

Subject: San Jose General Plan

Dear Mr. Crabtree: Please forward the following letter to the General Plan Task Force before their 5/26/09 meeting. Thank you.

May 21, 2009

To the San Jose General Plan Task Force

From Emily M. Renzel

I am writing to you as a former San Josean and also a former Palo Alto Councilmember and Planning Commissioner. It has been heart breaking for me to see San Jose sprawl farther and farther into surrounding farmlands and from my perspective that sprawl can only equate into huge infrastructure and service costs for the city -- particularly for the hilly areas. No matter how balanced jobs and housing in a particular development may be, there is no guarantee at all that there will not be both in-commuting and out-commuting.

San Jose already has a major commute corridor coming from the South - Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and San Benito County. It doesn't make sense to compound that problem by continuing to sprawl into farmland by developing Coyote Valley and Almaden Valley.

Over the very long haul, nearby Class A farmland will be critical to having a sustainable city and I urge you to draw your urban service boundary very tightly from here on out.

Sincerely,

Emily M. Renzel (Palo Alto Councilmember 1979-91)
1056 Forest Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301