



Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

May 2, 2007

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor Tower
San José, CA 95113

Subject: Bay Area Research and Extension Center (BAREC) Property

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers:

On April 18, 2007 the Parks and Recreation Commission was presented with updated information regarding the redevelopment of the 17-acre Bay Area Research and Extension Center (BAREC). It should be noted that the commission previously took action in February 2005, to recommend to Council that the BAREC land be preserved as either agricultural land or parkland. We are recommending at this time to reinforce our support to the extent possible to preserve the 17-acre site on the basis of historical significance and potential open space and recreational value of the property. Parks and Open space as well as recreational amenities are vital to our community and provide immense environmental benefits.

This site is located in the City of Santa Clara but borders the residents of District six in San Jose and would provide needed open space to mitigate new and existing development. Our commission is very concerned that the City of San Jose faces a deficit of parks and open space of approximately 250 acres for neighborhood/community serving lands based on the 2000 U.S. Census, so we respectfully request that the City of San Jose enter into discussions as soon as possible with the State of California, City of Santa Clara, and elected representatives to discuss all possibilities of preserving this valuable open space. In the event no agreement can be reached to preserve all 17 acres of BAREC, we nonetheless urge that as large a portion of the property as possible be preserved.

Sincerely,

Helen Chapman
Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission
City of San Jose