



Mayor Sandra James and City Council
Cupertino City Hall
10300 Torre Avenue
Cupertino, CA 95014-3202

August 19, 2004

Dear Mayor James and members of the Cupertino City Council,

On behalf of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, I am writing to convey our opposition to the three initiatives on density, height and setbacks circulated by the Concerned Citizens of Cupertino.

Stopping sprawl is one of the top priorities of the Sierra Club. Sprawl spreads development out over large amounts of land; puts long distances between homes, stores, and job centers; and makes people more and more dependent on driving in their daily lives. Sprawl pollutes our air and water, increases traffic on our streets and highways, wastes tax money, and reduces our open space. However, there is an alternative. Smart growth can be used to prevent sprawl by encouraging pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly development, affordable housing nearer to places of employment, and infill development adjacent to transportation choices.

Based on these principles, the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club opposes the three initiatives backed by the Concerned Citizens of Cupertino. Passage of these initiatives would be a detriment to the Club's efforts to promote smart growth, infill development, the creation of vibrant, walkable and pedestrian-friendly communities, the protection of open space, and the construction of affordable homes.

We applaud you for your stated opposition to these initiatives, and we will continue to support ongoing efforts to defeat them.

Best regards,

Shirley Sampson
Chairperson, Executive Committee
Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club
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