



Santa Clara County  
**Open Space Authority**

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August 15, 2011

John Davidson, Senior Planner  
Department of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street, Tower 3  
San Jose, CA 95113-1905

Project: Draft Program EIR For Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan

Dear Mr. Davidson:

The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Program EIR for Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan and has the following comments:

The Open Space Authority's mission is to acquire and protect a regional system of open space and greenbelts. The Authority is committed to preserving connected habitat to ensure viability of endangered species and to conserve working lands to sustain our agricultural economy.

The Open Space Authority recognizes the proposed Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan provides a vision of future growth, development, and provision of municipal services for San Jose. However, as indicated in the proposed General Plan, implementation will likely result in development of the remaining agricultural sites designated as prime farmland within the Urban Service Area of the City of San Jose. Significant unavoidable impacts are proposed for the loss of this prime farm land and that no reasonable mitigation measures are available to reduce the loss. The Authority encourages the City to consider participation in an appropriate agricultural mitigation plan to mitigate or avoid the loss of agricultural lands.

The Open Space Authority commends the City of San Jose for emphasis on sustainability throughout the proposed General Plan, that include updated policies that ensure that future development in the planned Growth areas will be integrated into the existing urban structure with the least amount of conflict with agricultural uses in surrounding areas as well as addressing reduction to adverse impacts to greenbelt and natural habitat uses along city's edge.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the PEIR for the Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan.

Sincerely,

Andrea Mackenzie  
General Manager  
Santa Clara County Open Space Authority