

**Jim Beall**  
**Environmental Leader and Transit Champion**

by Ted Smith,  
 Executive Director

For many years, San Jose city Councilman Jim Beall has been a leader who has stood up to protect the environment -- from his courageous support of environmental initiatives to his unrelenting battle to improve our inefficient and smog producing transportation system.

Jim was one of the early proponents of district elections for the San Jose City Council, because of his understanding that local government must be brought back to the neighborhood level. With his strong background in city planning, he has always understood the importance of grass roots participation in the shaping of governmental policy, whether it be for the purpose of planning for a new city park or for a new economic development plan.

Jim was one of the early supporters of Proposition 65 and later Proposition 128, two of the major environmental propositions during the last decade. His support was strong and true, because he believed in the issues, even when many of his colleagues were scared off by industry opposition. Jim has always been willing to stand up and be counted on important issues, even when he faces powerful opposition.

Jim has also played an important role on the San Jose city council's Environment Committee, where he has worked to pass ordinances that have regulated the use of CFCs, the compounds that are destroying the ozone layer. He has also been a strong supporter of the city's recycling programs, which are recognized as the best in the country.

Jim is probably best known for his regional leadership in developing progressive transportation policies. His list of accomplishments is long and impressive:

**\*\* Chair of the National League of Cities Transportation and Communications Steering Committee**

**\*\* He was one of the key supporters of the surface transportation reauthorization act, which provides millions of dollars for Santa Clara County transportation projects SUCH AS CALTRAIN AND LIGHT RAIL**

**\*\* He was Chair of the California League of Cities Transportation and Public Works Committee AND WORKED TO CHANGE THE STATES FREEWAY BIAS TOWARD TRANSIT FUNDING**

**\*\* He has served as vice-chair and later as chair of the Santa Clara County Traffic Authority**

**\*\* He has served as vice chair of the T2010, the county's rail master plan which is developing rail projects to improve mass**

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transit int the next century.

\*\* He has served as the Santa Clara County representative to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and has been a leader in efforts to reduce congestion and to reduce pollution.

\*\* He has also worked with local bicycle associations and rail commuters to improve bicycling and rail service.

Throughout his years of service to the community, Jim has been recognized by his constituents and his peers as someone who can get things done. He has also maintained his approachability and his humility. We salute him as our honoree and thank him for his years of service. We also look forward to working closely with him over the next decade!

supported

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propositions

~~"Big Green"~~

children; it is being located in District Nine. Jim worked with the group to solicit neighborhood input and mitigate concerns. The project has been overwhelmingly accepted by the community, and will be a model facility.

#### Clinic Protection

When Jim was asked by local women's health clinics for support, he promptly called the Police Chief and requested advance assistance from the Department to prevent groups from blocking access to women's clinics.

#### Chair, CDBG

For two years, Jim has served as Chair of the City's Community Development Block Grant Steering Committee. He has worked with a group of nine citizens to evaluate community based organizations' requests for funding, and steered millions of dollars into City and community projects addressing blight and low income needs.

#### Senior Wellness Program

Jim worked to restore this popular program largely for black seniors which was operated by a non-profit group and closed down. He worked with the program director and the City to restore funding through the CDBG program and find a new location for the program.

#### Legal Aid

When the previous contractor for fair housing services shut down, Jim worked with Legal Aid to develop a proposal to provide these services to landlords, tenants and low income individuals. He helped Legal Aid to receive the CDBG contract for fair housing services which are mandated by the federal government.

#### Environment

##### CFC's

Jim worked to ensure that the Council passed an ordinance banning certain CFC's in the City, and reducing dependence on ozone-depleting compounds.

##### Environment Committee

Jim serves as a member of the Council's Environment Committee. The Committee is in the process of developing a state-of-art garbage and recycling program which far exceeds that of any City in the nation. San Jose currently picks up nine items curbside.

#### Labor

##### Justice for Janitors

Jim has consistently supported all aspects of the labor movement, including publicly standing behind the Justice for Janitors effort which has sought fair wages and working conditions for largely Spanish-speaking, low

and other informational events for the child care community.

## **Parks and Recreation**

### Camden Lifetime Activities Center & Park

Jim worked with the City and private developers to preserve 10 acres of a former high school site for open space and a community recreation facility. He worked with the neighboring community to develop the mission for the facility, which is lifetime health and wellness. The Center houses the City's ONLY municipal gym, an extensive weight room, a dance studio and classrooms for exercise and wellness programs. [See also "Camden Child Care Center" above.]

### Houge Park

Jim worked with the neighborhood and the City to preserve a former school site as a neighborhood park, with a par course and community center.

### Kirk Community Center

Jim worked to develop a comprehensive community center and park on a closed school site. Kirk serves as the main community center for District Nine and houses many popular programs, including dramatic arts for children, summer sports camps, and senior activities. The Center also houses the City-wide Therapeutic Recreation program for the disabled.

### Doerr Park

Jim obtained funds through the City budget process for renovation of this neighborhood park (\$200,000). He also worked with the neighbors to receive a grant from the City for a joint City and community-sponsored tree planting project.

### Play Equipment at Athenour School

Due to construction of Route 85, which divided Branham High and Athenour Elementary schools and reduced the open space area for the elementary school, Jim worked with the Traffic Authority to build a new state-of-art playground, par course, and picnic area and install new landscaping. The Traffic Authority spent \$122,000 on this project.

