



COMMITTEE FOR  
GREEN FOOTHILLS



SIERRA  
CLUB  
LOMA PRIETA



Santa Clara Valley  
Audubon Society



GREENBELT ALLIANCE  
Open Spaces & Vibrant Places



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
of San Jose and Santa Clara

March 7, 2018

Mayor Sam Liccardo and San Jose City Council  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: March 8, 2018 Special City Council Meeting  
Agenda Item 3.1: Potential June 5, 2018 Ballot Measure(s)

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Councilmembers,

This represents the comments of the League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara, the Committee for Green Foothills, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, and Greenbelt Alliance with regard to the above-referenced agenda item.

Our organizations oppose the Evergreen Senior Homes Initiative (Evergreen Initiative), which the City Council recently voted to place on the June 5, 2018 ballot. We oppose the Initiative due to our concerns about the potential significant deleterious impacts the Evergreen Initiative could have on the residents of San Jose, including our members and supporters. Collectively, our organizations represent over 13,000 residents of San Jose.

In particular, we believe that the Evergreen Initiative as written is contrary to the vision and goals of the San Jose Envision 2040 General Plan, which was created as a result of an extended 4-year public process that included over 50 public meetings of a 37-member task force and over 5,000 public comments received from community members.

Community opposition to the Evergreen Initiative is widespread and pervasive. There have been numerous articles, op-eds, editorials, columns, letters to the editor, and other commentaries pointing out the potential negative impacts of the Evergreen Initiative. The following is only a partial list:

- “Editorial: Evergreen homes initiative isn’t about housing shortage; it’s about greed,” Mercury News, published October 8, 2017 (<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/10/08/editorial-evergreen/>)
- “Herhold: San Jose’s senior homes measure is a bad idea,” Mercury News, published September 25, 2017 (<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/09/25/senior-homes-measure-is-a-bad-idea/>)
- “Voters asked to rewrite zoning for more housing in East San Jose,” Mercury News, published September 24, 2017 (<https://www.mercurynews.com/2017/09/24/voters-asked-to-rewrite-zoning-for-more-housing/>)
- “Affordable senior housing proposal is ‘billionaires building a gated community for millionaires’,” Silicon Valley Business Journal, published September 26, 2017 (<https://www.bizjournals.com/sanjose/news/2017/09/26/san-jose-evergreen-senior-homes-proposal-liccardo.html>)
- “Stop Deceptive San Jose developers’ Evergreen initiative,” Jim Beall, Ken Yeager and Blanca Alvarado, Mercury News, published February 15, 2018 (<https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/02/15/opinion-stop-deceptive-san-jose-developers-evergreen-initiative/>)
- “Letter: What Evergreen backers don’t want you to know,” Letters to the Editor, Mercury News, published February 16, 2018 (<https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/02/16/letter-what-evergreen-backers-dont-want-you-to-know/>)

- “Letter: Evergreen Initiative sprawl could threaten Coyote Valley,” Letters to the Editor, Mercury News, published February 14, 2018 (<https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/02/14/letter-evergreen-initiative-sprawl-could-threaten-coyote-valley/>)
- “Letter: Evergreen land developers’ records may belie their appeals,” Letters to the Editor, Mercury News, published February 22, 2018 (<https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/02/22/letter-land-developers-records-often-belie-their-appeals/>)

Sincerely,

Megan Medeiros, Executive Director  
Committee for Green Foothills

Shani Kleinhaus, Environmental Advocate  
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

James Eggers, Executive Director  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Brian Schmidt, Program Director  
Greenbelt Alliance

Mary Collins, President  
League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara