May 16, 2012

Honorable Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Santa Clara County Government Center
70 West Hedding Street
San José, CA 95110

RE: Proposed investment of Stanford mitigation funds in bicycle and pedestrian projects

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing on behalf of Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition to express my organization’s strong support for the proposed investment of $5 million in the Adobe Creek Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge over Highway 101 in Palo Alto and $3 million in the Dumbarton link to the Bay Trail in East Palo Alto. Both these projects clearly serve recreational purposes as outlined in the Stanford agreement. They also serve the needs of commuting cyclists and pedestrians as they combine exercise with transportation.

Thanks to the vision of Supervisors Kniss and Cortese, these two projects have the potential to maximize the funds from the Stanford mitigation agreement by combining the recreational desires of Stanford and Palo Alto residents and the infrastructure needs of the greater community. Construction of the proposed bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing at Adobe Creek in Palo Alto will connect residents to the natural beauty of the Baylands and provide a valuable bicycle commute route to the Bay Trail that is open and available for public use all year round. Furthermore, completing the critical East Palo Alto gap in the Bay Trail will connect over 100 miles of continuous bicycle and pedestrian paths between Santa Clara County, San Mateo County, and the East Bay. The Bay Trail is a premier recreational resource and a major bicycle-commuting route, and Santa Clara County should be proud to work toward its completion.

I urge you to not let this opportunity pass us by. The money invested by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors should benefit as many residents in the county and region as possible - not solely Stanford University students and staff. The proposed projects will serve a far greater number of people and help keep the whole area healthy and active.

Thank you for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,

Corinne Winter
President and Executive Director