



**COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS**

August 12, 2019

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, CA

RE: Agenda Item 12 - Approve referral to Administration and County Counsel to bring back to the September 10, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting actions relating to enabling the Board to place a five-eighths of one cent retail transactions (sales) and use tax for Santa Clara County on the ballot. (Chavez)

Dear President Simitian and Supervisors:

Committee for Green Foothills appreciates the inclusion of climate change protection and the preservation of agricultural land as potential priorities for additional funds that could be garnered through a sales and use tax increase. We believe this reflects the stated desire of the Board to address a long-standing need to permanently protect our most threatened agricultural lands which is part of a larger climate change mitigation strategy.

A report just released by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirms that, from a scientific standpoint, land conservation and management are central to how the world can mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts. Permanent protection of our agricultural lands most at risk of development is a critical and necessary first step we can do at the local level.

For 57 years, Committee for Green Foothills has worked to protect the open space, farmland and natural resources of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties for all their benefits and for the benefit of all. Over the past few years, we have engaged in the County's efforts to draft and implement the Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan and provided letters of support for the County's efforts to obtain state funding for regional planning efforts related to agricultural lands and the preservation of local farmland.

**COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS**

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Considered: 08/13/2019

We continue to support a path toward identifying and implementing a dedicated local funding source for farmland preservation that will ensure we remain competitive for state (and federal) funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Hutcheson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julie Hutcheson
Director of Impact