

To: Envision San Jose 2040

Sep 22, '08

My name is Patrick Pizzo and I was born and raised in San Jose. I am against the development of 100-acres of the 150 acre Fairground Site for housing and commercial development. With the current approach of hiring Catellus to develop a plan that will require annexation by the City of San Jose, revenue generation will be first and foremost the determining factor for disposition of the Fairgrounds. An economically challenged Santana Row will result. County residents, the owners of the property will not have an alternative choice, unless the Board of Supervisors expresses a No-vote, an unlikely scenario. I suggest an alternative and parallel effort, one that will make this open-space available for recreational, communal and cultural opportunities, one that will give County residents a clear choice of the disposition of this unique and historical site.

I propose a bond measure be put forth, one timed to coincide with the submission and review of the Catellus project. The ballot would be for development of the whole of the 150-acre site for a central park for the County. The needs met by the current facilities would be retained, although modernized; and the grounds would be integrated into the park. The park would feature amenities such as an Olympic-size pool, primarily for swim-instruction of low, socioeconomic children; and for aerobic conditioning of adults. A community center featuring exercise, dance and sports areas would be included. Grounds would also support a sports complex for soccer and baseball; and an Olympic BMX training track and a dog-park. Other amenities would include, but not be limited to, a 600-seat, open air, amphitheater, open park and picnic grounds, lawn bowling, outdoor game-tables, rollerblading, etc. A series of youth educational facilities would be strategically located near Franklin School and integrated with the Central park, facilities where children could learn about our agricultural and technological roots. The first State-Capitol building would be similarly incorporated.

The bond would be for a per-household fee of \$38 per year for 10 years, and should raise over \$750 million dollars. Revenues generated from the Park would be reinvested in park maintenance and update. A bond measure would provide County Residents a decisive vote for the park, or by default, a decisive show of support for residential/commercial development.

