



To: Envision San José 2040 Task Force
From: Trixie Johnson for the League of Women Voters
San Jose/Santa Clara
Date: May 15, 2010

Subject: Urban Agriculture policy proposals; Urban Edge Agriculture

The League strongly supports the concept in general of encouraging urban agriculture as well as the proposed policies and goals. In particular we note that Policy UA-1.3 references the protection and preservation of farmlands within San Jose's sphere of influence, not just those within the urban limit line. The protection of these lands, particularly in the Coyote Valley, will allow even more production of local produce than any that can be achieved in the urban area.

The task force should consider some criteria for urban agriculture lands that will address the potential conflict between this use and potentially valuable infill, such as lands near transit hubs or in planned villages. Even temporary agricultural use will create considerable difficulty in converting the land at a later time. The city should be anticipating the possibility of creating a future "BAREC" and have policies and procedures to assure appropriate location of urban agriculture uses.

We urge the city to include specific policies and goals for Urban Edge Agriculture to complement the Urban Agriculture section under consideration this evening. The general plan also should address the development and adoption of a mitigation plan for conversion of agricultural lands, preferably one that will assure the viability of urban edge agriculture in the San Jose sphere of influence.