Housing Choices Coalition

Opening New Doors for People with Developmental Disabilities

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CITY OF SAN JOSE
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Coyote Valley Task Force
City of San Jose Planning Department
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA. 95113

February 7th, 2006

To the Coyote Valley Task Force:

Housing Choices Coalition, a non-profit organization committed to providing affordable housing for people with developmental disabilities, strongly encourages the Coyote Task Force to advocate for affordable housing in this new development area. We are excited for the expansion of San Jose, but we understand that this growth will need to be supported by a sufficient amount of housing that is affordable to all types of households. For people with developmental disabilities, our typical client cannot work full time and therefore receive Social Security benefits, averaging about $800 a month. With that small amount, we encourage developers and city planning agencies to create a generous amount of housing for this special needs population. Currently we have 1,200 clients on our waiting list, all having to wait patiently for affordable units that would allow them to live without the fear of being homeless because rent is unaffordable.

Apart from our clients, creating affordable housing developed for the extremely low income citizens would be an integral part to the success of Coyote Valley. This population should be given an opportunity to be part of this new community as they would support and participate equally as any other citizen would.

The general goals that we advocate for in the Coyote Housing Development plan are the following:

- A minimum of 20% Affordable Housing (approx. 5,000 units), for both rental and homeownership.
- 1,500 units of the total 5,000 units would be allocated for extremely low income households making less than 30% HUD guidelines. These units should include leasing preferences for the developmental, physical, and mentally disabled population.
- These extremely low income units would be integrated throughout the Coyote Valley Community.

Housing Choices Coalition would like to commend the Task Forces' efforts to include affordable housing in Coyote Valley. We look forward to working closely with the City of San Jose to participate in building an integrated affordable community that would allow our clients to live successfully.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jackson

Lisa Jackson, Executive Director

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