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*Executive Director*

**TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL**

Honorable President Joe Simitian and Members of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Clara  
70 West Hedding Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear President Simitian, Vice President Chavez, and Supervisors Cortese,  
Wasserman, and Yeager:

**RE: Item #19-- Receive report from the Roads and Airports Department  
relating to the Airports Business Plan Update**

On behalf of our members, we write today in support of the potential redevelopment of the Reid-Hillview Airport in East San Jose. When the Airport was developed in the '30s, San Jose had a population of less than 40,000 and was known as the Valley of the Heart's Delight. In the ensuing years, the City has grown to over a million people and the orchards and farms are largely gone. In their place stand thousands of single family homes, which now surround the airport and its runways.

The time is right to consider the appropriateness of an airport at this location. The staff report recognizes the longstanding concerns of community members about the "land use, neighborhood compatibility, environmental footprint, and environmental justice" surrounding Reid-Hillview. Importantly, this 112-acre site offers tremendous opportunities for alternative uses that would better serve the needs of the community and the County. First among these is the potential for development of a significant amount of affordable housing, which can serve to respond to high housing costs and the resulting gentrification and displacement that we see happening today.

In summary, **we support the alternative recommendation to explore a non-aviation use for Reid-Hillview** after 2031 and to begin exploring opportunities for a vibrant, mixed-use development that includes significant affordable housing.

We are pleased to join with community voices on this issue, and while we understand that this action will not make the land available tomorrow, we know that now is the time to take the concrete steps and start the community discussions that will make this location a true community asset.

Sincerely,

Leslye Corsiglia  
Executive Director