

November 19, 2019

Teresa Alvarado, Co-Chair
David Pandori, Co-Chair
Envision San José 2040 General Plan Task Force
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Co-Chairs Alvarado and Pandori and members of the General Plan Task Force:

As we begin the General Plan review, we are excited for the opportunity to make San Jose an even more inclusive and progressive city, with a high quality of life for all San Joseans.

Currently, some of the biggest threats to our region's stability are our changing climate, and the growing number of residents burdened by rising housing costs, not to mention the thousands of our neighbors without homes. We believe that San Jose is in a unique position to be able to address both our climate and housing goals by prioritizing housing development in the urban core, taking advantage of historically underutilized developed land, and avoiding sprawl on our open spaces that are our remaining local sources of food and drinking water and provide flood protection to our homes and families.

If San José pursues redevelopment in the right way, the City could meet targets for new jobs and the growing demand for new homes while protecting open space. This can be done by encouraging more intensive and more efficient uses of the land resources we have. This will mean incentivizing more housing in our neighborhoods through more dense housing types, allowing greater flexibility to build housing in the high-growth areas of the city, proactive planning to meet ambitious affordable housing targets, and continued prioritization of mixed use developments that provides housing, jobs, amenities and services within walking and biking distance of transit.

Not only is it convenient and more affordable for residents to cut their commutes by living near employment centers and transit hubs, but it is also climate-smart and environmentally necessary. It reduces our greenhouse gas emissions, and allows our irreplaceable working natural and agricultural lands, such as Coyote Valley, to continue to produce our clean drinking water and air. It also provides economical flood protection and other critical climate resilient functions.

We look forward to working with the city through the General Plan review process to create a future-looking and prosperous San Jose.

Sincerely,

Kiyomi Honda Yamamoto
South Bay Advocacy Manager,
Greenbelt Alliance

Mathew Reed
Policy Manager,
Silicon Valley at Home

Linda Hutchins-Knowles
California Senior Organizer,
Mothers Out Front

Michelle Huttenhoff
San Jose Policy Director,
SPUR

Alice Kaufman
Legislative Advocacy Director,
Committee for Green Foothills