

From: [Moua, Louansee](#)
To: [DowntownWestD6](#)
Subject: Fw: SVLG Support for Downtown West Mixed Use Plan
Date: Monday, May 24, 2021 11:28:14 AM
Attachments: [SVLG Downtown West City Council Support 5.20.21.pdf](#)

From: Vince Rocha <vrocha@svlg.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 2:42 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: SVLG Support for Downtown West Mixed Use Plan

[External Email]

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Please see our attached letter of support for the Downtown West Mixed Use Plan coming before you as Agenda Item 10.2 on Tuesday, May 25, 2021.

Regards,

Vince Rocha

Senior Director, Housing & Community Development

408.910.4616 | svlg.org

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May 20, 2021

Mayor and Council
City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San José, CA 95113

RE: Item 10.2 - Downtown West Mixed-Use Plan

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, Councilmembers Jimenez, Peralez, Cohen, Carrasco, Davis, Esparza, Arena, Foley, and Mahan.

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, we express our support for the Downtown West Mixed-Use Plan. This transformative proposal by Google will bring 7.3 million square feet of office space, over 5,700 prevailing wage construction jobs, 4,000 new homes (1,000 of them affordable), and 15 acres of parks, in addition to an unprecedented \$200 million community benefits package to San José.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents hundreds of Silicon Valley's most respected employers. We focus on issues, programs, and campaigns that affect the economic quality of life in Silicon Valley. Collectively, Leadership Group members provide nearly one out of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley and contribute more than \$3 trillion to the global economy.

The Downtown West Mixed-Use plan before you is the successful outcome of years of thoughtful community engagement with over 100 impactful community meetings, including neighborhood walks and over 3,000 in person touch points. This has resulted in careful land use planning and collaboration that will bring economic and other public benefits to San José residents.

Community benefits resulting from this outreach are designed to start early and continue well into the future. These benefits include a first-of-its-kind \$154.8 million Community Stabilization and Opportunity Pathways fund that will be community-led and expertly managed; resulting in affordable housing, education, job training, and much more.

This project will support a number of popular benefits for residents and businesses. That is why in a recent SVLG poll 70% of San José voters from every part of the city support this project. When asked about the proposal's components 87% of residents were in favor of the 25,000 new jobs that will be created, 80% in favor of investments in transportation infrastructure, and 82% supported the 15 acres of parks and open space this project will create.

As a member of the Diridon Station Area Advisory Group we advocated alongside local residents for the core tenets of good planning to be implemented in this plan. We spoke about how building jobs and housing near transit is essential for our communities, our climate, and for stronger, more vibrant downtowns. Having listened to stakeholders Google ensured Downtown West leverages the proximity to Diridon Station to create the "15-minute city" San José residents deserve, with bikeways and trail segments to bring benefits for the environment and workers in a way that will reduce traffic and greenhouse gas emissions and enhance overall health and quality of life.

With Diridon Station, envisioned as the future “Grand Central Station of the West,” this development will be located near an almost unparalleled multi-modal transit hub, including high-quality public transit services such as Caltrain, VTA, High-Speed Rail, BART, and more. This will allow those who work and live at Downtown West transit access to the entire Bay Area and beyond, and bring visitors in an efficient and environmentally friendly way.

This proposal is transformative for San José, including what San José staff have calculated as \$1 billion of value in voluntary project features, in addition to \$200 million in negotiated community benefits. From creating a model of community and stakeholder engagement to incorporating environmental sustainability, innovative development, housing affordability, and transit-friendly design, it hits all the marks for a proposal that is truly in its own league.

For these reasons, the Leadership Group is proud to support the Downtown West Mixed-Use plan before you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vince Rocha", written in a cursive style.

Vince Rocha
Senior Director, Housing and Community Development
Silicon Valley Leadership Group