildflowers blooms every spring, including five special status species. Increased traffic in Coyote Valley would result in increased nitrogen deposition on Coyote Ridge, encouraging the growth of non-native annuals, crowding out the natives. The loss of native species in turn would decrease the population of the endangered Bay checkerspot butterfly.

The 2007 Draft Environmental Impact Statement acknowledges that the proposed Coyote Valley project could result in significant impacts to the special status species and to the endangered Bay checkerspot butterfly. It proposes as mitigation the establishment of a serpentine grasslands preserve somewhere else. But this can be considered a mitigation only if the preserve area is itself under some kind of threat.

On a more fundamental level, Coyote Ridge is a particular unique and special place. It is not just so many acres of "serpentine grassland". We should grant it our respect and not treat it like a commodity.

Please pass my comments on to the Envision San Jose Task Force and ask them to vote against development in Coyote Valley.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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