



HEALTHTrust

August 15, 2011

John Davidson
Department of Planning, Building, & Code Enforcement
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Davidson and Members of the General Plan Task Force:

On behalf of The Health Trust, a Silicon Valley nonprofit foundation committed to advancing wellness, I am writing to provide feedback on the draft EIR, and commend the City for its efforts to make the City of San Jose a healthy city for all through the City's General Plan.

We have actively monitored a number of General Plan processes in Santa Clara County, and San Jose presents the strongest policy language in support of healthy communities that we are aware of in the area. As Public Health Law and Policy wrote in its submitted memo following the release of the draft General plan:

"The draft Plan represents one of the strongest land use policy statements on healthy communities that we are aware of in California to-date..." and "Overall, the current draft does an excellent job of identifying clear and specific goals, policies, and objectives. Adopting a plan with such a clear and specific policy framework will go far to ensure that San Jose's vision for a healthy community becomes a reality."

Following the release of the draft plan, we recognize that the City reviewed and integrated many of the policy changes suggested by The Health Trust and our partners to further strengthen the plan's commitment to increasing access to healthy food resources and provide opportunities to be physically active.

As the Planning Department and Taskforce is reviewing comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report and drafting the final plan to be submitted to the Council, we would like to reiterate The Health Trust's priority for inclusion of the strongest health policies possible. It is important that the General Plan continues to call for increased access to healthy foods, walkable and bikeable communities, transit-oriented development, and improved access to parks, trails and open space.

In order to move toward a healthier city and region, the Taskforce must continue to:

1. **Commit to a broad perspective on health and healthy communities as a guiding principle** throughout the various elements of the Plan. Incorporating health language reinforces the community's commitment to considering and ultimately improving health outcomes in all decisions made.
2. **Ensure the plan's healthy community goals are supported by specific policies and implementation/ action items.** Overall, the current draft does an excellent job of identifying clear and specific goals, policies, and objectives. Adopting a plan with such a clear and specific policy framework will go far to ensure that San Jose's vision for a healthy community becomes a reality.

On behalf of my staff and all our community partners, I would like to thank you again for your continued efforts, and we applaud your work on an exemplary draft Plan. If you would like further details of any of the information provided in this letter please do not hesitate to contact Rachel Poplack, Director of Healthy Living at (408) 961-9897.

Yours in health,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frederick J. Ferrer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Frederick J. Ferrer
CEO

Cc: General Plan Task Force Members