



**COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS**

August 19, 2005

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
70 W. Hedding Street, 10th Floor, East Wing
San Jose, CA 95110

Re: Agenda Item #21 – Resolution of Support for a Park Charter Measure

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors;

For more than 30 years in Santa Clara County, voter-dedicated charter funding for County parks has provided a stable resource base to maintain and acquire new parks to serve our fast-growing County population. Voters have renewed the charter multiple times, always by extremely large majorities. The voters have clearly mandated support for this program.

The current charter expires in 2009, but in order to allow multi-year advance planning, park supporters have begun efforts to renew the charter next year. The Committee for Green Foothills supports these efforts, and we ask the Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution in support of the efforts for a new Charter Measure.

We urge you to support dedicated funding for parks regardless of whether a potential sales tax increase moves forward. If a sales tax increase were to go forward, there would be no guarantee that the increased revenues would substitute for the loss of charter-dedicated funding. If a sale tax increase does not happen and the parks funding charter is allowed to lapse, County parks will fall into the trap of unstable funding and loss of services that the dedication is meant to prevent.

We hope the Supervisors will move forward with this resolution to support the ongoing protection of much-loved open spaces in Santa Clara County. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

<signed>

Brian A. Schmidt
Legislative Advocate, Santa Clara County