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Established in 1978 by

DAVID PACKARD

November 12, 2009

Planning Commission
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara
San Jose, CA 95119

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, I am writing to express support for The Ohlone, a mixed use proposal near Sunol and San Carlos by Republic Urban Properties.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents more than 300 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers on issues, programs and campaigns that affect the economic health and quality of life in Silicon Valley, including energy, transportation, education, housing, health care, tax policies, economic vitality and the environment. Leadership Group members collectively provide more than 250,000 local jobs, or one of every four private sector jobs in Silicon Valley.

San Jose has been a leader in providing housing for the workers of Silicon Valley. The Ohlone proposal represents an opportunity to continue that leadership and is a sound development proposal for a number of reasons including proximity to transit, jobs, services and downtown. It also represents an opportunity to demonstrate the City's commitment to the overall vision expressed through comprehensive planning efforts such as ABAG's Focus and the City's General Plan Update. It is through those efforts that we have collectively acknowledged the tremendous growth that will come to San Jose and have decided, as a community, where that growth is best directed. The Diridon area and San Carlos corridor are the places to direct new growth.

Although this proposal is early in the process, we absolutely support a more intensive residential use on the site. We also strongly encourage the developer and city to continue to do a good job engaging the community and other stakeholders in the process. Diridon and the immediate area are of regional significance and as a result, it is of utmost importance to partner with the immediate neighbors as well as community-wide stakeholders. There are many details that will need to be worked out, details that will ensure that the end result is a model for walkability, transit-orientation and serve to pave the way for future, more intensive developments in the corridor.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. We look forward to providing additional feedback as this proposal moves through the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Guardino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carl Guardino
President & CEO