



Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council

November 21, 2022

Mayor Sam Liccardo and San José City Council
San José City Hall
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Re: Support for a Special Election in Districts #8 and #10

Honorable Mayor Liccardo and City Council Members,

The Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council (BCAC) Board wants to express its **STRONGEST support for appointment of Interim Council Members followed, with all due speed, by a Special Election** to replace District 10 Council Member Matt Mahan (San José Mayor Elect) and District 8 Council Member Sylvia Arenas (District 1 Santa Clara County Supervisor Elect). The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters should be tasked with delivering a Special Election Calendar designed to give candidates sufficient time to register and to conduct meaningful campaigns consistent with a timely election.

The appointment of interim Council Members ensures that these districts have representation, but not representation of their own choosing. Therefore to balance the need to fill these Council vacancies and to respect the will of the voters, we believe that interim appointment should be limited to

- Appointees, recognizing their custodial role, formally agree **not** to be candidates in the Special Election (an example here was set by Ms. Marjorie Matthews in February 2015 when, after Kansen Chu was elected to the California Assembly, she was appointed to represent our District #4) and
- Special Elections are held by June 2023 (7 months) – There is precedence here. The City of San José opted to hold a Special June 23, 2015 Election providing the voters of District #4 the opportunity to elect a replacement City Council Member.

A speedy special election respects the will of the voters and gives the elected councilmembers true authority. The 63,986 voters in District #8 and the 62,121 voters in District 10 deserve representation that is an expression of their will, not an arbitrary vote of City Council Members who represent the interests of other districts. While an “unplanned expense”, the City has an operating budget in excess of \$1B/year and can afford to fund a special election. A permanent appointment for the balance of a 4-year term is unacceptable and unnecessary.

Regards,

Linda Locke, President
Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council

Cc All 10 Members of the San José City Council
File

Founded in 1973, the Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council is a non-partisan neighborhood association representing the interests of citizens living and working in San Jose City Council District #4 and/or the Berryessa Union School District. BCAC meets at 7:00PM on the second Monday of each month at the Berryessa Community Center and everyone is welcome. Visit our web site at <https://berrypassj.wordpress.com/> or our Facebook page.