



Mr. Andrew Crabtree, Envision Team Leader
Planning, Building and Code Enforcement
San Jose City Hall
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

January 31, 2011

Dear Mr. Crabtree,

Greenbelt Alliance has enjoyed being a part of the Envision 2040 General Plan update as the process has been inclusive and informative. Last fall, we contracted with Public Health Law and Policy to review the Draft Plan for health language, especially as it relates to active transportation, parks and trails, and healthy food access. Greenbelt Alliance first became familiar with Public Health Law and Policy (PHLP) when the City of San Jose invited Heather Wooten to present to the Task Force in the beginning phase of the update process.

Attached to this letter is the Health Policy Recommendations memo as drafted by PHLP for Greenbelt Alliance and The Health Trust. As the attached memo states, *“The draft Plan represents one of the strongest land use policy statements on healthy communities that we are aware of in California to-date...”* and *“Overall, the current draft does an excellent job of identifying clear and specific goals, policies, and objectives. Adopting a plan with such a clear and specific policy framework will go far to ensure that San Jose’s vision for a healthy community becomes a reality.”*

Greenbelt Alliance commends the City of San Jose for weaving health goals and policies throughout the Draft Plan in a manner that is clear and concrete. We support PHLP in their suggestions for further “stretch” policies, especially:

MAIN OFFICE • 631 Howard Street, Suite 510, San Francisco, CA 94105 • (415) 543-6771 • Fax (415) 543-6781
SOUTH BAY OFFICE • 1922 The Alameda, Suite 213, San Jose, CA 95126 • (408) 983-0856 • Fax (408) 983-1001
EAST BAY OFFICE • 1601 North Main Street, Suite 105, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 • (925) 932-7776 • Fax (925) 932-1970
SONOMA OFFICE • 555 5th Street, Suite 300B, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 • (707) 575-3661 • Fax (707) 575-4275
MARIN OFFICE • 30 North San Pedro Road, Suite 285, San Rafael, CA 94903 • (415) 491-4993 • Fax (415) 491-4734
SOLANO-NAPA OFFICE • 1652 West Texas Street, Suite 163, Fairfield, CA 94533 • (707) 427-2308 • Fax (707) 427-2315

INFO@GREENBELT.ORG • WWW.GREENBELT.ORG

- Ensure that bicycle and pedestrian facilities are prioritized in low-income communities, which are less likely to have access to a private automobile, and thus more likely to be dependent on walking and bicycling for transportation.
- Replace words like, “encourage,” “consider,” and “recommend” with words like “require,” in order to adopt enforceable policies.
- Implement parking demand management for development near transit in order to promote substantial transit ridership and ensure that transit users can walk or bike safely to transit hubs.
- Explicitly state the need to engage in joint-use agreements with schools in order to open school grounds and recreational facilities to the community after school hours.
- Substantially increase the number of community garden plots available to residents. PHLP’s recent Santa Clara Healthy Food Resource Assessment discovered that there are 737 San Jose residents on a waitlist for a community garden plot.
- Commit to identifying a new, affordable and accessible location for the Berryessa Flea Market produce vendors, such as within the planned mixed use development around the future Berryessa BART station.

San Jose’s Planning Department has gone to great lengths to ensure the Draft General Plan incorporates some of the best thinking around health language. Greenbelt Alliance encourages the City to maintain these policies in the Final Plan and advocates that language is strengthened as per the suggestions of Public Health Law and Policy. Greenbelt Alliance is committed to seeing Envision San Jose 2040 be a model for an equitable, sustainable and healthy General Plan.

Sincerely,



Michele Beasley
Senior Field Representative

MAIN OFFICE • 631 Howard Street, Suite 510, San Francisco, CA 94105 • (415) 543-6771 • Fax (415) 543-6781
 SOUTH BAY OFFICE • 1922 The Alameda, Suite 213, San Jose, CA 95126 • (408) 983-0856 • Fax (408) 983-1001
 EAST BAY OFFICE • 1601 North Main Street, Suite 105, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 • (925) 932-7776 • Fax (925) 932-1970
 SONOMA OFFICE • 555 5th Street, Suite 300B, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 • (707) 575-3661 • Fax (707) 575-4275
 MARIN OFFICE • 30 North San Pedro Road, Suite 285, San Rafael, CA 94903 • (415) 491-4993 • Fax (415) 491-4734
 SOLANO-NAPA OFFICE • 1652 West Texas Street, Suite 163, Fairfield, CA 94533 • (707) 427-2308 • Fax (707) 427-2315

INFO@GREENBELT.ORG • WWW.GREENBELT.ORG