

# Save the Stanford Foothills!

On June 23, 2000, Stanford University will release a draft Environmental Impact Report for its 10-year development plan. Local residents are alarmed because Stanford's plan:

- ❑ Extends the "core campus" southwest of Junipero Serra Blvd, allowing development in the foothills.
- ❑ Allows for more than 4 million square feet of development in the next 10 years. This is a 35% increase in the size of the campus, or the equivalent of three new Stanford Shopping Centers. Alarmingly, the plan offers no permanent open space protection as mitigation.
- ❑ Increases Stanford's daytime population by 2,200 people. These additional people will all need housing and services.
- ❑ Constructs more than 3,000 new parking spaces, threatening to eliminate Stanford's current policy of no net new commute trips.
- ❑ Provides no long-term development plan beyond 10 years.

## What Is the Threat?

Stanford's plan calls for re-designating 154 acres in the foothills (an area recently named "Lathrop") as "core campus." It would allow 20,000 square feet of development in this area over the next 10 years, in addition to 21,000 square feet proposed for the Carnegie Foundation. After 10 years, the land could be developed as densely as the rest of the campus. Stanford says there will be no development in the "Foothills District," but they don't mention that the "Foothills District" keeps shrinking as the University renames areas it would like to develop.



Although many people assume the rest of the foothills are protected, this is not the case. They are designated "academic reserve," meaning they could be the future site of classrooms, administration buildings, housing and other uses associated with the University. Whereas other developers are required to set aside permanent open space as mitigation for development, Stanford has never been required to do so. With the University asking Santa Clara County for a general use permit that would expand the campus by 35%, now is the time to demand permanent protection of the foothills.

## What Is Stanford Open Space Alliance?

Stanford Open Space Alliance (SOSA) is a network of students, faculty, staff, alumni and neighbors dedicated to the permanent protection of Stanford's undeveloped lands in the foothills. We believe it is in the long-term interest of the University to enhance the quality of life on campus and in surrounding communities by protecting open space and wildlife habitat while slowing urban sprawl.

**Stanford Open Space Alliance**

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## What Would a Better Development Plan Look Like?

Stanford is a world-class university. It now has the opportunity to create a world-class development plan. Stanford Open Space Alliance suggests the following steps to help Stanford's Community Plan and General Use Permit live up to its potential.

### 1) Permanent Protection of the Foothills

Stanford's plan calls for more than 4 million square feet of development, increasing the size of the campus by 35% -- the equivalent of three new Stanford Shopping Centers. To create public benefit equal to the value of the development generously given by the public, and to mitigate such extensive growth, the University should set aside the foothills as permanent open space by creating a permanent academic growth boundary at Junipero Serra Blvd.

### 2) Make Housing a Priority

Stanford should build housing for students and staff before other development takes place. Although Stanford is proposing up to 3,000 housing units over the next 10 years, its plan would lead to a population increase of 2,200 people. This leaves a net gain of only 800 housing units. Before adding more jobs and students, Stanford should make sure adequate housing exists on campus to house the current population.

### 3) No Net New Commute Trips

Stanford has managed to grow significantly over the last 10 years without generating a lot of new traffic. The pressure to create and invest in innovative programs which made this possible can be attributed directly to the requirement of "no net new commute trips" in the last general use permit. This policy must be renewed in the new general use permit. Through incentives not to drive, good bicycle lanes and easy-to-use public transportation, such as the Marguerite Shuttle, Stanford can continue to be a leader in transportation demand management.

### 4) Maximum Buildout Plan

In a biological system, unlimited growth is called cancer. In an urban setting, unlimited growth is called sprawl. Stanford University should be treated like every other urban land use in the County and be zoned, with each zone having a described maximum build-out intensity. If, after reaching this limit, Stanford wants more academic facilities, it should do so by replacing non-academic buildings on Stanford land (e.g. the Industrial Park and the Shopping Center).

"Let us not be afraid to outgrow old thoughts and ways and dare to think on new lines as to the future work under our care."

-Jane Lathrop Stanford

## Get Involved!

- Join the **Stanford Open Space Alliance** (SOSA). For details call (650) 223-3333. Join our email list by sending a message to [info@sos-alliance.org](mailto:info@sos-alliance.org).
- Make a contribution to SOSA.
- Copy and distribute this flyer.
- Help collect signatures for the SOSA petition. Call for a copy.
- Write a letter voicing your opinion to:  
Patty Cheng, Secretary; Stanford Trustees; Building 310, Main Quad; Stanford, CA 94305  
Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian; 70 West Hedding St; San Jose, CA 95110