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**From:** Leah Halper [lhalper@garlic.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 25, 2005 3:52 PM  
**To:** Salifu.Yakubu@sanjoseca.gov  
**Subject:** Coyote Valley planning

Please distribute this email to the Task Force on Coyote Valley.

Dear Task Force members,

I have lived in Gilroy for fifteen years, and I treasure being in one of the last parts of the Bay Area where there are still undeveloped parcels of land that support agriculture, recreation, and wildlife. My great grandparents moved to a ranch in San Martin in the 1920s, around the time my grandparents moved to Willow Glen in 1924. We have strong deep ties to this area, and my family has witnessed its awful explosion and urbanization. That's why I'm concerned that the city of San Jose not abandon its general plan in looking at the future of Coyote Valley.

The triggers in the plan are minimally protective as it is of this sensitive area. If anything there is reason to make them tougher rather than to abandon them. As I'm sure you know, they would ensure that development within the City occurs only when the City is fiscally ready, that development occurs only when actually necessary, and that development proceeds in a way that balances jobs with housing.

I am concerned that the mayor of San Jose and his allies are pushing for reasons that have more to do with wanting a legacy project than with sensible smart development. This is very sad, and very scary: the developments can't be undone, and important habitat will be lost forever. Sprawl would lead to more air pollution and a general degradation of the quality of life here. And there would be a terrible jobs-housing imbalance of the kind that makes soul-less bedroom communities.

Please don't rush to cement over this beautiful area. Evaluate development needs citywide, taking into account downtown and North First Street possibilities, before jumping south to Coyote Valley. And don't abandon the development triggers for Coyote Valley; make them stronger.

Sincerely,

Leah Halper  
Gilroy resident