### Skateboard park

Jim worked with the San Jose Youth Commission in 1989 to prepare a report evaluating alternatives for skateboarding in San Jose. Subsequently, he is working to develop a skateboard park in his Council district.

### Guadalupe River South

Jim is working to develop a landscaped river trail along Reach 12 of the Guadalupe River in his Council District, for the enjoyment of pedestrians and bicyclists.

### Transportation

#### County Transportation Agency Sexual Harassment Policy

At Jim's request, he was appointed to lead an Ad Hoc Committee of the County Transportation Commission to evaluate and improve the County policy on sexual harassment. The committee's work changed the County Transportation Agency's practice in training employees and addressing specific problems in the workplace, with the goal of reducing the number of incidents of sexual harassment.

#### Chair, NLC T&C Committee

Jim was appointed by the Chair of the National League of Cities to be Chairman of the NLC Transportation and Communications Steering Committee for a one-year term. He lead the group in developing policies for cities in the areas of transportation and telecommunications.

#### Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act

As Chair of the National League of Cities Transportation and Communications Steering Committee, Jim lobbied Congress on behalf of the nation's municipalities for passage of the surface transportation reauthorization act. Millions of dollars are directed for Santa Clara County transportation projects in the bill. Jim was invited by President Bush to attend the bill signing in Dallas, Texas in December 1991. Jim attended and got rained on, along with Bush!

#### Chair, LCC Transportation and Public Works Policy Committee

Jim served two one-year terms as Chairman of the League of California Cities Transportation and Public Works Committee. He lead the committee in developing policy for state and municipal legislation on these issues.

#### Paratransit Coordinating Council

Jim has served since 1987 as Chair of the Santa Clara County Paratransit Coordinating Council which oversees programs operated by cities and non-profit agencies which provide transportation services to the frail elderly and disabled.

#### Traffic Authority

Jim worked in 1984 to develop the concept of Measure A, the one-half cent sales tax for transportation projects approved by the voters in June 1984. Santa Clara County became the first "self-help" county in the state with

Measure A's passage, choosing to tax itself to improve transportation in the area. The Traffic Authority will raise and spend over one billion dollars on freeway improvement, widening, and building activities in the County in a ten-year period. Projects include construction of Route 85, widening of Route 101 and upgrading of Route 237. Jim served as Vice Chair from 1985 to 1990, and has served as Chair since 1990. All T.A. projects have come in on-time and under budget.

Jim is working with a consortium to develop a new mechanism to raise funds for transportation upon the expiration of Measure A in 1995.

#### Route 87

Jim proposed the concept of this project, and enlisted City support as Chair of the Task Force which oversees the upgrading of Guadalupe Parkway from 101 to Coleman into a full freeway, to connect with the southern portions of Route 87. Responsibilities have included design and leveraging of funding. The City, Redevelopment Agency and Caltrans are funding this project. He has been Chair since 1986.

#### Guadalupe Corridor

Jim served on the Guadalupe Corridor Joint Powers Board responsible for the development of the light rail system in Santa Clara County. He worked with City and County officials to build the 20-mile light rail system which runs from Santa Clara to South San Jose serving commuters, visitors, students, and recreational users. [See also next item regarding Jim's efforts to expand light rail system.]

#### County Transportation Commission

Since 1981, among numerous projects, Jim worked to plan future expansion of the light rail system to Mountain View and Sunnyvale, the West Valley, and the East Side. Jim also served on a committee looking to expand service to San Jose State University.

#### T2010

Jim worked in 1991 and 1992 as Vice Chair of the County's rail master plan effort to strategize the County's transportation system into the next century. They held public meetings, and identified the future rail projects to improve mass transportation in the County.

#### MTC

Jim has served as the representative of Santa Clara County cities to the regional transportation authority since 1986. He has worked closely with the grant



allocation committee and has directed funding to the County for transportation projects, including San Jose's traffic signal synchronization program which has reduced traffic back-up, congestion and pollutant emissions, and has improved traffic flow.

#### Congestion Management Agency (CMA)

Jim was appointed to the Governor's Transportation Summit Working Group (1989) which drafted the legislation which became Propositions 108/11 and 116. He worked hard for state-wide passage of these propositions which raised gasoline taxes and issued transportation bonds for critical transportation projects, and instituted a regional planning mechanism (CMA's) for the evaluation of land use projects which have impacts across jurisdictions.

#### County Expressway bicycle lanes

Jim worked closely with area bicycle associations to repeal the County's prohibition of bike use on County expressways in San Jose.

#### CRASH Board

Jim serves on the Northern California Board of Directors of CRASH, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways which lobbies at the state and federal levels for increased truck regulations and improved highway safety.

#### Caltrain

As member of the Joint Powers Board, Jim lead negotiations to acquire the right of way from Southern Pacific to preserve the Peninsula Caltrain commute services. He has worked with the Board to hire a new service to run the train, and worked to extend service to Gilroy.

#### Historic Preservation

##### Greenawalt House preservation & move

Jim worked to preserve this historic (1877) farm house in his District which was near the right of way of Route 85. He worked with the City and Traffic Authority, and the home's owners (since 1939) to forge a deal whereby the house was moved to the City's Historical Museum and preserved for the use of future generations.

##### Roundhouse

Jim is currently working with a private organization of railroad enthusiasts to preserve the 1893 Southern Pacific Roundhouse. The Roundhouse's use was to rotate trains before locomotives had the technology to move backwards. It is one of only four remaining roundhouses in the state, and the last one to have been in use.