

For Immediate Release:

August 19, 2003

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San José to Focus on Economy and Jobs
*Mayor Gonzales and city council begin a weeklong
forum on economic recovery strategies on Thursday*

San Jose ---- The San José city council will hold a weeklong series of study sessions starting this Thursday to consider practical ways that City Hall and the community together can help put people back to work and restore the local economy.

Mayor Ron Gonzales called upon the city council to focus on strategies for the community to create jobs, attract and retain businesses, and restore economic opportunity for residents and businesses in the face of the prolonged Silicon Valley and national recession.

The workshop sessions begin Thursday, August 21, at the San José McEnery Convention Center, and run through Thursday, August 28.

“Silicon Valley has lost more than 200,000 jobs over the last two years, which is more than rest of California combined” said Gonzales. “Currently almost one out of every ten San José residents who wants to work cannot find a job.

“As a community we have the serious responsibility to do everything we can to get families back to work. Although economic recovery is driven by the private sector, there is much we can do as local government to help economic growth and make sure that Silicon Valley continues to be the engine that drives California’s economy.”

The mayor and council will seek and discuss ideas from a wide range of community stakeholders, including business and industry, labor and community-based organizations, and economic experts.

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Their goal is develop practical recommendations to create a supportive environment for job creation, remove barriers to economic competitiveness, and stimulate recovery in San José.

“We want to make San Jose the best place in America to do business because a strong economy creates opportunity for our families, supports our schools, and pays for quality services that keep our community safe and attractive,” said Gonzales.

“That’s why we must eliminate barriers that can interfere with a healthy business climate, such as unnecessary regulations, while we strengthen our ability to support business success and continue to address the need for affordable housing, better transportation, and quality education. We must keep San Jose competitive, both within our region and with other regions in the nation”

The study sessions are open to the public, and there will be opportunities for public comment at each session. The schedule for topics that will be considered during the week include:

- Thursday, August 21 (opening session) 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon; 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Economic overview – San Jose and Silicon Valley in the context of California’s and the nation’s economy. Among the presenters are the San Jose Office of Economic Development; Doug Henton from Collaborative Economics; and AnnaLee Saxenian, Professor of City and Regional Planning at UC Berkeley.

- Friday, August 22 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon; 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Industrial issues. Presenters include representatives of a broad range of technology and non-technology firms regarding Silicon Valley factors that affect industrial employment and growth.

Economic opportunities and quality of life in San Jose. Presenters include community-based organizations, labor, environmental, and business associations.

- Monday, August 25 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Doing business in San José – land use and development. Presenters include residential and commercial property developers and managers to discuss issues that affect doing business in San José, including issues of planning, building, and permitting processes.

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- Wednesday, August 27 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Doing business in San José – starting and operating a business. Presenters include small businesses, retail, and services.

- Thursday, August 28 (final session) 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

City Council discussion and possible action regarding opportunities for the City to help get San José families back to work and making San Jose best place in America to do business.

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