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October 4, 2019

President Joe Simitian  
Members of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors  
70 W. Hedding Street  
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear President Simitian and Members of the County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my support for Stanford's proposed General Use Permit and request that you reach consensus with the university on a related Development Agreement and a set of reasonable and feasible Conditions of Approval.

Stanford plays an important role in the life of our community by advancing teaching and research, providing world-class health care, inviting its neighbors to enjoy many on-campus amenities and working in the community to support local residents.

The Bay Area Council and Stanford stand together on the forefront of meaningful dialogue and policymaking that encompass expansive issues such as healthcare and globalization. Today, our partnership leads us to address the pressing housing crisis that afflict the most vulnerable members of the Bay Area. In the midst of crisis, it is necessary for stakeholders and legislators to collaborate on pragmatic solutions that maximize institutional resources and utility. We invite the members of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to join us on in our effort to utilize the greatest assets we have to offer in ending the housing crisis.

Stanford's pledge to the community can be found in their last General Use Permit in 2000, which has since saved over 17 years in commute trips among drivers through expanded infrastructure and efficient site planning, built 4,400 housing units/beds, contributed \$37 million to community affordable housing, reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 80%, and decreased water use by 45%. Stanford has the opportunity to reach greater heights in this GUP by activating more resources and more amenities for the community.

Time and time again, business and civic leadership across the nine-county Bay Area turn to the Bay Area Council for our breadth and fluency in public policy and advocacy. Chief among our agenda are to promote a strong economy, a robust commercial landscape, and a better quality of life for everyone who lives here. Stanford's endeavors to expand affordable housing, existing infrastructure, and local facilities is a testament to our shared beliefs for a higher standard of living for all Bay Area citizens. We hope the Board of Supervisors holds us accountable to our mission for our community.

As you are well aware, housing and traffic congestion are critical challenges in our region, and Stanford's proposal makes meaningful contributions to help address these pressing issues. The university's Development Agreement proposal to deliver enough new housing to fully satisfy housing demand from its academic development and front-load the delivery of 575 affordable workforce housing units demonstrates extraordinary leadership by a large employer in our community. In addition, Stanford is proposing to significantly expand its sustainable commute programs and invest \$30 million in local transportation improvements. And in keeping with its academic mission, the university has also offered \$138 million in support for Palo Alto schools.

For Stanford to provide front-loaded community benefits and thousands of units of housing, the university must be confident that it will be able to complete its academic facilities over time and the rules governing future academic campus development will not be changed midway through implementation of a new General Use Permit. Development Agreements are a common tool for land use applicants and jurisdictions to resolve conflicts by working collaboratively to address the interests of all stakeholders. Therefore, I ask that the County engage in constructive Development Agreement discussions with Stanford to provide benefits that address the interests of the community, while providing Stanford the necessary predictability to fulfill its academic mission.

I also urge the Board of Supervisors to approve reasonable and feasible Conditions of Approval for the General Use Permit that will allow Stanford to build new on-campus housing and academic facilities. It is to all of our benefit if the rules governing on-campus development support teaching and research and the addition of much-needed housing. The Board should work with Stanford to make sure that each of the conditions is clear and sets an objective, reasonable standard for compliance.

I hope you will support Stanford's future land use plans and approve a General Use Permit and Development Agreement that meet the needs of the community, the County, and Stanford.

Sincerely,



Matt Regan  
Senior Vice President  
Bay Area Council