



April 20, 2021

The Honorable Chair Luz M. Rivas
The Honorable Vice-Chair Heath Flora
California State Senate Floor
State Capitol, Room 206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 7 - Letter of Support, *Natural Resources Committee*

Dear Chair Rivas and Vice-Chair Flora,

San Jose Downtown Association (SJDA) would like to express support for SB 7 (Atkins) which would extend the timeframe of AB 900 eligible projects until January 1, 2022 and allow certain housing developments to utilize AB 900 provisions.

SJDA is a Property-based Business Improvement District that serves and represents over 2,000 property owners, business owners, and residents in downtown San Jose. As we aspire to create a more livable, vital and equitable community, we acknowledge that SB 7 will provide a key support mechanism to bolster this endeavor. One project this directly affects, and we are strong proponents of, is the San José Downtown West Mixed Use Plan that was previously certified under AB 900. This project leverages several adjacent projects and downtown development by connecting to one of the largest transit hubs in the United States, Diridon Station, and will develop several vacant lots and redevelop underutilized parcels by transforming 80 acres into a diverse “15-minute” community that embraces a high-density, transit-oriented focus.

Moreover, the San José Downtown West Mixed Use Plan has numerous positive components reflecting inclusive economic development: 4,000 housing units (25% housing affordability), 500,000 square feet of retail, 7.3 million square feet of office, and 15 acres of open space and parks. This is a profound private investment and public partnership that will prevent sprawl, create thousands of jobs, and improve the physical infrastructure with a GhG mitigation factor focused on environmental sustainable planning to help California reach its ambitious goal.

We commend Senator President Pro Tempore Atkins, Senators Gonzalez, Rubio, Cortese, and Assembly Member Rivas for this forward-thinking policy. We strongly support this bill as it will spur the economic development and jobs much needed in San Jose and communities throughout California.

Sincerely,

Scott Knies
Executive Director