



COMMITTEE FOR  
GREEN FOOTHILLS

May 18, 2019

Re: Item 4.3 – San José Downtown Design Guidelines and Standards: **Environmental Groups Support for Staff Recommendations**

Dear Mayor Liccardo and San Jose Council Members,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, the Committee for Green Foothills, the South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition, Greenbelt Alliance, Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge and Mothers Out Front South Bay are non-profit organizations with thousands of members and supporters in San Jose. Our organizations care deeply about environmental health and about creek corridors and their ecosystems, and we engage in conservation, education and restoration activities that bring people to learn, clean, and enjoy the watersheds of San Jose.

At your April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Council directed staff to continue working on the Bird-Safe Design section of the San José Downtown Design Guidelines and Standards (Section

4.4.2). We commend staff on their work to draft Guidelines and Standards that offer protection to birds along downtown creek corridors. Recognizing that this is a compromise, we thank staff – especially planners Tim Rood and Leila Hakimizadeh - for their sincere effort and diligence. We hope that you vote in support of staff recommendations.

This should be a step forward in protecting the birds along San Jose's watersheds and allowing them to persist in the riparian corridors of the City, for the benefit of all residents.

Sincerely

Katja Irvin,  
Co-Chair, Conservation Committee  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Shani Kleinhaus  
Environmental Advocate  
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Deb Kramer  
Executive Director  
Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

Steve Holmes  
Executive Director  
South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition

Alice Kaufman  
Legislative Advocacy Director,  
Green Foothills

Anne Stauffer  
Volunteer  
Mothers Out Front South Bay

Brian Schmidt  
Program Director  
Greenbelt Alliance

Eileen McLaughlin  
Board Member,  
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge