

CVSP DRAFT EIR FINDINGS

- The draft EIR on the Coyote Valley Specific Plan has found significant and unavoidable impacts in a majority of the categories that were looked at.
These impacts include the potential loss of 2,400 acres of agricultural lands; a significant increase in traffic on roads throughout the county; and an increase in air pollution.
- The project is about the same size as the City of Mountain View, and would house anywhere from 70,000 to 80,000 people.
- There would be about 25,000 new homes built and almost 210,000 new car trips EACH DAY.
That will jam up Highway 101, and it will affect roads around Santa Clara County. The Almaden Expressway intersections with Blossom Hill Road, Coleman, and Almaden Plaza Way will go down to a level of service of D or E, which is near the bottom of the scale that measures how well traffic flows through an intersection. These are failing grades.
- And at a time when our fuel resources are rapidly diminishing, this project would result in the significant use of electricity, gasoline and natural gas.
- The impact on air quality is significant too. The project would generate pollution for the entire region that would be above Bay Area Air Quality Management District thresholds.
- As for plant and animal life, among other things, there could be a loss of more than 1,100 acres of burrowing owl habitat, and the loss of thousands of mature trees – including Heritage Trees.
These impacts do NOT include the noise that would be generated or the permanent aesthetic change to a beautiful part of our valley.
- The draft EIR provides a number of alternatives to the Coyote Valley Specific Plan, including reducing the size of the project; locating it in North San Jose instead of in Coyote Valley; and forgoing the project altogether.
Staff finds that the environmentally superior alternative is not to do the project at all.
The next step is for the draft EIR to circulate for public comment for 60 days. Public comment will close June 1 and then San Jose city staff will respond to comments.
- The City expects the Planning Commission to take action on the EIR in the fall.