

**Mayor Sam Liccardo April 28, 2021 Lead Witness Testimony for Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, in Support of SB7**

Chairperson Rivas, Vice Chair Flora, and members of this Committee: thank you for your leadership in this historic and deeply challenging moment. Thank you also for taking up Senate Bill 7 early in this session, and for your past support of SB995 last year.

My city of San Jose and several other cities have had certified AB900 projects delayed by this pandemic. As an example, San Jose's Downtown West project comprises one of the most beneficially impactful private sector investments in California history, offering concrete solutions to our greatest crises:

- Confronting our affordable housing crisis with the production of more than 4,000 high-density homes, at least 25% of which will be rent-restricted and affordable;
- Addressing our state's 8% unemployment rate by creating 5,700 prevailing-wage construction jobs to build an urban village of more than 7 million square feet of commercial development that will enable longer-term employment of tens of thousands of Californians;
- Countering climate change by maximizing the highest possible densities around San Jose's Downtown central station serving seven major transit systems—BART, CalTrain, ACE, Capitol Corridor, High Speed Rail, VTA light rail, and bus-rapid-transit---constructing at LEED Gold standard, with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, along with the development of 15 acres of parks and green spaces;
- Finally, as this pandemic exacerbates California's stark economic divide, Google's project will produce more than \$1 billion in public benefits, including an unprecedented \$200 million fund for anti-displacement, job training, education, and homelessness solutions.

We hope that with legislative approval, we'll be able to get shovels into the ground after my City Council's approval on May 25<sup>th</sup>, so that we can realize the most transformative investment in the history of Northern California's largest city, and so that many other cities can get their affordable housing projects underway. I deeply appreciate your time and consideration of my advocacy.