

Marchese Farms

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August 11th, 2004

Ron Gonzales, Mayor of San Jose
Pat Dando, Vice Mayor of San Jose
San Jose City Council Members
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Coyote Valley Task Force Members

Subject: The Coyote Valley Greenbelt

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our family owns approximately 220 acres located within the Coyote Valley Greenbelt. Through the years, and when appropriate, we have always made our dissatisfaction known regarding the Greenbelt classification. Our particular property is one of those few properties located within the Greenbelt that lies within the city limits of San Jose and was granted zoning for approximately 300 homes in exchange for annexation in 1960 and 1964.

In addition, several of our family members have attended various workshops regarding the Coyote Valley Specific Plan. Initially, it appeared that a sincere effort was being attempted in the potential planning of viable, alternative economic uses for those Greenbelt lands. This, we thought, was a very positive step considering that it had appeared that those lands which reside on the other side of the Greenbelt line were destined to become **NOTHING**.

However, as we have moved through this process and after speaking directly with those in charge of planning and implementing the Coyote Valley Specific Plan, it has become very obvious that nothing is being done to address potential viable uses. It has also come to our attention that the City of San Jose has hired an agricultural consultant to explore various avenues of alternative agricultural uses. We do not want to shortchange your consultant's mission; however, the best source of agricultural information and economic reality should come from those farmers that have actively attempted to make agriculture work within Coyote Valley -- the real farmers that is.

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TRUCK FARMING AND ORCHARDS

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At the various public meetings, it has been brought to the floor that agriculture is no longer viable in this area, and various groups have expressed the same feeling to those apparently in charge of this process. It appears that this input has fallen on deaf ears. We have farmed this property for over thirty years, but we are approaching the end of its cycle, and our patience, after successive years of losses.

What we are asking for is that the Task Force members, the City Council of San Jose, and the Supervisors of Santa Clara County interrupt the planning of the Coyote Valley Specific Plan and truly involve those stakeholders in the Greenbelt area in all facets from this point forward.

A lot of the literature that has been distributed states that the Greenbelt area is a vital part of the Coyote Valley Specific Plan, but the ironic thing is that the Task Force has no representation from the Greenbelt stakeholders, nor has any true planning about the Greenbelt occurred intangent with the plans for the rest of Coyote Valley. It is strange that the Greenbelt area is referred to as such a vital part of the Coyote Valley Specific Plan, but no input has really been sought from the stakeholders until they demanded it.

As elected and appointed officials, we truly believe that you have the power and the integrity to not discriminate against the Greenbelt stakeholders and to finally incorporate them into the overall planning of the Coyote Valley Specific Plan.

As the schedule has been rapidly progressing, it is of utmost importance that you act immediately to make sure all are included and not excluded in this monumental planning process.

Your prompt attention and integrity are requested.

Sincerely,



Mary Marchese, Rosalie Marchese Cacitti, Carmen & Ray Russo,
Helen & Edward Owen, Leo J. Cacitti, Margy J. Cacitti,
Elizabeth & Melvin Hirata, Lisa & Chris Marchese, Ray Russo, Jr.,
and Camille & Joseph Filizetti.

CJM/cak

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*Coyote Task Force Member