



# Measure B: *A New Threat to Coyote Valley*

BY ALICE KAUFMAN LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

*We are urging all San Jose residents to vote no on Measure B, both to help protect Coyote Valley and for the future growth of San Jose.*

It seems like the fight to protect Coyote Valley never ends. Even though 2017 was a year of good news for Coyote Valley – the purchase by the Peninsula Open Space Trust of two ecologically important sites; the withdrawal of the Panattoni warehouse project; recognition by San Jose elected officials that Coyote Valley is significant for wildlife, groundwater, and flood protection – we now have a new threat to contend with in 2018. This new threat comes in the shape of a ballot measure that could facilitate residential sprawl development in North Coyote Valley.

Measure B, which will be on San Jose’s June 2018 ballot, would approve a 910-unit senior residential development on the Evergreen Industrial Park area (at the far eastern edge of San Jose). This would convert 200 acres of open space to a luxury gated community and push the city’s development footprint even further towards the Diablo Range. But this is not the worst eventuality threatened by the ballot measure. In addition to the Evergreen development, Measure B would also approve a “Senior Housing Overlay” that could apply to all “underutilized

employment lands” in San Jose. Although this term is not defined in the initiative (which means that lawsuits to determine the definition of this term are very likely if the initiative passes), an analysis of the language of Measure B conducted by the City of San Jose suggests that any land designated for industrial or commercial development that is currently vacant could be targeted for development in the wake of this initiative. North Coyote Valley (which is designated in the general plan for industrial use) fits this description.

*Continued on Page 4*

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Protecting Bay Habitat in Menlo Park_____	p. 2
Remembering Our Friend Dick DeAtley_____	p. 3
Join Us for Our Upcoming Events_____	p. 5
Is San Jose Ready To Protect Coyote Valley? _____	p. 6
Welcome New Members_____	p. 6

# Protecting Bay Habitat in Menlo Park

BY HELEN WOLTER LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE



## COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS

We are a grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to establish and maintain land use policies that protect the environment throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

Our mission is to protect the open spaces, farmlands, and natural resources of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties through advocacy, education, and grassroots action.

**Committee for Green Foothills**  
3921 East Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

info@GreenFoothills.org  
www.GreenFoothills.org  
(650) 968-7243

### STAFF

Megan Medeiros  
**Executive Director**  
Alice Kaufman  
**Legislative Advocacy Director**  
Lennie Roberts  
**Legislative Advocate**  
Paul Ledesma  
**Legislative Advocate**  
Helen Wolter  
**Legislative Advocate**  
Leslie Holder  
**Associate Director of Marketing**  
Mandy Henry  
**Development and Communications Manager**  
Justyne Schnupp  
**Community Engagement Manager**  
Ava Lindstrom  
**Executive Assistant**  
Shawn Gu  
**Junior Graphic Designer**  
Chris Sturken  
**Community Engagement Intern**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ron Erskine  
**President**  
Joan Sherlock  
**Vice President**  
Ricardo Samaniego  
**Treasurer**  
Bryan Beck  
**Secretary**  
Larry Ames, Matthew Burrows,  
Chuck Cantrell, Tate Cohn, Edmundo  
Larenas, Chris Manning, Violet Saena,  
Brian Schmidt, Jeff Segall, Jo-Ann  
Byrne Sockolov

Green Footnotes is published three times a year by Committee for Green Foothills.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Ron Horii - Pg 1, Kent Fields - Pg 2, Dick DeAtley - Pg 3, Bill Adams - Pg 5, Miguel Lepoutre rñon - Pg 5, Matt Dolkas - Pg 7, Teddy Miller - Pg 8



*Working with Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park, we urged city councilmembers to protect wildlife habitat.*

In the fall of 2017, the City of Menlo Park started the Master Plan update for Bedwell Bayfront Park, setting the direction of the park for years to come.

Included in the early concepts of the Master Plan were two proposals that jeopardized the original natural vision for the site: a boat ramp and the option to fly drones within the park.

We took action because it put the largest nesting site for the endangered Ridgway rails in the San Francisco Bay at risk. The Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, where many species

of concern reside, surrounds the park on three sides. Greco Island, which is part of the Refuge and is directly across from Bedwell Bayfront Park, is home to more endangered Ridgway rails than anywhere else in the Bay. Furthermore, unmanned gliders mimic raptor behavior which would disturb the reproductive cycle of these threatened migratory shorebirds.

Residents voted in 2006 to maintain Bedwell Bayfront Park's natural state to benefit the community as a respite from the hustle and bustle of Silicon Valley, as well as for the preservation of wildlife and the environment. The primary group behind this early effort to preserve the park as a natural resource was the neighborhood group known as the Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park.

