



**Local Agency
Formation Commission
of Santa Clara County**

777 North First Street
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SantaClaraLAFCO.org

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October 27, 2020

VIA E-MAIL [GeneralPlanStaff@sanjoseca.gov]

Envision San Jose 2040 4-Year Review Task Force and Staff
City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

**RE: October 29, 2020 Envision San José 2040 Task Force Meeting -
Agenda Item 4: Staff Recommendation on the Future of Coyote Valley**

Dear Task Force and Staff,

Thank you for providing the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of Santa Clara with an opportunity to review and provide comments on City staff recommendations on the long-term future of Coyote Valley. It is our understanding that the Envision San José 2040 Task Force will consider these recommendations at its October 29, 2020 Meeting.

Santa Clara LAFCO is a state mandated independent local agency established to regulate the boundaries of cities and special districts in Santa Clara County. Our mission is to promote sustainable growth and good governance in the county by preserving agricultural lands and open space, curbing urban sprawl, and encouraging efficient delivery of services.

Coyote Valley is a unique and special place in Santa Clara County. Last year, LAFCO staff from counties across the state visited Coyote Valley as part of a LAFCO mobile workshop on how preservation of open space and agricultural lands and revitalization of the downtown go hand in hand in building climate and economic resilience. The group learned how preservation of Coyote Valley can optimize agricultural operations on the urban edge, improve wildlife resilience, and positively impact water resources.

Santa Clara LAFCO is in support of staff recommendations on the long-term future of Coyote Valley – North, Mid and South Coyote Valley. We agree with staff's recommendation to not support urban development in the Mid-Coyote Valley Urban Reserve even beyond 2040. We also agree that at some point in the future, it would be appropriate for the City to request an urban service area amendment to exclude lands not planned for urban development and services. We urge the Task Force to approve staff recommendations, which will help prevent sprawl, promote efficient service provision, ensure more efficient use of existing services in urbanized areas,

protect open space and agricultural lands, and help minimize climate change risks consistent with the goals of the regional Sustainable Communities Strategies – Plan Bay Area 2040.

Thank you again for providing us with the opportunity to comment on this important project. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Dunia Noel, Assistant Executive Officer, at dunia.noel@ceo.sccgov.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "N Palacherla".

Neelima Palacherla
LAFCO Executive Officer

Cc: LAFCO Members