



CITY OF MORGAN HILL

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DENNIS KENNEDY
MAYOR

December 10, 2004

The Honorable Ron Gonzales and
Members of the City Council
City of San Jose
801 North First St.
San Jose, CA 95110-1704

Subject: Significant Issues Regarding Coyote Valley Specific Plan

Dear Mayor Gonzales and Members of the City Council:

The development of Coyote Valley is of critical interest to all agencies in the South County area. If planned properly, the area will serve as an example to the entire country of the benefits of smart growth and livable cities concepts. The City's planning efforts will be appreciated by all who live and work in the Valley. It will be an area we can all point to with pride.

For more than six months, South County agencies have participated in the Coyote Valley Specific Plan process through community workshops, Technical Advisory Committee and Task Force meetings. The countless hours of participation in these meetings have been provided with the expectation that our concerns will be addressed and our input will be incorporated into the planning for this important area. In August, South County agencies forwarded a letter to Mayor Gonzales requesting answers to critical questions about the planning for this area. To date, we have received no response to our concerns and issues. Specifically, we asked that our concerns be addressed prior to submittal of the conceptual plan to the Council which we now understand is scheduled for January 25, 2005.

We have provided the City with information regarding our school campus needs in order to provide quality educational environments for the children who will live in Coyote Valley. Rather than working with us to meet these needs, we are told how smaller, sub-standard sites should be sufficient for our children.

We have asked questions about traffic impacts and been told that the information will be included in the EIR for the project, long after any modifications to the plan could be made to mitigate those impacts in a meaningful way.

We have asked for information regarding the financing of infrastructure improvements. We have been told that information would be available at the same meeting at which the Task Force will be asked to approve the conceptual land use plan, virtually eliminating any meaningful dialogue regarding financing of schools and other infrastructure improvements.

This on-going failure to address our issues and apparent overriding objective to approve a plan by the end of 2005, regardless of its content and impact, leave us with no option but to oppose the City's plans. Based on the information provided by the City, we believe the density of development proposed for Coyote Valley is too great and that it will have significant impacts for the immediate area and all of South County.

Should the City delay Task Force approval of a preferred land use plan and work cooperatively with South County agencies to amend the plan in a way which addresses our concerns, we would gladly endorse your planning efforts and promote their successes. Otherwise, we will need to evaluate other options available to us to ensure its failures do not impact the South County area.

Sincerely,



Dennis Kennedy
Mayor

And on behalf of the following:

- Don Gage, Supervisor, Santa Clara County, Member CVSP Task Force
- Russ Danielson, Member CVSP Task Force
- Shelle Thomas, President, Board of Trustees, Morgan Hill Unified School District
- Dr. Carolyn McKennan, Superintendent, Morgan Hill Unified School District
- Alex Kennett, Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee
- All members of Morgan Hill City Council

C: Members of the Coyote Valley Specific Plan Task Force
San Jose Mercury News
Morgan Hill Times
Pinnacles Newspaper