Like Committee for Green Foothills, this

small nonprofit was again rallying Menlo Park residents to maintain the park's protections. We met with them and guided their rallying cries to include meetings with city councilmembers, letters to the editor, as well as personal statements at the planning commission and city council meetings. We also personally advocated city councilmembers expressing concerns over the proposals and their potential negative impacts on local birds.

After a long and late meeting, the city council ended up following our recommendations and

voted unanimously, 5-0, in favor of maintaining the peace and serenity of the natural resources that exists today. The plan excluded the boat ramp and gliders, recognizing that such activities were not appropriate for this park. The team effort of Friends of Bedwell and Committee for Green Foothills supporting a peaceful park in the midst of Silicon Valley won the day. 🐸

*Helen Wolter joined Committee for Green Foothills in 2017 as our newest San Mateo County Legislative Advocate, after managing Anna Eshoo's Congressional campaigns. You can often find Helen hiking in the mountains, reading, or chasing her son. A west coast native, she has lived in the Bay Area for over 30 years.*



# Remembering Our Friend Dick DeAtley

BY LENNIE ROBERTS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE

If I had to pick just one word to describe Richard O. "Dick" DeAtley, it would be "Friend." Indeed, Dick had the rare ability to become an instant friend to everyone he met. His infectious warm smile, sparkling blue eyes, and deep interest in a wide variety of topics, enabled him to engage and form friendships with almost anyone.

I first met Dick 13 years ago when he contacted Committee for Green Foothills to discuss his proposed plans for expansion of the Pilarcitos Quarry, located just east of Half Moon Bay. The quarry, established in the 1930s, mines sand and gravel from an isolated deposit of Montara Mountain granite. This granite is a tectonic "island" that originated in the southern Sierra and has been sliding and bumping its way up the California coast to San Mateo County along the shear of the San Andreas Fault for millions of years.

In 2005, Dick was seeking permits to allow a major expansion of the quarry and wanted Committee for Green Foothills' input. We did have concerns about the environmental impacts of his initial proposal, as it would have committed the entire 588-acre property to mining, except for a strip of environmentally sensitive habitat areas along the valley floor. We worried that by excavating the slopes of the entire upper canyon of Nuff Creek, there would be downstream impacts to Pilarcitos Creek, a known steelhead spawning stream. The threatened California red-legged frog is also found in wetlands along the floor of the upper canyon and would have likely been impacted.

Due to concerns that we and the various regulatory agencies voiced over impacts to sensitive habitats, water quality, and wildlife, Dick decided to limit the quarry expansion to a much smaller 107-acre footprint, which would enable permanent protection of the entire upper canyon.

Along the way, Dick made friends with staff members of the regulatory agencies, as well as the Farm Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, and local elected officials. When the County Planning Commission members unanimously approved the quarry's expansion permit in 2013, no one appealed their decision to the Board of Supervisors or Coastal Commission.

At every step of the way, Dick was committed to thoroughly and completely addressing every concern, whether it was truck traffic, endangered and threatened species, water flows in the creek, or visual impacts, no matter what the costs might be.

After the quarry's expansion permit was finally issued, Dick and his wife Beth became major financial supporters of Committee for Green Foothills, and attended nearly every one of our events,

including hikes, over the years.

In 2014, a year after the quarry received its expansion permit, Dick retired from the quarry business, sold the Pilarcitos and several other quarries, and made a generous donation to our organization through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. This has enabled us to have a measure of financial security as we expand and deepen our advocacy in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

When Dick unexpectedly died on November 25, 2017, he and Beth were making plans for many more trips in remote parts of the world (they had already visited 150 countries). His talents were also engaged as a board member of the Oakland Museum of California and the San Francisco Maritime National Parks Association.

But Dick's commitment to environmental stewardship at Pilarcitos Quarry, as well as Committee for Green Foothills, will live on and are shining examples of how one person can make a difference. We are indeed grateful for the privilege of being included as one of Dick's special "Friends." Thank you, Dick and Beth, for making this part of the world a better place. Dick, we will miss you. 🐸

***"Dick's commitment to environmental stewardship at Pilarcitos Quarry, as well as Committee for Green Foothills, will live on."***



*Dick DeAtley, a friend and a major supporter of Committee for Green Foothills, passed away on November 25, 2017.*

*For 40 years, Lennie Roberts has been our voice in San Mateo County. One of the Bay Area's most respected environmental leaders, Lennie has led countless critical open space battles on the San Mateo county coast and along Skyline Boulevard.*



Continued from Page 1

### WHAT'S THE THREAT TO COYOTE VALLEY?

Coyote Valley has been under threat of industrial development for decades. In 1999, the Coyote Valley Research Park proposal would have placed a huge tech campus there; in the early 2000s, the Coyote Valley Specific Plan proposed a combination of office and residential development over both North and Mid Coyote Valley. So what's different about this initiative?

