



Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Mayor Chuck Reed and Councilmembers,
Planning Commissioners
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Conceptual Support for Ohlone Mixed-Use Development

Mayor Reed and Members of the City Council and Planning Commission:

For over 50 years, Greenbelt Alliance has worked to protect the Bay Area's iconic landscapes while making the Bay Area's cities and towns better places to live. We write to you today to share our support of the preliminary framework that Green Republic has offered for the Ohlone development, proposed for the large site that includes VTA property at West San Carlos and Sunol Streets. We look forward to learning more about the project with the hope that as it advances, it will earn our full endorsement. Greenbelt Alliance encourages you to approve the amendments to the General Plan that makes this project possible, as a first step in allowing this project to achieve its impressive potential.

Greenbelt Alliance is encouraged to see a proposal for compact development in such close proximity to multiple transit options, with an emphasis on reduced parking to ensure the new community is oriented around transit rather than cars. We applaud the retail element of the project as a way to discourage driving; to whatever extent it is viable, we would like to see mixed land uses here to make this community more vibrant and lively. Other elements of the project, such as the opportunity to achieve remediation of a vast brownfield in a key location and the promised dedication of a new four-acre public park nearby, give us additional confidence that Green Republic is headed in the right direction.

In closing, we urge your support of the General Plan amendments to the allowable height and compactness on this site. It is our hope that this development will be a profound gain for the Midtown area and for San Jose as a whole.

Regards,

marla wilson

Marla Wilson
Sustainable Development Associate

CC:
Sally Notthoff Zarnowitz

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