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*The SVBC is a 501(c)(3)
non-profit organization.*

Mr. Thang Do, Chairman
Planning Commission of the City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara Street; 3rd Floor Tower
San Jose, CA 95113

August 13, 2009

Re: Stucco Supply Site Development Permit Appeal
Docket # H 09-009

Dear Chairman Do and Honorable Commissioners:

The Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition is an organization with 600 members committed to promoting the bicycle for everyday use and making bicycling a safe and viable mode of transportation across the whole of Silicon Valley. We are writing to request that the Planning Commission deny the construction permit requested by the Stucco Supply Company to build on the former Union Pacific Railroad Willow Glen Spur right of way. Allowing this construction will preclude any chance of building a much-needed bicycle and pedestrian corridor in this part of San Jose.

Off-road bicycle paths are an extremely important resource for promoting car-free travel, for commuting as well as for recreation. In San Jose, the major bicycle paths follow the waterways in a general north-south direction, along the Coyote Creek, the Guadalupe River (and Highway 87), and the Los Gatos Creek. Apart from the Highway 237 bikeway, there are no east-west trails to connect to these north-south routes, and there is no cross-town trail connection at all in the center of town.

The Willow Glen Spur of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) offers an ideal connection between the trail systems along these three waterways. It was recognized as such in the City's General Plan. Now that the railroad has abandoned operations, a trail along the right-of-way could connect San Jose downtown, the business district and residences of Willow Glen, the existing bike paths along Highway 87 and Los Gatos Creek with the industrial areas to the east, the underserved residences in the Washington/Tamien/Alma District, and ultimately connect to Kelly Park, the Municipal Stadium, and the newly extended Coyote Creek Trail.

However UPRR has sold one segment of the right of way to the Stucco Supply Company which is now applying for a permit to erect a structure across the path of



a potential trail. If this construction permit is granted, it will forever preclude the possibility of a genuine off-road cross-town connection. There is no other similar east-west corridor in central San Jose.

The tract is wide enough to support dual use: to permit the Stucco Supply Company to continue to have access to Almaden Avenue for their trucks, and also to accommodate a trail along the south side of the property. If the appeal is upheld, it will allow the City and County, along with supporting private organizations, to raise the funds to purchase an easement for a trail, and it will provide park and recreational land in the Washington neighborhood, as well as a pathway for recreation to Kelly Park and cross-town commuting.

The Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition therefore urges the Planning Commission to vote to uphold the appeal, and deny the construction permit to the Stucco Supply Company.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Corinne Winter
DN: cn=Corinne Winter, o=Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

Corinne Winter
Executive Director

cc: Sylvia Do, Planning Division, City of San Jose
Lisa Jenson, Planning Commission
Xavier Campos, Planning Commission
Matt Kamkar, Planning Commission
Hope Cahan, Planning Commission

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