The threat lies in the fact that Measure B not only creates a Senior Housing Overlay that could apply to North Coyote Valley, it also rewrites the entire general plan to make it very difficult for the planning department or the city council to reject a development proposal under the Senior Housing Overlay. In other words, even though San Jose officials have finally begun to appreciate the importance of the wildlife habitat and floodplain resources of Coyote Valley, that might not matter if Measure B passes – because they might not have the ability to protect it from development.

### WHAT OTHER IMPACTS WOULD RESULT FROM MEASURE B?

Measure B is harmful for San Jose even without its potential to impact Coyote Valley. The initiative rewrites the general plan to exempt Senior Housing Overlay projects from a whole host of general plan policies, including policies for walkable neighborhoods and bicycle connectivity. It also exempts such projects from the city's affordable housing ordinance: Senior Housing Overlay projects will be able to get away with building less affordable housing than is required of other residential developments. Worse, Measure B exempts these projects from the timing requirements of San Jose's affordable housing ordinance – meaning that the affordable units might not get built for years, if at all.

Measure B also eliminates the general plan's goals of avoiding residential sprawl and encouraging transit-oriented, infill housing. By allowing all "underutilized employment lands" to be converted to Senior Housing Overlay, Measure B would make it possible for residential development to be located at the farthest edges of the city – causing increased traffic with its attendant air pollution and climate change impacts.

The independent analysis of Measure B found that this residential sprawl development could cost the city over \$24 million per year in increased services such as police, fire, and parks. In fact, the analysis found that if all of the vacant employment land in San Jose was converted to Senior Housing Overlay use, it would generate a demand for over 500 acres for new parks in order to provide enough parkland for all that new residential development. It's doubtful city leaders could find that much acreage for new parkland – thus, San Jose's existing parks would be overburdened.

Perhaps the greatest harm of Measure B is its precedent-setting effect. If Measure B passes, it sends a message to other developers that it's easier to put an initiative on the ballot to approve development than to go through the regular planning process,

with its community meetings, public participation, and possibility of changing a project or contributing more towards community benefits. Moreover, because ballot measures are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Measure B and any future initiatives would not go through CEQA's environmental analysis.

### SAN JOSE SHOULD VOTE NO ON MEASURE B

Peter Douglas, longtime executive director of the California Coastal Commission, famously said that "the coast is never saved – it's always being saved." The same is true of other precious open spaces that are targeted for development, such as Coyote Valley. If we are to save Coyote Valley's wildlife corridors and wildlife habitat, its creeks and groundwater, its fields and farmland, we must fight against every threat. San Jose voters must vote down Measure B this June.

To learn more about Measure B and sign up to endorse the opposition, visit: [www.greenfoothills.org/no-on-measureB](http://www.greenfoothills.org/no-on-measureB).

Alice Kaufman is our Legislative Advocacy Director and has been on staff since 2012. She is a founding member of Redwood City Neighbors United, a community group working to defeat the massive Cargill/DMB Saltworks development on the Redwood City salt ponds.



**DEFENDING**  
Coyote Valley  
for its  
wildlife and you

[www.protectcoyotevalley.org](http://www.protectcoyotevalley.org)

**PROTECT COYOTE VALLEY**  
SAN JOSE

# Join Us for Our Upcoming Events

Space is limited, please RSVP online at: [www.greenfoothills.org/calendar](http://www.greenfoothills.org/calendar)

## SPRING



### Annual Stegner Giving Circle Appreciation Hike & Picnic

Woodside — Sunday, April 15, 9am-2pm

This year to thank members of our Stegner Giving Circle (those who give \$500 or more annually), we invite you to join us for an easy, or moderately strenuous, docent-led tour of the exclusive Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, a Stanford University field station. Whether or not you can make it on the hike, a visit to the Sun Research Field Station and picnic lunch will follow.



### Earth Day Bird Walk

Palo Alto — Saturday April 14, 10:30am-12:30pm

To celebrate Earth Day, enjoy a family friendly 3-mile guided bird walk around the Palo Alto Baylands led by docents from the Environmental Volunteers and they'll even give us a tour of their very cool EcoCenter. We hope to see a variety of birds in addition to great views of the Bay.



