

# San Jose All District Leadership Group

Council Districts: D1 - D2 - D3 - D4 - D5 - D6 - D8 - D9 - D10  
San Jose, California

Planning Commission

via email, sent November 14, 2022

re: Nov. 16th Agenda Item 5c: Update to City Council Policy 5-1

Dear Commissioners,

The San Jose All District Leadership Group (SJADLG) is a consortium of the leadership of the active San Jose leadership groups. The purpose of the SJADLG is to strengthen two-way communication between neighborhoods and government agencies and representatives and build a stronger sense of community within all Districts in the City of San Jose.

The SJADLG discussed aspects of the proposed changes to City Council Policy 5-1 titled "Transportation Analysis Policy". Most of the changes recommended by Staff address the priorities of protecting and improving the environment by limiting Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) while at the same time addressing the need for affordable housing projects and market rate projects in designated City Planned Growth Areas. We in the SJADLG appreciate the pressing need for affordable housing and the need to protect the environment, and we also appreciate the challenge of balancing these two competing priorities, and so we do not take a position on the matter.

We are concerned by the "Alternative Recommendation by the Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment", p. 12 et seq in the [Staff Report](#)<sup>1</sup>. As the Staff report notes and as community members and leaders expressed to the Committee, this seems to be driven by a single project to allow the Pleasant Hill Golf Course to redevelop into housing or other uses not approved by the current General Plan designation. This developer should follow the standard process for such a project: (1) be annexed into the city, (2) be rezoned, and (3) follow "a transparent community engagement process, similar to an Urban Village process, to determine how the development of the site could meet the needs of its future residents, the larger community, and the City." However, rather than following the standard process, a Committee member's alternative recommendation would help short-circuit the process. Staff have complied with this request by documenting this "Alternative Recommendation" while noting that they do not support it.

We in the SJADLG are very concerned by this "Alternative Recommendation" for a number of reasons:

1. It does not seem appropriate for the City to change policy citywide for the benefit of a single developer; and
2. We are very concerned by the possibility of "unintended consequence" and the chance that the Alternative Recommendation might enable entirely inappropriate development elsewhere, such as in the bay lands, Coyote Valley, Edenvale, or elsewhere; and
3. Appropriate development of the parcel should be a transparent community engagement process

We support Staff in “not recommending the inclusion of the alternative recommendation in an updated Policy 5-1.” We urge you to reject the Alternative Recommendation.

Thank you.

Greg Peck, SJADLG, President

Gary Cunningham – District 1

Lalbabu (Babu) Prasad – District 2

Joan Rivas-Cosby – District 3

Linda Locke – District 4

Juan Estrada – District 5

Larry Ames – District 6

Pat Waite – District 8

Bobbi Pena-Atak – District 9

David Heindel – District 10

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showdocument?id=91903&t=638035887653451664>