TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

February 13, 2019

Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and Members of the City Council
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Carrasco, and Councilmembers, Arenas, Davis, Diep, Jimenez, Jones, Khamis, Nguyen, Peralez and Rocha.

RE: Item 3.4 – Potential General Obligation Bond Ballot Measure

On behalf of our members and the undersigned organizations, we strongly support the recommendation to place a city sponsored general obligation bond including significant new resources for affordable housing on the November ballot.

As our housing crisis grows, we have reached consensus on the need for significantly more affordable housing in San Jose. These are critically needed resources, and this is an exciting opportunity that should not be allowed to pass us by. City Staff has estimated that the shortfall in reaching the goal of 10,000 affordable units is $560 million. This bond measure can offer the promise of real progress towards meeting these goals, and we urge council to consider this a primary tool in bridging this gap.

We are heartened that the polling data show that the residents of San Jose recognize the challenge of housing affordability in our city, and would strongly support a bond measure that included resources for more affordable housing.

The affordable housing challenges we face, and will face in the future, are complex and will require a range of solutions. We support the proposed flexibility of the measure to fund land acquisition, construction, and acquisition and rehabilitation of existing properties.

As we know our work will require a diversity of tools, we also know we need to continue to develop a diversity of permanent funding sources, and we will continue to work with this administration and council to develop long term solutions that recognize the long term needs we face.

Placing the measure on the ballot is only the first step in the process, and we each stand committed to helping to share the value of stable affordable housing with the voters of San Jose.

Thank you in advance for your courage and leadership.
Sincerely,

Leslye Corsiglia
Executive Director