### Mummy Mountain Hike for Kids

Gilroy — Saturday, May 5, 9am-1pm

Calling all parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and guardians! Bring your children on a day out in nature that is more than a hike; it's an adventure. Join us at the Coyote Lake/Harvey Bear Ranch County Park for a 4-mile walk and fun mid-hike activity. This is a beautiful loop with a 500-foot elevation gain and terrific views across Coyote Lake, the Santa Clara Valley, and beyond.



### Visit Butterfly Restoration Sites in Alum Rock Park

San Jose — Sunday, May 13, 9am-12pm

Join us at Alum Rock Park for a family friendly visit to checkerspot and monarch butterfly restoration sites. Stephen Rosenthal, past California National Plant Society Santa Clara Valley President, volunteers to help restore Alum Rock's native habitat and will show us the restoration site followed by a short hike.

## SUMMER



### Google Ecology Walking Tour

Mountain View — Tuesday, July 10, 6-7:30pm

Explore the Google campus to learn about how the company has used resilience science to restore the natural habitats that surround it. On this 1-mile, hour-long walk, an Environmental Design Strategist will show us habitat creation efforts by the Ecology Team and San Francisco Estuary Institute and explain how they fit into Google's Native Habitat Design Guidelines.



### MEMBERS ONLY: Coyote Valley by Moonlight

Morgan Hill — Saturday, Aug 25, 7-10pm

Join us for an evening hike in Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve. Nocturnal enthusiasts will get a kick out of this moderately strenuous 4-mile hike through the grasslands and forests. If we time it right, you'll catch the sun setting just as the moon is rising, a sight that left hikers in awe last year.



### Nature's Inspiration: Honoring Steve Abbors and Rue Mapp

Woodside — Sunday, September 23, 1-4pm

Join us for an afternoon in celebration of our 56-year legacy and two people who have dedicated their lives to protecting open space and connecting people to nature. Surrounded by redwoods at The Mountain Terrace, we'll honor Steve Abbors, retired General Manager of Midpeninsula Open Space District, and Rue Mapp, Founder and CEO of Outdoor Afro.

We'll enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres as we honor these inspirational leaders in the national open space movement.

Find out more at: [www.greenfoothills.org/NI2018](http://www.greenfoothills.org/NI2018)

# Is San Jose Ready To Protect Coyote Valley?

BY PAUL LEDESMA LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE

When the City of San Jose first proposed its draft Environmental Sustainability Plan last August, Committee for Green Foothills and other environmental groups protested that the plan contained no reference to the role of open space in fighting climate change. In the months since then, we have worked extensively with our partners and city staff to achieve a study of the benefits provided by “natural and working lands.” The recent vote by San Jose City Councilmembers to approve this study as part of what is now called the “Climate Smart San Jose Plan” may be a signal of a changing view at City Hall regarding the true value of open space, including Coyote Valley.

The Climate Smart San Jose Plan is the city’s roadmap to achieving long-term sustainability through reducing greenhouse gas emissions, changing transportation patterns, and maintaining a long-term water supply. In adopting Climate Smart San Jose, the city committed to a scientific analysis that could inform decisions about changing the city’s general plan as they relate to environmentally sensitive open spaces. Specifically, San Jose has committed to a detailed study of how places like Coyote Valley can be used to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. In addition, the study will estimate the amount of greenhouse gases that can be avoided by not sprawling San Jose into its last

remaining open spaces.

In the absence of federal leadership, many of the mayors of the nation’s major cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and now San Jose, have committed their cities to taking actions necessary for achieving the ambitious climate change goals of the Paris Accords.

This bold step by the City of San Jose, along with Mayor Liccardo’s recent comments at his State of the City address when he declared “we must work together to reimagine the possibilities of Coyote Valley, for wildlife protection, recreation, flood control, and conservation,” are clear signals that there has been a positive change in thinking at City Hall.

San Jose’s commitment to studying the benefits of its open spaces to fighting climate change, as well as the Mayor’s call for “reimagining possibilities,” should give us something to be cautiously optimistic about and reason to continue to fight for places like Coyote Valley. 🐾

*Paul Ledesma served as our Santa Clara County Legislative Advocate from August 2017-March 2018. He lives in Campbell with Pam, his wife of 23 years. Paul enjoys exploring the valley on bike and foot and also enjoys cooking, photography, and playing guitar. Thank you for your service, we’ll miss you Paul!*



