

The Friends of the Coyote Valley Greenbelt (FROG)

P. O. Box 7665 San Jose CA 95150-7665

*The Greenbelt is now part reality and part dream...our mission is to realize the dream.*

January 10, 2005

To: Coyote Valley Specific Plan Task Force

From: Friends of the Coyote Valley Greenbelt (FROG)

The Friends of the Coyote Valley Greenbelt (FROG) urge the creation of a mitigation fund for strategic land acquisition as part of a greenbelt program. Establishment of a formal mitigation program is essential to assuring that the greenbelt will be permanent, by providing a base for purchase from property owners who wish to sell and supporting owners who wish to stay to farm.

Further benefits of creating the fund include the ability to leverage the fund by attracting matching funds from organizations like the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority and private foundations. Those partners will not be attracted if there are no committed funds from the Coyote Valley development or if individual developers in Mid-Coyote are negotiating individual mitigation deals on a parcel-by-parcel basis. Losing that leverage potential would be a serious impediment to securing the Greenbelt.

A dedicated fund benefits all - the greenbelt property owners who wish to farm and those who wish to sell, as well as the future residents and businesses of Mid-Coyote who will enjoy the benefits of adjacent agricultural and rural lands. It will also guarantee a continuing rural agricultural area for residents who choose that life style in the greenbelt.

Without funding for strategic land acquisition in the greenbelt we are unlikely to be successful in meeting the Council's directive to assure a permanent greenbelt.

Sincerely

Beth Wyman