



GREEN FOOTNOTES

COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS www.GreenFoothills.org

SPRING 2001



Photo by Len Erickson

Coyote Valley in San Jose is targeted for Cisco's 6.6 million square foot campus.

City of San Jose Stalls Cisco Referendum

BY DENICE DADE

On January 16th, the City Council voted to deny the people of San Jose the opportunity to vote on the largest and most significant development decision this region has faced in decades. Cisco's plans for a sprawling 6.6 million square foot industrial campus in North Coyote Valley will produce traffic gridlock, exacerbate the housing crisis and pave over rich agricultural soil.

The Cisco campus is the first step in developing the entire North Coyote Valley. More significantly, it is the economic catalyst necessary for generating infrastructure improvements that would pave the way for 50,000 jobs over the next 15 years, plus an additional 75,000 service-related jobs. As a region, we must decide whether to condone massive sprawl developments or revitalize existing city centers with compact urban development.

Cisco proposal is sprawl of the worst kind

This massive job center, more than ten

miles away from downtown, will put tremendous development pressure on southern counties, which offer a supply of cheaper housing and land. The impacts of the development of the North Coyote Valley are significant, and a project of this size should be accompanied by extensive regional planning. Yet the City Council has refused to adequately address issues of transportation and housing, and is single-mindedly driving San Jose in the direction of massive suburban sprawl, traffic congestion throughout the region, and destruction of valuable agricultural lands.

San Jose rejects voters' right to PLAN

In an effort to require the city to consider an alternative vision for Coyote Valley, People for Livable and Affordable Neighborhoods (PLAN), gathered more than 50,000 signatures from registered San Jose voters to allow public approval of this project. Cisco's development will forever change this region and PLAN

believes that the people of San Jose must be able to vote on a decision of this magnitude.

Despite these efforts, the City of San Jose ignored the right and desire of the people to decide, and voted not to certify PLAN's referendum. The city's attorney claims that PLAN's referendum is not valid. PLAN, confident of the referendum's legality, has filed suit against the City of San Jose to require that the referendum be put to a vote. PLAN has hired Fred Woocher, a partner in the prestigious firm Strumwasser & Woocher, nationally renowned for its expertise in election law, to represent the group on this issue.

Referendum will protect open space

The property owner has made unsubstantiated claims in the press that the referendum will have little effect on the project. However, PLAN has found no legal

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COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS

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From the President...

BY ZOE KERSTEEN-TUCKER

Spring is upon us, and changes are afoot at the Committee for Green Foothills!

To prepare for the challenges of the 21st century, the Committee Board of Directors has undertaken a bit of organizational restructuring. With extraordinary support from The INNW Fund and the Packard Foundation, we have been working to tidy-up, modernize, and strengthen our organization — spring cleaning, you might say. We are eager to share some of these changes with you.

The most visible change we have made is in our appearance. This issue of *Green Footnotes* is the premiere of our brand new logo. With a grant from the Packard Foundation, we hired a designer to help us update our graphic identity. The old foothill motif, while beautiful and much loved, was not designed for today's multi-media requirements — we needed a change. Our new logo, designed to convey the beauty of the foothills and the strength of our citizen-led activism, is fresh and different. We hope you like it and trust you know that a change in the way we look does not change the way we do business.

With a generous technical assistance grant from The INNW Fund, we are currently evaluating our governance structure. In the coming months we will seek your support as we update our Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to bring them into conformance with current laws and practice. Our goal is to create an up-to-date governance structure that allows us to minimize administrative overhead and maximize our pro-

grammatic efforts and responsiveness. We will be sending each of our members a description of the proposed changes and asking you to vote on these changes.

Also in process is the development of our brand-new website. You asked the Committee for an expanded web presence, so with financial assistance from a private donor and the Packard Foundation, we are now constructing a comprehensive, multi-faceted website. Thanks to the friends who completed our on-line survey, we have a solid understanding of the features you want to see on our site. Board members, staff and volunteers are creating an impressive array of content material and we look forward to Beta testing the new site this spring. Send us an email if you would like to serve as a CGF Beta tester.

