



September 26, 2018

Lori Severino and Dave Javid,  
Station Area Advisory Group (SAAG)  
San Jose

Re: Diridon Station Area Civic Engagement Report

**Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society** and the **Sierra Club Loma Prieta** chapter have participated in previous and current efforts to guide the development of the Diridon Station Area Plan (“DSAP”) The DSAP envisions a high-density, mixed-use, vibrant, transit-supportive neighborhood that expands Downtown. Our organizations, in previous and current comments, focused on sustainable development and ecological aspects of the DSAP.

We were remiss in not insisting on an environmental focus group when our request to have a representative on the SAAG was denied. Instead, we used public comment at SAAG meetings - and that was obviously not enough.

We find the Diridon Station Area Civic Engagement Report deficient as it neglects to address concerns we have voiced and to discuss sustainability and ecological context and opportunities.

The draft **San Jose Diridon Station Area Community Engagement Report** has little to no mention of green sustainable buildings and district/campus sustainable utility systems (low impact drainage, water, energy). It is also thin on Ecology – healthy ecosystem design, native plants, setbacks for riparian corridors, bird safe design, and the relations to Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River.

With no representation on the SAAG, we commented on these topics in public comment sections more than once, yet these issues did not make it into the report.

We propose adding a chapter on Sustainability and Ecology to the report, to include:

1) The nine strategies of [Climate Smart San Jose](#)<sup>1</sup>, **should be integrated into the entire plan area and all development projects** in order to meet San José's climate goals. For example, Climate Smart San Jose strategies also call for:

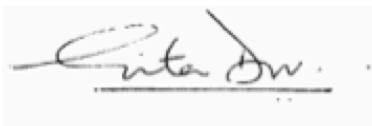
- Transition to a renewable energy future
- Make buildings Net Zero Energy and resource efficient
- Use WELL Building Standards and other referenced standards to create a healthy residential and work environment in buildings.
- Green Infrastructure standards such as LID (Low Impact Development)<sup>2</sup> and others

2) **The Diridon Area Plan should incorporate district-wide and project-specific Urban Habitat Design Guidelines.** The public, semi-public and private open spaces are important opportunities for creating a healthy neighborhood with healthy exterior spaces. The "*Public Space, Creeks and Trails*" section does not include any focus on these issues. Please consider incorporating the attached brief checklist towards creating a healthy urban habitat and ecology.

3) **Two waterways are an important and defining aspect** of the Diridon Station Area Plan. However, has just two sentences on the waterway itself. The Diridon Station Area Plan should include the opportunities and constraints presented by the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek –hydrology and watershed health and ecology must be incorporated as part of the discussion.

We would appreciate an opportunity to provide input to create these important additions or an additional section to the [San Jose Diridon Station Area Community Engagement Report](#).

Thank you,



Gita Dev, Co-Chair  
Sustainable Land Use Committee  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta chapter



Shani Kleinhaus  
Environmental Advocate  
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

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<sup>1</sup> [Climate Smart San Jose, February 2018](#) is San Jose's blueprint to. "...transform into a climate smart city that is substantially decarbonized and meeting requirements of Californian climate change laws – all the while growing our population by 40 percent (*by 2050*)."

<sup>2</sup> The term green infrastructure refers to the management of wet weather flows to refer to the patchwork of natural areas that provide habitat, flood protection, cleaner air and cleaner water, avoids expensive water treatment plants and treats stormwater as a resource rather than a waste product.