

MARGIE MATTHEWS
1010 Noble Avenue
San Jose, CA 95132

October 29, 2020

Envision 2040 Task Force
City of San Jose
% GeneralPlanStaff@sanjoseca.gov

Agenda Item 4, Coyote Valley, Recommendation# 1, Alviso

I am in favor of most of the recommendations regarding the long term future of Coyote Valley which calls for the the protection of Coyote Valley and further actions to support the City's economic development. The staff memo is a good capture of the distant and recent history of long range planning for the area and a thoughtful plan for the future.

However, I do not support Recommendation #1 as it is written:

“Reallocate all 35,000 jobs from North Coyote Valley, specifically reallocate 5,000 jobs to Alviso Master Plan Employment Lands Growth Area and 30,000 jobs to the Downtown Growth Area.”

I intend to offer a friendly amendment to Recommendation #1 to replace the word “Reallocate” to:

“ . . . evaluate, in conjunction with the Alviso Community, the possibility of reallocating . . . “

Alviso must be protected. In the 1990s the City worked with Alviso residents and other stakeholders to prepare an Alviso Masterplan to protect historic nature of the town and provide careful planning, better infrastructure, and improved services to the residents. The community must be consulted about any major changes to its environment.

Alviso is the City's only access to San Francisco Bay, an asset long overlooked and degraded by the City, with landfills, sewage treatment plants, and poor planning.

Alviso has a long history of flooding during storms from both rising Bay tides and the Guadalupe and Coyote Creeks. These regular threats can only get worse with climate change. The City needs to attend to infrastructure in that area to protect not only the town and its existing assets, but also the low-lying parts of the City, including the Downtown.

Alviso's value has long been recognized as a treasured area of open space, with Marina, the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, the Bay Trail, and hiking and biking trails on the Guadalupe and Coyote Creeks.

Alviso has several unique historic assets that have yet to be recognized and preserved. The adjacency of Alviso to the greater Santa Clara Valley with its open space and historic assets make it an accessible cultural and environmental amenity for our urban population.

I respectfully request that Recommendation #1 be amended so that further study and community participation can be achieved.

Sincerely,

Margie Matthews
Envision 2040 Task Force Member
Former Councilmember District 4