

San Jose's General Plan on AVCA's April 12 meeting agenda

-Dave Fadness, *Envision San Jose 2040* Task Force member

San Jose's General Plan is about to be released for public review. If approved by the city council this fall, it will be our blueprint for growth through the year 2040. Called *Envision San Jose 2040*, it focuses on making San Jose a sustainable city--economically, fiscally, and environmentally. Proposing to add 470,000 jobs and 120,000 residences by the year 2040, it limits outward expansion in favor of increased density of development within our existing urban area.

San Jose has for too long been Santa Clara County's bedroom community. Our city's ability to provide services is diminished by the resulting poor tax base. A central *Envision San Jose 2040* goal is to reverse a pattern of growth that has provided housing for residents who have jobs and spend their money in other cities. We currently have 0.8 jobs per employed resident; our goal will be to achieve 1.3 J/ER by 2040.

Envision San Jose 2040 proposes significant changes for our city. Here are a few examples in and around our area:

- ★Oakridge Mall vicinity: +9,870 jobs +7,500 dwellings (along Blossom Hill Road from ~¼ mile east of Santa Teresa Blvd to Pioneer High School)
- ★Blossom Hill Road/Cahalan Ave: +810 jobs +600 dwellings
- ★Blossom Hill Road/Snell Ave: +1,480 jobs +1,108 dwellings
- ★Blossom Hill Road/Hitachi site: +2,930 dwellings
- ★Communications Hill: +1,700 jobs +2,772 dwellings
- ★New Edenvale Industrial Reserve: +16,000 jobs
- ★Old Edenvale (Bernal) Industrial Reserve: +31,000 jobs
- ★North Coyote Valley: +50,000 jobs
- ★Downtown San Jose: +48,500 jobs +10,360 dwellings
- ★North San Jose (Golden Triangle): +97,000 jobs +25,380 dwellings

No development will be allowed in the South Almaden Valley Urban Reserve (SAVUR) or Mid-Coyote areas through the 2040 timeframe of this General Plan.

"Green" is a major theme in *Envision San Jose 2040*. It builds on San Jose's Green Vision Goals, adopted in 2007. Public transit, bicycling, and walking will be given priority over cars in order to achieve a 40% reduction in vehicle miles traveled by 2040. Using 2008 as a base, a 50% reduction in per capita energy consumption is targeted by 2022. The plan assumes that 100% of our electrical power will be obtained from clean, renewable sources by that year, requiring 100,000 solar powered homes by 2022; 200,000 by 2040. Zero net energy use will be required of all new residential construction. It also aims for 100% diversion of solid waste from landfills and, compared to 2008, a 50 million gallon per day savings in water use (25% per capita) by 2040.

An important new approach in *Envision San Jose 2040* is scheduled review and opportunities for mid-course corrective action to keep us on course toward achievement of its goals. Major reviews by the city council and community members will occur every four years. Review of progress toward job growth targets will also be triggered upon attainment of each of three residential development planning "Horizons". This will be done before allowing more housing to be built.

After nearly four years of work and more than fifty public meetings with a citizen Task Force, the San Jose Planning Department is now taking *Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan* to the community for review. Your input is desired.

An overview presentation of this proposed General Plan will be given at AVCA's meeting at 7 pm on April 12, upstairs in the Almaden Library-Community Center. Be sure to attend—bring your questions and your friends.

Contact Dave Fadness if you belong to a San Jose organization (of any size) that is interested in a presentation (phone 578-6428 or email at drfadness@sbcglobal.net). Daytime or evening presentations can be arranged. Do this before June 30th.