This last has been a year of changes for the Committee for Green Foothills—changes that have produced a strengthening of purpose and a sharper focus on our mission. The Committee's legislative advocacy efforts in San Mateo and Santa Clara County are more effective than ever — we are making the news, making a difference and making the Peninsula more livable now and for generations to come.

We know that you care about the mission of the Committee — to protect and preserve the hills, forests, creeks, wetlands, and coastal lands of the Peninsula — and your abundant support gives us the courage to stand strong in defense of our local environment. You are our touchstones. We hope to hear from you in the coming months as we continue to grow and strengthen our efforts on behalf of the fragile Peninsula environment. **CGF**



Stanford's Community Plan — A move in the right direction



Photo by Mike Kahn

BY DENICE DADE AND KATHY SWITKY

For the last two years, Committee for Green Foothills has led an intensive campaign to protect open space and sensitive habitat in the Stanford foothills region, and to develop Santa Clara County's oversight authority over the university's future growth. This has been a natural focus for CGF, which was founded nearly 40 years ago to protect the Stanford foothills.

Thanks to our work, the community now has a heightened awareness of Stanford's impact as the largest developer on the Peninsula, and Santa Clara County has made

significant changes in its governance of University land use. The County has finally set up procedures for regulating Stanford's development, and we have an impressive array of new tools with which to ensure future protection of foothill open space.

County treating Stanford as it does other developers

Historically, Stanford has benefited from what the San Jose Mercury News rightly called a "sweetheart deal." The County provided little government oversight and Stanford had no requirement to specify long-term development plans.

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors' December 2000 decision to approve the Community Plan and General Use Permit put an end to that special treatment. The County established its authority to regulate the development of its largest landowner. The long-term planning process spelled out in the Community Plan will serve as a policy framework for the university's land

use in the years to come.

For the first time, Stanford was required to submit a plan that will allow it to be monitored as any major landowner/developer. The resulting public scrutiny means that our communities will forever regard Stanford in a new light — that of a developer, not just an educational institution.

This huge change in attitude reflects the community's commitment to foothill protection and the effectiveness of the Committee for Green Foothills.

New requirements and tools bode well for open space

The Committee's efforts focused on protection for some 2,200 acres of foothills that provide key open space for the Peninsula. We won a number of tools to help protect the foothills for future generations:

Santa Clara County established the first-ever **Academic Growth Boundary** for the Stanford campus. Analogous to an Urban Growth Boundary, this requires all future urban development to be concentrated in the core campus, not in the hills. This protective boundary remains in effect until 2025, unless a four-fifths majority of the Board of

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What's next:

Using the new tools to protect open space

While the new Community Plan and General Use Permit are a step in the right direction, the onus is now on us to ensure that these new procedures and tools are implemented responsibly.

In the coming decade, Stanford University will develop at a rate more than twice that of the last ten years. This massive development will increase traffic congestion, decrease air quality, and consume irreplaceable open space. As the community braces itself, the Committee for Green Foothills will continue working to protect open space in the foothills. We intend to work toward:

A Sustainable Build-Out Study that limits development.

This study will define the university's maximum build-out. The Committee is committed to helping create detailed criteria for the Sustainability Study and to set reasonable and sustainable development limits. We will fight for permanent dedication of open space before allowing additional development.

Foothill zoning with real open space protection.

The County has promised to create new foothill zoning, but the specific parameters defining this zoning have yet to be developed. We will remain diligent to ensure that this zoning is as protective as possible and ensures preservation of open space in the foothills.

A Conservation Plan that protects all sensitive species and habitat on campus.

The Committee will participate in the development of the Conservation Plan to ensure that sensitive species and habitats receive adequate protection.

A ban on inappropriate development in the foothills.

The Committee will continue its fight to stop the development of the Carnegie Foundation office facility and any other development in the foothills that would violate the letter or intent of these new planning regulations.

Although we have won the most recent fight for open space protection in the foothills, we must be vigilant, active and vocal to protect the foothills for future generations. Once open space is developed, it is gone forever.

To get involved, or find out more, contact our Santa Clara County Legislative Advocate, Denice Dade, at Denice@GreenFoothills.org or (650) 968-7243.