## Welcome New Members!

### New Donors October 2017 — January 2018

- Vicki Alexander
- Donna and David Becht
- Merrelyn L. and James G. Brand
- Bob Clark
- Thomas and Mary Conrad
- Rosalyn Coronado
- Sue Crane
- James Eggers
- Environmental Volunteers
- Christina Fairbairn
- Jose Gonzalez
- Paul Heiple
- Diana Koin
- Arvind Kumar
- Alan and Carole Kushnir
- Tiffany Larsen
- Edmund Lee
- Kim Levin
- Robert Levy
- Joe Lovecchio
- Alison Madden
- Robert and Lori Mains
- Patrick May
- Renee Moresco
- Paul Nowicki
- Sharon Prager
- Leah Quenelle
- Steve Quon
- Bob Reese
- Matthew Ryzdik
- Marguerite and Claire Wilhelm-Safian
- Lynn Santos
- Daniel and Amy Schiff
- Lisa Sousa
- Anton Swanson
- Diane Toby
- Claire Toutant

***“I chose to become a member for two simple reasons. Yes, Committee for Green Foothills has a record of success and is important as part of the conservation ecosystem of the Bay Area. But more importantly, I believe in the people. Megan and her staff model the leadership we need: patient but action-oriented, kind yet forceful, visionary, and most of all she looks for the value in all of us. How could I not invest in that?”***



**JOSÉ GONZÁLEZ**  
New Member,  
Latino Outdoors Founder

**Join José and become a member today.** For more information see: [www.greenfoothills.org/donate](http://www.greenfoothills.org/donate)

## The Committee is Watching...

### San Mateo County

**SAN MATEO COUNTY** — where a collaborative effort between Planning and Building, the Parks Department, Public Works, and the Office of Sustainability has been working for the past 18 months on updating the County’s Heritage and Significant Tree Ordinances. Legislative Advocate Lennie Roberts is on the Steering Committee for this effort, and has been advocating for better protection of our Oaks and other native species.

**BURLINGAME** — where the State Lands Commission will be preparing a Public Trust Needs Assessment to determine the appropriate uses on an undeveloped 9-acre bayfront property. We are supporting restoration of the site including a “living levee,” improved public access on the Bay Trail, a small non-motorized boat launch area, and educational activities.

**THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT** — which will decide soon whether to accept the appeal of billionaire Vinod Khosla, who has been unsuccessful in his efforts to close Martin’s Beach to public access without first obtaining a Coastal Development Permit.

**EAST PALO ALTO** — where the city is considering a new development code to replace existing zoning regulations. Legislative Advocate Helen Wolter is reviewing the proposed ordinance and will be making recommendations to strengthen the city’s protections for urban trees and parkland.

### Santa Clara County

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA** — which is expected this spring to release the draft Environmental Impact Report for a proposed sand mining operation on Sargent Ranch—also known as Juristac to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, for whom it is sacred ancestral land. We are working to ensure that all 6,500 acres of this nearly-pristine habitat is protected.



*We’re speaking up for the restoration of a 9-acre bayfront property in Burlingame.*

## The Committee Applauds...

### Santa Clara County

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** — for voting to explore the potential for preserving 6,500 acres of nearly-pristine wilderness on Sargent Ranch—known to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band as Juristac. A sand mining operation is being proposed for part of the property. We are opposing the sand mining project and are working with the Amah Mutsun to preserve the entire site.

**SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL** — for approving a major policy shift in the way it assesses the environmental impacts of future development on transportation projects. The move away from the old “Level of Service” method of assessment to one based on “Vehicle Miles Traveled” (VMT) is intended to encourage active transportation and infill development that will be in line with the city’s policy goal of focusing development away from sprawl.

### San Mateo County

**STANFORD UNIVERSITY** — for installing a bridge and removing a concrete apron crossing San Francisquito Creek on Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, and announcing the planned removal of a diversion dam at Stanford Weekend Acres. Both the apron and diversion dam have been identified as barriers to fish passage.

# NATURE'S INSPIRATION

*Honoring Steve Abbors & Rue Mapp*

Save the Date  
**SEPTEMBER 23, 1-4pm**

## Check Out Our Annual Report

*for more on our big wins for wildlife in 2017.*

[www.greenfoothills.org/2017report](http://www.greenfoothills.org/2017report)

## Speak up for local wildlife and double your donation

*with an employer matching gift.*

*Find out more at:*

[www.greenfoothills.org/donate/employer-matching-gifts](http://www.greenfoothills.org/donate/employer-matching-gifts)



**COMMITTEE FOR  
GREEN FOOTHILLS**

3921 East Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

*Join Us Online!*

[www.greenfoothills.org/newsletter-sign-up](http://www.greenfoothills.org/newsletter-sign-up)