



CHARITIES HOUSING

December 3, 2018

Supervisor Cindy Chavez
County of Santa Clara
70 W. Hedding St.
San Jose, CA 95110

RE: Reid-Hillview Airport

Dear Supervisor Chavez;

Charities Housing is pleased to see that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara is evaluating the future use of the Reid-Hillview Airport in San Jose. The Airport has filled an essential need as a small regional airport for the residents of Santa Clara County for decades. However, now as the aviation industry is in transition, the facility has fallen into disrepair and will require millions of dollars in upgrades and urban uses have expanded right up to the perimeter of the airport, it is time to reevaluate the use of this valuable resource as an airport.

The recently released Airports Business Plan and Supplemental Report clearly articulate a plan for making physical improvements to the property using FAA AIP grants and suggests alternatives for leasing airport lands to generate additional income necessary to pay for operations. Unfortunately, both of these options will restrict the use of the airport as its current use, long into the foreseeable future.

Instead, we would be supportive of a Board of Supervisors decision to not accept FAA AIP grants for Reid- Hillview. This will enable the land to be unencumbered by FAA control by 2031. At the same time, the Board could embark on a long-range plan for transitioning the current airport uses to another local airport and master plan Reid-Hillview for uses more compatible with the existing surrounding neighborhoods. As a developer of affordable housing, Charities Housing would obviously like to see a portion of this County asset used to assist in solving the housing crisis in our community.

Thank you for your continued leadership and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kathy Robinson
Director of Housing Development