Stanford Foothill Victory Threatened

Carnegie Foundation proposal would pave over salamander habitat

BY DENICE DADE AND KATHY SWITKY

On the heels of the newly approved Community Plan and General Use Permit, Stanford University is attempting to develop a region of the foothills — despite the fact that the pending development proposal violates the new Community Plan, destroys important habitat, and is against State law.

After promising no development in the foothills for 25 years, the university is behind the proposal of the Carnegie Foundation to develop a 21,000 square foot office complex and large parking lot in the “Lathrop District” portion of the foothills, near Junipero Serra and Sand Hill Road.

Because the university requested approval of the Carnegie project during the development of the new Community Plan, the County proposes to grandfather the approval of the Carnegie project under the old policies. However, this project is inconsistent with both the old general plan and the new Community Plan.

Committee for Green Foothills is opposing this project, which would establish two unac-

ceptable precedents: urban development of the foothills region, and development that is not accompanied by permanent dedication of open space.

The project violates new Community Plan

It was inappropriate for the County to have considered this project before the Community Plan was finalized. The County ignored the requests of Committee for Green Foothills — as well as those of the cities of Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Portola Valley, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Greenbelt Alliance, Stanford Open Space Alliance and many others — to consider this proposal only after the comprehensive Community Plan process was finalized.

The Community Plan establishes strong protections for sensitive habitat areas with the designation “Special Conservation Areas,” where no development is allowed. The project blatantly violates these protective measures — and in fact would place a 40-car parking lot in the Special Conservation Area — a region specifically set aside as habitat for the rare California tiger salamander.

Impacts to salamander habitat are significant

While this office development would pave over habitat for one of the Peninsula's last

tiger salamander populations, the Environmental Impact Report for the project claims that the project's impacts to salamander habitat are “less than significant.” This is patently untrue — experts agree that this project does not adequately mitigate for its impacts to the tiger salamander.

Both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game have stated to the County that the proposed Carnegie development's impacts to habitat can be fully mitigated only with permanent habitat protection. Stanford has steadfastly refused to grant such protection.

Early in the process, the County specifically requested such permanent dedication of habitat — but backed down when Stanford refused. Committee for Green Foothills and many others continue to urge the County Supervisors to treat Stanford as it does other developers, by requiring appropriate mitigation.

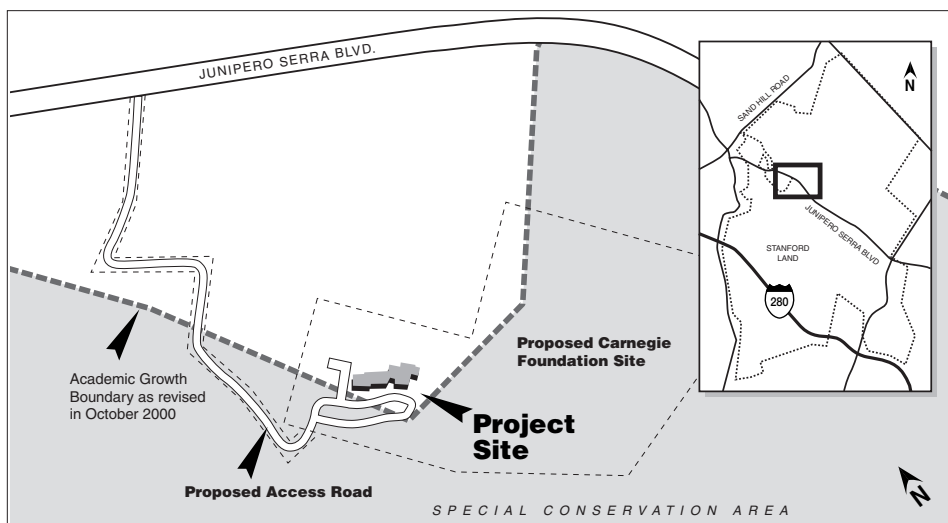
The Carnegie Foundation proposal is illegal

Carnegie's proposed development in the foothills is not just poorly sited, it is illegal. It violates fundamental County planning principles and State law, which requires consistency between General Plans and all subordinate land use approvals. The County General Plan expressly prohibits urban development, such as this office facility, outside of Palo Alto's urban service area — where the proposed location lies.

