



September 26, 2018

Chair Jain and Planning Commissioners
City of Santa Clara

Re: Study Session on Tasman East Specific Plan

Dear Chair Jain and Commissioners,

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter are pleased to find that the EIR for Tasman East discusses and includes mitigation measures to reduce light pollution and the hazards of bird collision with glass in this district. We are greatly appreciative of the work invested here, and would like to make a couple of suggestions:

- MM BIO – 3.1. Interior landscaped areas behind glass (such as in courtyards and atria, corners of buildings and plantings behind glass balustrades) are extremely hazardous to birds as they create a deadly attraction all year long, not only during migration season. We ask that you replace the word “reduce and eliminate...” with “prohibit visibility of internal landscaped area behind glass”. This is very important, as planners and designers often incorporate interior plantings and atria, being unaware of the risk to birds.
- Exterior shades are excellent in reducing light pollution if drawn at night. Please consider adding External Shades to the menu of mitigations for reducing light pollution.

In addition, we hope you suggest that the Tasman East Specific Plan help restore the urban forest to replicate native California oak landscapes within the urban context and the riparian edge of the Guadeloupe River. We encourage the City to require the preservation and planting of oaks, willows and other native species. We recommend the San Francisco Estuary Institute’s Re-oaking Silicon Valley Report¹ and the Urban Habitat Design Guidelines Checklist (please find attached) as the landscape guidelines for the Specific Plan. Suggested Policies:

- Require a vibrant urban forest and a healthy ecology for human health and wellness for a high density residential area

¹ <http://www.sfei.org/documents/re-oaking-silicon-valley>

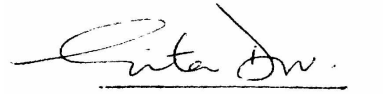
- Encourage the planting of native trees, especially native oaks, to improve the ecological integrity of the urban forest
- Preserve and protect existing native trees through tree protection and education programs
- Prioritize the preservation of trees along riparian corridors and in open space areas

We thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,



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