

From: Clemence Tiradon
Sent: Sunday, November 03, 2019 10:12 AM
To: Raval, Meenaxi <meenaxi.raval@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>;
Subject: Charcot Avenue Extension Project File No. PP18-044

Dear Meenaxi Raval,

I'm writing to you in reference to the Charcot Avenue Extension Project (File No. PP18-044).

This project is based on outdated plans and assumptions. It doesn't fit into the City's new vision of itself as a vibrant, active place.

It will increase traffic and pollution to unacceptable levels and will make it less pleasant and safe to walk.

The City needs to consider how polluted the air in the area already is and how the school and the recreational space are a refuge for the community. The environmental study done for the City does not adequately consider the current situation in the neighborhood, already so close to a major highway and other major roads. How is it acceptable in 2019 to ignore the scientific data available linking air pollution to negative impact on children and their development? The scientific research is very clear. See the report from the [World Health Organization](#) or from the [American Lung association](#) to cite only 2.

"Children are society's future. But they are also its most vulnerable members. The immense threat posed to their health by air pollution demands that health professionals respond with focused, urgent action. Although more rigorous research into how air pollution affects children's health will continue to be valuable, there is already ample evidence to justify strong, swift action to prevent the damage it clearly produces. Health professionals must come together to address this threat as a priority, through collective, coordinated efforts. For the millions of children exposed to polluted air every day, there is little time to waste and so much to be gained." (WHO)

And if science is not enough, then please listen to our elected representatives themselves:

[San José Mayor Liccardo said:](#)

"As I experience children who simply cannot engage in daily activities because of asthma, as I see premature deaths, particularly in low income communities, caused by this kind of air, it makes me furious."

"We know it's a problem when we see much higher rates of asthma in low-income communities in the eastern part of my city where we know there are neighborhoods built closer to freeways. We know it's directly resulting from transportation, particularly automobiles. We know we have much farther to go"

Councilmember Lan Diep said:

"We can't stay being a car-oriented community any longer, especially as the North San Jose representative [...]"

Our community is primarily low-income, our school is a Title I school. We cannot continue with a project negatively impacting people who need the City's support the most. The harm done to the students at Orchard will be irreparable. The health of the students at Orchard School needs to be more important than increasing the speed of cars or allowing commuters to save a ridiculous 30 seconds (per DEIR) per trip.

Additionally, cutting down over 35 mature trees – some of them redwoods 30 inches in diameter and more – near the Coyote Creek side of the project is an irreplaceable loss for the environment. How are we going to achieve the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of the international Paris Agreement by cutting trees, allowing more cars and trucks on the road and polluting the air during construction? As stated by Climate Smart San José, *"Together, we can make San José a better place for our families, children and future generations. Every action, big or small, makes a difference!"* Well I believe that you, Meenaxi and team, have a chance to make a big difference by recommending the right thing to do: cancelling the project.

The City needs to take concerns of the community under serious consideration. Spending more than 50 million dollars of tax payer money to increase congestion is fiscally irresponsible. There are much better ways to spend the allocated budget to help the city of San José and its constituents.

Kind regards,

Clémence Tiradon