The County has argued that Stanford is exempt from this fundamental County policy that has driven all land use decisions in the region for decades. However, nothing in the existing County General Plan, the 2000 Community Plan or the 1985 Land Use Policy Agreement (between the County, the city of Palo Alto, and Stanford University) exempts Stanford from having to comply with these County General Plan policies.

Alternative sites should be considered

State law also requires Environmental Impact Reports to analyze a full range of alternative sites for each project. However, because Stanford offered the Carnegie Foundation a low-cost lease on just this one parcel, it artificially narrowed the potential sites for this project. Again, CGF has urged the County to follow the law — and to require a full analysis of alternative sites that are more appropriate



A region of the Lathrop District — including an area sited for development by the Carnegie Foundation — is outside of Stanford's new Academic Growth Boundary (and outside of Palo Alto's Urban Services Area, which ends on the north side of Junipero Serra Blvd.). The proposed parking lot would destroy key habitat for the California tiger salamander.

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Clean Streams and Healthy Horsekeeping

BY ZOE KERSTEEN-TUCKER

*Reprinted with permission from the
Half Moon Bay Review - February 21, 2001*

Our streams and creeks are in serious trouble. Until recently, coastal San Mateo County streams have supported robust populations of fish and other aquatic species. Long-time coastsiders recall that steelhead were so plentiful not too long ago that "you could scoop them up with pitchforks". Today our native steelhead are so reduced in numbers, they have joined the Coho salmon, California red-legged frog, and the tidewater goby (a small fish found in Pescadero Marsh and San Gregorio lagoon) on the list of federally threatened species. Another beautiful denizen of creeks and wetlands, the San Francisco garter snake, has been listed as endangered for over 20 years.

Why should we care? We all lose something vital when the web of life upon which we depend is impaired or destroyed. The main cause of species extinction is the degradation and loss of habitat. In many instances this loss is directly related to human activity.

It is encouraging that there are many efforts, large and small, to improve stream conditions locally. Hundreds of volunteers each year clean up beaches and creeks, monitor water quality, and replace invasive exotic species with native plants up and down the coast. Many land owners, timber and farm operators are also stepping up to the challenge of reducing sediment sources from rural roads, landslides, and old logging operations. Hundreds of thousands of public dollars are being spent to remove barriers to fish passage, stabilize stream banks, and restore spawning and rearing habitat for fish and other critters in the creeks.

These efforts are beginning to show positive effects, but more are needed.

Animal waste, particularly when concentrated in confined areas such as corrals or paddocks, can be lethal, to fish, insects, and other aquatic life if it runs into creeks. Mike Rugg, Fisheries Biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game, has participated in numerous field investigations focused on the effects of animal wastes on fish and aquatic life. According to Rugg, "in



Photo by Lennie Roberts

Just above its confluence with San Francisquito Creek, Bear Creek runs through this horse paddock, where it carries horse waste into the entire system. Corrals should be sited away from waterways to prevent such pollution.

Horse Waste and Water Quality

BY KATHY SWITKY

Many people think that because horse wastes are organic and biodegradable, they can't harm the natural environment. But, like most things, in large quantities, horse wastes can cause serious problems. Swept into our waterways by runoff, they can affect natural chemical and biological processes — and kill aquatic life.

Wastes from most animals enter our waterways through surface runoff. In small concentrations such as those present in natural systems, this is not a problem. But large amounts of animal waste — manure, urine, and bedding — generated by confined horses and other animals can suffocate and poison aquatic animals.

Nearly all stream life depends on the small amount of oxygen that is naturally dissolved in water. When waste hits the waterways, the balance of oxygen is disrupted. This decomposable material is accompanied by aerobic bacteria that work to break down that material — and the resultant bacterial population boom consumes dissolved oxygen, leaving little for the fish, amphibians, and invertebrates

living in the water.

Horse wastes also contain a variety of nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus, which in small quantities are essential for the survival of aquatic species. But when nitrogen and phosphorus are overabundant, they can trigger huge growths of algae: algal blooms. The respiration of these algae, like the bacterial decomposition of organic material, uses up even more of the dissolved oxygen in the water.

