

# Save Our Trails!



Promoting trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and Council Members  
200 E. Santa Clara St., San José CA 95113  
Sent via email c/o City Clerk

SUBJECT: Support of MOU with Google

November 30, 2018

Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council:

**Save Our Trails: Connecting Santa Clara County Communities** is a California Not-for-Profit Corporation whose mission is *“To promote trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all.”* On behalf of **Save Our Trails**, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the principles expressed in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Google which will soon be coming for a vote.

The City has conducted a very extensive process of gathering input from stakeholders regarding important elements of any agreement on the sale of City and SARA-owned properties to Google. Throughout this process, one recurring theme has been the importance of trails to the Diridon Area. Participants in the SAAG meetings emphasized repeatedly the benefits that trails will bring:

- As a vehicle-free commuting route to work for Google employees
- As a vehicle-free route to Diridon Station for users of transit
- As a locus for recreation and relaxation for visitors, the public, and Google employees.

Based on their public statements before the SAAG, Google’s representatives appear to have a genuine recognition of these benefits. More significantly, these benefits have been recognized in the MOU that the Council will consider at the December 4th meeting, specifically in Shared Goal #8: *“Develop robust, publicly accessible amenities, including parks, open space, plazas, and trails, and create attractive, vibrant, and safe experiences for pedestrians and bicyclists.”*

It is the prospect of seeing the extension of the City’s trail network to and through the Diridon Station Area that we find so compelling and leads us to voice our support for a project of such major significance.

Save Our Trails wishes to point out one concern. The MOU includes the sale of the city’s fire training facility (255 S. Montgomery St.) to Google. But this parcel is needed for the right-of-way of the Los Gatos Creek Trail, a trail which will be the key link from the residential areas of Willow Glen to Diridon Station and the Google employment centers. It is essential that the right-of-way be preserved. Has the City considered requesting an easement for the Trail as a condition for selling this parcel?

Assuming that the right-of-way for the Los Gatos Creek Trail is protected, Save Our Trails enthusiastically supports the MOU between the City and Google, and urges City Council to vote for its adoption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Rankin".

Bill Rankin  
President, **Save Our Trails**; Web: [www.saveourtrails-scc.org](http://www.saveourtrails-scc.org)