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**San Jose Mayor to Testify Before California Assembly Natural Resources
Committee on SB7**

Bill will pave way for development projects vital to community delayed by COVID-19

SAN JOSÉ, CA -- This afternoon, Mayor Sam Liccardo will be a lead witness at the California State Assembly Committee of Natural Resources, in support of [SB7](#). The bill extends [AB900](#) for five years, which streamlines the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) timetables for approval and litigation that otherwise would stall projects that have highly beneficial environmental attributes, like reducing GHG emissions, satisfying LEED standards, smart growth, build-out of transit, and more.

“This bill will enable San Jose's transformative Downtown West project to move forward--bringing thousands of units of affordable housing and tens of thousands of jobs to our city--just at the moment amid our recovery when our community needs it the most,” **said Mayor Sam Liccardo**. “I am grateful to Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins for authoring SB7, and to the rest of the Senate and Assembly leadership for their support of this important legislation.”

Mayor Liccardo has long supported CEQA reform to accelerate the production of affordable housing and transit, as well as to create jobs, including from San Jose's Downtown West project, which comprises some of the most impactful [community benefits](#) and private sector investments in California history, confronting multiple crises with real solutions:

- Confronting our affordable housing crisis with the production of more than 4,000 high-density homes, at least 25% of which will be rent-restricted and affordable;
- Addressing our state's 8% unemployment rate by creating 5,700 prevailing-wage

construction jobs to build an urban village of more than 7 million square feet of commercial development that will enable longer-term employment of tens of thousands of Californians;

- Countering climate change by maximizing the highest possible densities around San Jose's Downtown central station serving seven major transit systems—BART, CalTrain, ACE, Capitol Corridor, High Speed Rail, VTA light rail, and bus-rapid-transit—constructing at LEED Gold standard, with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, along with the development of 15 acres of parks and green spaces;
- As this pandemic exacerbates California's stark economic divide, Google's project will produce more than \$1 billion in public benefits, including an unprecedented \$200 million fund for anti-displacement, job training, education, and homelessness solutions.

“We hope that with legislative approval, we'll be able to get shovels into the ground after my City Council's approval on May 25th, so that we can realize the most transformative investment in the history of Northern California's largest city, and so that many other cities can get their affordable housing projects underway,” **the Mayor concluded in his testimony.**

Read Mayor Liccardo's full testimony [here](#).

To watch the hearing, visit [here](#). The committee is estimated to take up SB7 at approximately 12:30 p.m. PST.

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About the City of San José

With more than one million residents, San José comprises the 10th largest city in the United States, and one of its most diverse cities. San José's transformation into a global innovation center in the heart of Silicon Valley has resulted in the world's greatest concentration of technology talent and development.



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