Horse wastes can also contaminate aquatic habitats directly. In large concentrations, both nitrogen and phosphorus can be toxic. Salt from horse waste can kill fish and other aquatic life. And fish are particularly sensitive to ammonia, a by-product of bacterial conversion of urea, a principal constituent of urine and other animal waste.

In addition to degrading our freshwater systems, horse waste has been identified by federal, state, and local agencies as a major factor in the degradation of coastal water quality. Responsible animal management can minimize all of these threats — so that we can keep our horses and keep our aquatic ecosystems healthy. **CGF**

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"Pescadero Estuary," by Jane Gallagher

Foothills Millennium Fund is off to a grand start!

Last fall, the Committee announced the Foothills Millennium Fund — a new group for our most generous donors, who are making it possible for the Committee to take bold new steps in open space protection. We are pleased to report that 48 CGF members have joined the Foothills Millennium Fund 2000!

These generous individuals who made gifts of \$1000 or more have become inaugural members of this group. In addition, they have received the first in an annual foothills art series issued by Committee for Green Foothills: a signed, numbered, and matted Gicleé color print of "Pescadero Estuary," by award-winning watercolor artist and CGF supporter Jane Gallagher.

This April, we will be convening the first meeting of the Foothills Millennium Fund to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the Committee in the coming year.

It's not too late to become a charter member of the Foothills Millennium Fund. Contact the CGF office, and we'd be glad to send you more information. **CGF**

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Thank you!

2000 has been a tremendous year for Committee for Green Foothills, and we thank you — our generous supporters — for funding our efforts to protect open space.

The following individuals, foundations, and corporations made gifts to Committee for Green Foothills or the Green Foothills Foundation between January 1, 2000 and February 28, 2001:

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We have done our best to acknowledge all who support our work. If we've omitted or misspelled your name, please let us know so we may make the correction.

Above the Valley: The treasures of Coyote Ridge

BY KATHY SWITKY

Rising above Coyote Valley is the spectacular Coyote Ridge, a portion of the Diablo Range to the east of highway 101 in southern Santa Clara County. Though the ridgeline is in the news less than the valley with which it shares a name, Coyote Ridge is a local hotspot of diversity, and an important remnant of the south Bay's natural heritage.

Each spring, Coyote Ridge becomes a spectacular mass of wildflowers, including ten plant species listed as rare or endangered. The area also provides important wildlife habitat: Coyote Ridge is home to the last major population of the threatened Bay checkerspot butterfly, and hosts at least nine other animal species protected by state or federal law.

Development in the South Bay threatens the ridge's prime habitat, which is all in private ownership. Factories, new homes, golf courses, and roads are encroaching upon these last remaining native grasslands.

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has formed a group dedicated to preserving this spectacular area before it's too late. Endorsed by Committee for Green Foothills and other groups, CNPS is working to save Coyote Ridge, a key link in the belt of open space around the Santa Clara Valley.

To find out more about or get involved in the work of CNPS to protect Coyote Ridge, visit www.stanford.edu/~rawlings/coyote, or contact Don Mayall at (650) 856-7579 or seleve@ix.netcom.com. **CGF**



Photos by John Game

The Santa Clara Valley *Dudleya* (*Dudleya setchelli*) and Most Beautiful Jewelflower (*Streptanthus albidus* var. *peramoenus*) are two of the rare plants found on the serpentine soils of Coyote Ridge.



A new look for CGF

BY KAREN KIDWELL

An active, successful organization needs a strong graphic identity that reflects the group's ethos and mission. Although CGF has produced many handsome materials over the years, last year our board decided that our organization was due for an update — and we set up a small group to spearhead this project.

Our first step was to secure grant funding for the project so we could reserve our membership funds for advocacy and direct support of our programs. The Packard Foundation generously endorsed CGF's efforts with a grant of \$40,000 to fund the design of a new graphic identity, development of our membership base, and other outreach efforts.

With funding in place, we were fortunate enough to hire Mark Bult, a talented designer and active environmentalist with extensive experience in both identity work and website design. We think our new logo communicates a sense of the beautiful foothill and coastal environment that we work hard to protect, and captures the sense of strength and power of our citizen activism.

This issue of Green Footnotes incorporates our new logo and style. We will use this design in all of CGF's printed materials, and it will be the basis of our redesigned web site — the project on which Mark is now focusing his attention.

