



SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

October 28, 2020

**GP 4 Yr. Review Task Force via email**

Re: Staff Memorandum for October 29, 2020 TASK FORCE MEETING

Dear Envision San Jose 2040 4-Year Review Task Force,

**Please support the Staff recommendations!**

Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter and its 40,000 members and supporters have been concerned about the continuing loss of open space for many decades as have been the Santa Clara County planners, political leadership, and residents who created the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority which has been so helpful in compiling the science and economics behind our desire to conserve the natural resources of Coyote Valley. So, we especially want to **thank the General Plan Staff** for their hard work and dedication in developing the scientifically and economically sound recommendations for Coyote Valley. The meeting materials lay out the vision for conservation of the wildlife habitat, floodplains, groundwater, and farmland of Coyote Valley, providing climate change resilience. And its prescriptions for redesignation and programs are well reasoned implementations needed to achieve this vision so many of us have long awaited.

The financial model the city has pursued in the last 50 years is broken. San Jose has overbuilt on the fringe resulting in properties begging the question of use; and distressed by ongoing economic forces such as on-line shopping. Focusing on downtown allows us to concentrate development where it has traditionally and resiliently been built.

Twenty years ago, Dan Kalb, then director of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club said, "Coyote Valley is the rural fringe of San Jose far from where people live." "An urban, downtown campus, closer to transit, would be better in almost every way imaginable [than building it out]." It is rewarding to see this vision come to fruition with redeployment of jobs to downtown and development of the Downtown West Mixed-use Project and Diridon Station Area Plan.

Properly addressing the region's growth and addressing San Jose's jobs to housing imbalance in the face of sea level rise and other environmental issues will continue to be a significant challenge but, particularly with new VMT rules and urgency to address climate impacts, moving forward with the conservation vision for Coyote Valley is an historic move in the right direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Poeschel".

David W. Poeschel, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Open Space Committee Chair

Katja Irvin, Gladwyn d'Souza, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Conservation Committee Co-chairs