

# California Legislature



October 27, 2020

Envision San José 2040 General Plan Task Force  
City of San José  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

**RE: Meeting #9: Coyote Valley and Redistribution of Planned Growth on October 29, 2020**

Dear Envision San José 2040 Task Force Members:

We, the undersigned, write to you today to express our support for the proposed Staff Recommendations related to Coyote Valley, as outlined in the City of San José Staff Memorandum (“Memo”) dated Oct. 22, 2020. 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*).

We are grateful to the City of San José for including in its 2019 Measure T a historic \$50 million investment in natural infrastructure, environmental conservation, and floodplain protection, which are fundamental to the long-term health and sustainability of Coyote Valley, and for supporting the important role that this landscape plays for the greater South Bay region. These investments not only align with the goals set forth by AB 948 and this year’s SB 940, which supports conservation land use changes in San Jose, as well as the Governor’s recent Executive Orders to conserve 30 percent of California’s land and water, but they demonstrate the type of action that we need to be taking in the fight against climate change.

At 7,400 acres, Coyote Valley is one of the last remaining undeveloped valley floors in the greater San Francisco Bay Area and the most critical connection between the Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range. Lying at the core of the 17,200 acre Coyote Valley Conservation Program area, this vital wildlife corridor is home to threatened and endangered wildlife, provides habitat for more than 200 species of birds, remains a secure source of drinking water, and represents the proud heritage of local agriculture in Santa Clara Valley.

We are encouraged as the Envision San José 2040 Task Force, scoped by the foresight of the City Council, considers staff recommendations to the City Council; this decision has the potential to align the General Plan to achieve planned job goals, utilize jobs, and housing opportunities in infill locations, and fulfill the shared conservation vision for Coyote Valley. The Task Force’s focus during its Oct. 29 meeting on “Coyote Valley and Redistribution of Planned Growth” will complete another major milestone in the joint efforts to consider the conservation

of this important landscape. Coyote Valley, which includes irreplaceable wetlands, active farmlands, and accessible open space, also plays a crucial role in reducing the risk of natural disasters by capturing and storing floodwaters and limiting development within the wildland-urban interface. By expanding efforts to further preserve and invest in the long-term environmental sustainability of this land, we can help lessen the impact of events similar to the devastating floods along Coyote Creek in 2017. Because of the work of community-based organizations, environmental advocates, and regional sustainability efforts, community appreciation and support for this irreplaceable resource has never been greater.

We applaud the City of San José for making bold recommendations, and Task Force members for considering the preservation of Coyote Valley. We respectfully urge the Task Force to align its recommendations with the staff recommendations, which we believe best utilize this opportunity to preserve this remarkable place for people, wildlife, and our collective future.

Sincerely,



Ash Kalra  
27th Assembly District



Jim Beall  
15th Senate District



Bill Monning  
17th Senate District



Robert Rivas  
30th Assembly District



Mark Stone  
29th Assembly District



Kansen Chu  
25th Assembly District