

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Cupertino City Council  
10300 Torre Avenue  
Cupertino, CA 95014

Dear Members of the Cupertino City Council:

As you are aware, the Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County (LAFCO) initiated a special study to answer what alternative governance options are available for the Rancho Rinconada Recreation & Park District (RRRPD), the pros and cons of each option, as well as the pathway to achieve those options. The results would ultimately be used for the benefit of residents and has thus enjoyed full support from our Board of Directors and District staff.

The recently released draft report offers a status quo option and two other options that would place the District within the jurisdiction of the City of Cupertino. The RRRPD Board of Directors convened yesterday evening to discuss these options and has opted to advocate for the status quo (option 1) at least in the short term.

The discussion leading to this position centered on the risk return profile of merging (option 2) or becoming a subsidiary district (option 3). The Board found that the calls to change the structure of the district is without merit. By themselves, the benefits were not particularly compelling and were often hypothetical in nature. Meanwhile, the terms and conditions that would protect our residents' interests during a reorganization, such as District assets, would only be known upon initiation of the reorganization process.

Furthermore, there have been no signs of concern from residents since the resignation of a couple board members last summer, which led to my appointment by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. The special study conducted by LAFCO and our independent auditor found no evidence of any malfeasance by staff or RRRPD Directors. However, we also acknowledge that there is always room for improvement within any public agency of any size. I am working with other members of the RRRPD Board and District staff on a major policy overhaul and a 5-year strategic plan, the bulk of which I hope will be close to being finished by the time my temporary service on the RRRPD Board comes to an end in December. These positive developments are a sign that the District is heading in the right direction.

It is for the reasons outlined above that the Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District's Board of Directors is taking the position to continue operating as an independent special district.

Best regards,



Jordan Eldridge  
Chair, Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District Board of Directors