

# FOREWORD

San José and Silicon Valley are at a crossroads. Down one path is the route to a truly vibrant, livable, healthy place—one of the world's greatest. Down the other is the course to sprawling development, traffic congestion, and the erosion of quality of life. Nowhere is this choice clearer than in San José's Coyote Valley.

Over the coming months and years the City and surrounding region have an opportunity to pursue responsible growth in the Valley that will create a new community of neighborhoods while protecting farmland, habitat, and open space. Achieving this will take new thinking and strong leadership firmly committed to addressing economic vitality, social equity, and environmental sustainability as equally important parts of any plan.

Greenbelt Alliance is pleased to have worked with a broad array of stakeholders, who care deeply about the future of Coyote Valley, in crafting this vision for the region. Community groups, businesses, labor interests, environmentalists, housing advocates, and others came together to challenge conventional thinking and establish an innovative Smart Growth approach for development in Coyote Valley.

This publication is the result of that hard work. It is a vision that seeks to respect the beauty and character of Coyote Valley while acknowledging the City's goal of creating a great new place with at least 50,000 jobs and at least 25,000 homes. Instead of generic sprawl, the vision describes a place where you know your neighbors, where you can walk to work, and your kids can walk to school. It is a vision for a livable community that includes affordable housing and connections to parks, farms, and the Valley's spectacular rolling hills.

Turning this vision into reality will take a dramatic change in San José's current approach to Coyote Valley. Thankfully, the City's elected officials and planners have shown great innovation and willingness to abandon outdated development patterns for new strategies that balance economic, community, and environmental values.

Done right, Coyote Valley could be a national model of Smart Growth and the envy of other cities. Done wrong, and we'll be in for traffic jams, smog, and sprawling development for as far as the eye can see.

Our hope is that San José will do the right thing in Coyote Valley, or do nothing at all.



Tom Steinbach  
Executive Director  
Greenbelt Alliance



*The intent of the Vision is to pursue responsible growth in Coyote Valley that will create a new community of neighborhoods while protecting farmland, habitat, and open space.*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Consultant Team

*Getting it Right: Preventing Sprawl in Coyote Valley* was prepared for Greenbelt Alliance by the following consultants:

### **Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC**

*Planning and Urban Design*

Stephen Hammond, Kevin Harper, Brent Raymond, Ji-In Son, Wendy Bloom

### **Solomon E.T.C., A WRT Company**

*Architecture and Urban Design*

Daniel Solomon, John Ellis, Khushru Irani, Sophia Lau, Jonace Bascon, Alan Christ

### **Bay Area Economics**

*Economics*

Janet Smith-Heimer, Jonathan Stern, Simon Alejandrino

### **Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates**

*Transportation*

Jeffrey Tumlin, Barb Laurensen, Bruce Williams

### **SAGE (Sustainable Agriculture Education)**

*Agriculture*

Sibella Kraus

### **H. Schultz Associates**

*Architectural Rendering*

Hank Schultz

## Greenbelt Alliance

Francesca Tierney, Project Manager

### **Staff**

Tom Steinbach

Jeremy Madsen

Jessica Fitchen

Dan Fahey

Janet Stone

### **Former Staff**

Autumn Bernstein

Vicki Moore

Michelle Yesney, Greenbelt Alliance President, and Paul Okamoto, former member of the Greenbelt Alliance Board of Directors, contributed countless hours of volunteer time to this project.

## Coyote Valley Vision Project Advisory Committee

Greenbelt Alliance would especially like to thank the members of the Coyote Valley Vision Project Advisory Committee whose guidance and feedback helped shape this document:

Joanne Benjamin, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

Bob Brownstein, Working Partnerships USA

Kelly Crowley, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Patrick Congdon, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

Virginia Holtz, League of Women Voters - San Jose/ Santa Clara

Rosemary Kamei, Santa Clara County Water District

Laura Stuchinsky, Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group

The participation of these individuals in this project does not constitute an endorsement by their organizations of the content of *Getting It Right: Preventing Sprawl in Coyote Valley*.

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Copies of this Vision document can be obtained from Greenbelt Alliance at the address below, or on the Web at [www.greenbelt.org](http://www.greenbelt.org).

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### **Greenbelt Alliance**

631 Howard Street, Suite 510 • San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: (415) 543-6771 • Fax: (415) 543-6781

[info@greenbelt.org](mailto:info@greenbelt.org) • [www.greenbelt.org](http://www.greenbelt.org)

*Our mission is to make the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area a better place to live by protecting the region's greenbelt and improving the livability of its cities and towns. The organization works through public policy development, advocacy and education, in partnership with diverse coalitions.*

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*Note: The appendices are not included in this document. They can be viewed at [www.greenbelt.org](http://www.greenbelt.org) or the entire document, including appendices, can be obtained in pdf format on a compact disk by contacting Greenbelt Alliance.*