From now on, whenever you receive a letter from us, see a poster, read a press release, get an action alert, or visit our website, we hope you'll experience that flash of recognition: Committee for Green Foothills at work! **CGF**

BOARD NOTES

We bid a fond farewell to Committee board member **Diane Chapman**. Diane, an accountant and businesswoman, served on our Finance Committee and assisted with budget development. Past Chair of the Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council, she is moving on to attend to family matters. We will miss Diane's unique perspective on rural South Coast issues in San Mateo County.

CARNEGIE, continued from page 4

and environmentally superior.

Committee for Green Foothills is standing firm

The County's approval of this project as originally proposed would undermine years of work and negotiation that created new planning policies and development entitlements for the university. In exchange for being granted massive development entitlements, Stanford agreed to protect the foothills for twenty-five years.

Committee and Foundation both support work to protect open space

Some of our members have been asking about the Committee's sister organization, the Green Foothills Foundation. Contributions to the Foundation support certain aspects of the Committee's work — but there are important differences between the two organizations.

Because much of our work involves advocacy and lobbying, it is conducted by the **Committee for Green Foothills**, classified as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. Donations to the Committee support our political activity, and are not tax-deductible. While it is more challenging to raise non-tax deductible funds, we maintain this classification because it allows the Committee to be as edgy and aggressive as necessary to protect open space.

Our sister organization, the **Green Foothills Foundation** supports our educational and research activities. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, this group can spend only a small portion of its expense budget on lobbying, and thus contributions to the foundation are tax-deductible.

Our work to protect the environment through political advocacy and action is more urgent than ever before, and we invite you to contribute to the Committee for Green Foothills whenever possible.

Your support — of both of these nonprofits — makes it possible for us to accomplish our mission. **CGF**

The willingness of the university and the County to push through a project that violates these new regulations does not bode well for Stanford's ability to abide by its word — nor does it bode well for the long-term future of the foothills.

This beautiful and environmentally sensitive foothills parcel is not an appropriate location for the Carnegie Foundation offices. The project blatantly disregards environmental regulations, including the newly established foothills protections, and should not move forward as proposed. Committee for Green Foothills is not willing to accept this precedent of urban development in the foothills, or of the loss of habitat without permanent mitigation.

If the Board approves this project, Committee for Green Foothills may take additional action to protect the foothills. Committee for Green Foothills is not willing to accept this precedent of urban development in the foothills, or of the loss of habitat without permanent mitigation. If the Board approves this project, Committee for Green Foothills may take additional action to protect the foothills. **CGF**

CISCO, continued from page 1

evidence for these claims, and is moving forward with the referendum campaign. The referendum, if successful, may stop the project altogether; at a minimum, it would force Cisco to:

- Reduce the project's size by 26% (by not allowing the transfer of development credits necessary to complete the project)
- Increase the amount of open space at the site from 25% to 35% (that would in turn increase the density and add parking structures to the development).

PLAN's alternative vision

The Cisco proposal backed by the San Jose City Council is destructive and prohibitively expensive. Taxpayers will be required to subsidize more than 40 million dollars in infrastructure costs, in addition to the costs for new schools, police, firemen, libraries and other community services. This development would locate workers far from housing and mass transit, cause massive traffic congestion throughout the region, and destroy prime agricultural land.

PLAN has an alternative vision for development of jobs in San Jose. This vision includes compact urban development, with new job generation occurring

UPDATE

As we went to press, the Board of Supervisors considered CGF's appeal of this project. Taking a stand for open space, Supervisor Liz Kniss led the Supervisors to a 5-0 to reject the development in its current form.

The Supervisors will reconsider the project on May 8 only if it is revised to meet specific criteria designed to protect the foothills:

- 1) The project must permanently dedicate tiger salamander habitat to mitigate for its impacts.
- 2) The size and intensity of the project must be reduced to low density.
- 3) The project must conform with the 2000 Community Plan: (a) the building, parking lot and access road must all be within the newly approved Academic Growth Boundary, and (b) the development must protect viewsheds by relocating to a site below 200 feet in elevation (Carnegie's original proposal had the development at approximately 350 feet).
- 4) Alternative sites for this development must be thoroughly explored.

in downtown San Jose. By locating new jobs in redevelopment areas, downtown, the city could take advantage of tax revenue generated from new property taxes. This revenue would go directly to the city, instead of to state and county governments. The San Jose Redevelopment Agency could utilize this revenue to provide much needed community centers, libraries, public parks, and low cost housing. State funding for public schools would also come with such redevelopment.

Furthermore, workers in downtown would be able to take advantage of the recently approved BART expansion, increasing the ridership required to offset public subsidies to run the trains.

Committee for Green Foothills is working with PLAN to see that this vision becomes a reality. If you are interested in finding out more about PLAN's efforts or in supporting our work in Santa Clara County, please visit www.greenfoothills.org or call Denice Dade at (650) 968-7243.

PLAN is supported by a coalition of individuals and organizations including Committee for Green Foothills, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, Community Homeless Advocacy Ministry and the Green Party. **CGF**

HORSES, continued from page 5

each and every case where animal wastes have been either discharged directly into local creeks, or been inappropriately discarded on the bank or other locations where runoff was carried into the creek, serious impacts have resulted: a fish kill, or serious loss of carrying capacity."

We know that the vast majority of horse owners strongly value our special environment and are conscientious in their conservation practices. However, significant areas continue to exist where confined horse facilities may be contributing to stream degradation, with potentially disastrous results for fish.

Locations have been documented where manure is routinely dumped over creek banks, and even into creeks, smothering the vegetation and potentially polluting the streams. In other instances, corrals or stables may be too close to creeks to adequately buffer their runoff.

While there are numerous laws at the State and Federal level that protect stream water quality, these agencies largely depend upon local entities such as cities and the county to develop and enforce water quality protections.

The San Mateo County Stable Ordinance is now being revised. Recent petitions which claim the entire horse community is "under siege" and that "our horse population is literally disappearing from rural San Mateo County" have served to cloud this revision process with fear rather than fact. To be effective, the new ordinance should include requirements for proper manure management and control of runoff to ensure that horse-

keeping practices are friendly to the environment.

The Coastside Horse Council, a horse advocacy group, has proposed that the new ordinance contain only voluntary self-regulating measures for horsekeeping. While we are entirely supportive of the Horse Council's broad goals of promoting educational programs to foster good horsekeeping and responsible stewardship of the environment, we believe that voluntary programs must also have the backup of clear and enforceable regulations, administered by the County.

The Horse Council is also urging the County to grandfather existing ranches, and reclassify horses as livestock under the new ordinance. We believe that grandfathering or exempting all existing horse operations, regardless of their animal waste management practices, will not be productive in the effort to halt coastal stream degradation and encourages continuation of the status quo. We also believe that reclassifying horses as livestock would be contrary to the vast body of State law, and could have unintended consequences for horse owners.

We support the Coastside Horse Council's requirement that the new ordinance should establish a reasonable fee structure and we urge the County to include a sliding scale that costs less for smaller operations. We have also proposed that owners who pasture small numbers of horses away from sensitive habitats in the rural areas should be exempted from permits.

There is clearly a reasonable and practical middle ground where the implementation of

CONSERVATION PRACTICES FOR HORSE OWNERS

Limit Horses' Access to Waterways

- Provide animals with other sources of water and shade
- Design stream crossings to minimize erosion
- Prevent trampling of streamside vegetation

Keep water clean

- Divert fresh runoff around contaminated areas to keep clean water clean
- Divert contaminated runoff from manured areas away from waterways
- Separate animal yards and manure storage from waterways with vegetated buffer strips
- Minimize use of chemicals in grooming
- Do not let horse wash water drain directly into waterways

Manage animal waste wisely

- Clean up manure and soiled bedding regularly, especially during wet weather
- Store horse waste on an impervious surface and under cover to prevent leaching and runoff
- Store waste away from waterways
- Compost! Keep waste piles moist and aerated to promote decomposition

Taken from: "Horse Owner's Guide to Water Quality Protection," published by the Council of Bay Area Resource Conservation Districts and funded by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Copies of this publication are available from the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District, (650) 712-7765.

conservation practices that protect the environment can also promote horse health, build good relations between neighbors and add to a horse property's value. We support both voluntary efforts and clear, reasonable and effective regulations. The health of our coastal streams and their inhabitants depends on all of us! **CGF**

STANFORD, continued from page 3

Supervisors votes to remove this protection.

