



June 1, 2018

Re: Bird-safe Design for Vallco

Dear Mayor Paul and Cupertino Councilmembers,

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society engaged in the Vallco Specific Plan charettes in April and May of this year, where we provided City staff and the design team with example policies and guidelines for bird-safe design that have been implemented successfully in nearby cities. We appreciate that the Vallco team has expressed that bird-safe design will be included in the plan, and we hope you will support this decision.

Birds collide with glass buildings and structures during the day as they attempt to access resources reflected by or seen through the glass. At night, brightly lit glass buildings lure migrating birds to their death.

Many neighboring cities recognize bird-collision with glass as an important issue and make an effort to minimize hazardous construction. The issue is addressed in General and Specific Plans (San Jose, Palo Alto, Mountain View), in Ordinances and mandatory Guidelines (San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Sunnyvale, Richmond) and in Mitigation Measures for areas near the Bay (Menlo Park). In our experience, when bird-safe design is adopted as a guiding principal, bird collision hazards can be greatly reduced.

Please support the integration of bird-safe design policies and guidelines for the Vallco Specific Plan. We represent many members in Cupertino who care to see that the Vallco Project is sensitive to nature and wildlife and does not pose as a hazard for migrating birds.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mackenzie Mossing".

Mackenzie Mossing
Environmental Advocacy Associate
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society