

May 27, 2008

To: Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan Update Task Force,
Michael Brilliot, Michael.Brilliot@sanjoseca.gov

From: Save Coyote Valley Coalition
Leila Forouhi, Forouhi@myway.com

Dear General Plan Update Task Force,

At a time when responsible land use choices are most critical in sustaining environmental health at the local level, the Save Coyote Valley Coalition is asking that the San Jose General Plan be updated to include the protection of Coyote Valley from future urban development for these following reasons:

- 1) It is the last remaining area that is substantially undeveloped in the Coyote Creek Watershed within the City of San Jose;
- 2) Biological studies by De Anza College and other stakeholders have determined that Coyote Valley is being utilized by wildlife as a corridor between the Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range, making this area critical to maintaining healthy populations of wildlife species;
- 3) The local Tribes of the Amah Mutsun and Muwekma Ohlone Indians, two groups who have been historically under represented in political processes but have deep rooted cultural heritage to the land, have real concerns that further development of Coyote Valley will disturb burial remains of their ancestors; and
- 4) Current public land use policies direct public policy makers to preserve the remaining open spaces and to concentrate on infill development practices,
 - a. The City of San Jose's Environmental Services Department highlighted the importance of preserving open space, protecting creeks, and low impact development (i.e. infill) during their presentation at the last Task Force meeting on April 28th, 2008; and
 - b. According to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), a regional organization known as a Council of Governments which makes population projects and allocations of regional housing needs for Bay Area cities, the Bay Area's population is projected to grow by about 2 million people between 2005 and 2035. However, its recommendations for housing and job growth are specified to be compact, infill development near existing transit and job centers specified its 2007 report, A Place to Call Home: Housing in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Thank-you for you consideration to this issue. Our organization strongly feels that a collaborative solution to preserving the integrity of Coyote Valley can be achieved through planning policy. We are open to further discussion on this issue and welcome any comments or concerns.

Regards,

Leila Forouhi
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