The critical open space lands of the foothills have been reclassified from "Academic Reserve" to "**Open Space and Field Research.**" As CGF recommended, new foothill zoning — like hillside zoning — should require extensive clustering of development with dedication of open space.

The County has also required Stanford to draft a **Sustainable Build-Out Study** to detail the University's growth agenda — the first time that Stanford has ever been required to describe development plans. Importantly, the university must define how it will mitigate development and protect natural resources. While the County backed down from requiring permanent — or even

99-year — protection of the foothills, the Sustainable Build-Out Study offers an excellent opportunity for permanent foothill protection in the future.

Stanford is also being required to develop a **Conservation Plan** for rare, threatened, and endangered species on university lands, including the red-legged frog, the California tiger salamander, and the steelhead trout. More than 400 acres of Special Conservation Areas provide critical habitat for these animals, and we are proud that these lands are finally protected. This plan promises to offer significant protection for wildlife and habitat that will benefit many generations to come.

Finally, the County also plans to hire **independent consultants** to conduct independent annual monitoring of Stanford's compliance with these new regulations — a major depart-

ture from the past, when Stanford was allowed to self-monitor and to report its compliance with mitigation measures and traffic standards.

Committee for Green Foothills' massive campaign yielded more than these new planning tools and oversight procedures. As a result of our work, the Board of Supervisors opened the approval process to the public more widely than usual, and solicited extensive public comment. The result was the most involved and visible public process ever for a planning issue in Santa Clara County. Thanks to the outstanding leadership of former Supervisor — now Assemblyman — Joe Simitian, all who participated were heard. Our voices made the difference, and will affect significant change — for Stanford, the County, and the community — for decades to come. **CGF**

UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday, April 7 & Saturday, April 14

Field trip to Coyote Ridge. A tour of one of the Peninsula's last remaining serpentine habitats in full bloom. Hosted by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Expect to walk about 3 miles. Space is limited; to reserve a space, call Don Mayall at (650) 856-7579.

Thursday, April 12, 7-9pm

"Creating Sustainable Communities," a public forum. Learn how to make our local communities more environmentally-friendly. Palo Alto Council Chambers, 250 Hamilton Ave. Sponsored by BAA+PCCF, the Sustainable Communities Forum, and the City of Palo Alto. For info, call (650) 962-9876 ext. 302.

Saturday, April 21, 9am-noon

Earth Day beach clean-ups on the San Mateo County Coast: San Gregorio State

Beach, Venice State Beach, Surfer's Beach, Montara State Beach and Pacifica State Beach. Bring your own gloves. For info, contact Save Our Shores at (650) 560-9533 or hmbshore@pacbell.net.

Sunday, April 22

Earth Day sunrise ceremony. Details TBA. For info, contact BAA+PCCF at (650) 962-9876 ext. 302.

Sunday, April 22, 9:30am-noon

Highway 1 Cleanup in Moss Beach. Sponsored by Citizens for the Tunnel. For info, contact Denise Phillips at (650) 728-1912.

Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29, 10am-4pm

Native plant show and sale, Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Benefits Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

Sunday, April 29

Foothills Millennium Fund inauguration. To join this new group of conservation leaders supporting Committee for Green Foothills, or for more information, call (650) 968-7243 or email info@greenfoothills.org.

Saturday, May 12

Committee for Green Foothills Annual Members' Meeting. Everyone welcome! Details will be sent to members in April. For more information, call (650) 968-7243 or email info@greenfoothills.org.

INFO

E-ALERTS HELP YOU ACT QUICKLY!

To make it easier for our members to get involved, Committee for Green Foothills has a new system for sending action alerts. Instead of the slow, expensive, paper-consuming process of sending alerts and other important information through the mail, we're now emailing them to CGF members.

This is an easy way to keep up to date on the latest issues facing open space on the Peninsula. Want to join the list? Just send an email to "action@greenfoothills.org," and we'll add you.



**COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS**

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