



MORGAN HILL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 17, 2020

Suzanne Carrig
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San Jose, CA 95131

Delivery: scarrig@sccoe.org

**RE: School District Reorganization - Territory Transfer Request
10046 Via Vespero San Jose, CA (APN: 742-01-039)**

Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization Members:

The Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization has received a formal petition ("Petition") seeking to transfer one parcel from Morgan Hill Unified School District to San Jose Unified School District. The Morgan Hill Unified School District ("District") adamantly opposes the Petition for the reasons identified below.

The District values every student and family and is committed to providing a high quality educational program in a caring environment. In order to preserve the integrity of our strong schools, academic program, and financial stability, the District opposes this transfer request which would set a precedence for future transfers of territory out of the District. This is especially true if such "small" territory requests are part of an extended larger trend where each individual request appears reasonable but in aggregate, the territory transfers are not.

This petitioner is not unique since nearly one quarter of the District is located in the unincorporated area of Santa Clara County and nearly one third of the District's assessed valuation is located outside of the City of Morgan Hill. The District's boundaries consist of several cities, old and new neighborhoods, and varied ethnic and economic populations. Alignment strictly along a particular city or street boundary, may support one sense of community, but the District contends that existing boundaries, however unusual or unorthodox, have respected and helped strengthen the many diverse communities it serves.

The District faces issues of creating and maintaining communities in a diverse and geographically large district (approximately 300 square miles comprising nearly one fourth of the land in Santa Clara County). School boundaries were established at a time when orchards, creeks, and old roads were used as guides and these boundaries may no longer be consistent with the way the County has developed. District staff also suggests that any realignments with boundaries would also be outdated as the County continues to develop and evolve. For example, if the Coyote Valley was a master planned community as

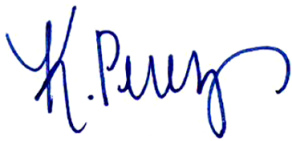
contemplated in the mid-2000's, then the District would construct additional schools in this area. This would directly affect this parcel and its proximity to the nearest District school.

Current boundaries have allowed individuals the freedom to make decisions on where they want to live, the level of service of their city, the size and cost of housing, and the proximity to schools, shops, and transportation. These choices are always made freely, but almost always with compromises and the purpose of this Committee's authority over petitions is not to eliminate compromises. Boundary changes made purely for convenience would set a precedent for many more boundary changes especially for school districts in the unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County.

According to San Jose Unified School District records, there were three students enrolled in March 2020 who currently attend Graystone Elementary School and reside on this parcel. If the issue is community, as the Petitioner contends, then the District would be willing to consider a boundary change within Morgan Hill Unified to align the northern boundary with the District's schools in San Jose or continue to have the Petitioner submit an interdistrict transfer request.

In conclusion, the District strongly opposes a boundary change as a solution to accomplish individual needs. Interdistrict transfers are a far more appropriate solution for situations involving a small number of students who may be impacted rather than a wholesale territory transfer.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Perez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kirsten Perez
Deputy Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer

Cc: Steve Betando, Superintendent, MHUSD
Nancy Albarran, Superintendent, SJUSD
Anessa Espinosa, Director Facilities, MHUSD