

August 13, 2019

Attachment 4

Karyl Matsumoto, Mayor of South San Francisco
Members of the Housing Standing Committee of
the City Council and Planning Commission
City Hall, 400 Grand Ave
South San Francisco, CA, 94080

**RE: South San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SSF PUC) Site Project**

Dear Mayor Matsumoto and Members of the Housing Standing Committee of the City Council and Planning Commission,

For over 60 years, Greenbelt Alliance has been the champion of places that make the Bay Area special. Greenbelt Alliance's 2017 report *At Risk: The Bay Area Greenbelt* concluded that over 293,000 acres of open space remain at risk within the next 30 years. To ease development pressure on these vital lands, we must work together to encourage smart development. Since the 1980s, we have provided an independent validation of outstanding infill development to help ensure that good development happens in the right places. Our endorsements have helped improve more than 140 neighborhoods around the region and have helped make the Bay Area a better place to live.

Greenbelt Alliance is pleased to endorse the "South San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Site"

This 806-unit, 20% affordable, mixed-use development is situated within both the South San Francisco El Camino/Chestnut Area Plan and the El Camino Real-South San Francisco Priority Development Area. With the South San Francisco BART station less than ½ mile north of the site, this is a key location for delivering good quality, high-density housing in close proximity to transit. Partitioned by Colma Creek, the project consists of three buildings including a 13,000 s.f. Market Hall intended for local production businesses, an 8,300 s.f. childcare facility, as well as thoughtful and supportive community amenities and 1.5 acres of public open space.

The South SF PUC Site will deliver a walkable and vibrant community for residents across the income spectrum, support the local economy, relieve development pressure on the region's open spaces, and offer a host of other environmental and quality of life benefits, transforming one of the largest underutilized sites in the Bay Area into a vibrant, sustainable, walkable community with homes, shops, jobs, and parks in close proximity. This project will contribute essential connections along the Centennial Trail, opening three new public entry points to the trail and showcasing a park, fitness station and playground, which will greatly benefit the surrounding neighborhood.

We encourage the City of South San Francisco to continue improving local policies to encourage sustainable, equitable development. In particular, we recommend that the city maintain their commitment to increasing both the density and affordability of new developments. As the Mission Corridor grows, it is important to increase resident's access to transit and protected trail systems. In closing, this SSF PUC project is another smart step for South San Francisco to ensure the creation of affordable homes and vibrant, walkable communities. We hope its approval will inspire communities around the Bay Area to redouble their own smart growth efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam Garcia".

Adam Garcia
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