



June 11, 2020

The Honorable Cindy Chavez
Chairperson, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)
RE: Naming of **The Ron Gonzales Berryessa BART Station**

As a group of diverse, local and regional community leaders, we have come together to request the VTA Board recommend that BART approve the naming of the San Jose Berryessa Station – **The Ron Gonzales Berryessa Station**. as our entry way to rapid transit in San José.

For over three decades, Ron Gonzales has been the champion for BART to Silicon Valley and San José. In 1989, as a County of Santa Clara Supervisor, he began his strong advocacy to extend BART around the Bay Area as the most effective way to transport thousands of Silicon Valley commuters, reduce traffic congestion, facilitate smart growth, and improve air quality. He became the voice of possibilities, the builder of regional, state and federal transportation coalitions, and he held steadfast to this vision with tenacity and commitment.

In 1999, his first year as Mayor for the City of San José, he proposed that BART be connected to San José and Silicon Valley with a Caltrain commuter rail-type system. That idea generated tremendous public support. Substantial funding was required, therefore he vigorously advocated for additional transportation funding through the successful passage of the 2000 Sales Tax Measure. He worked tirelessly to ensure there was a plan for BART to San José with the first stop in Berryessa. In 2008, one more successful sales tax measure brought us a step closer to bringing BART to San José. In 2012, the Federal Transportation Agency finally put BART on its recommended list and approved \$900 million in federal funds. Throughout this journey, both in public and private life, Ron Gonzales has been the beacon for bringing BART to San José.

Our community has a long history of naming major public works projects after our champions and lifting their leadership in recognition, such as the San José Diridon Station, Norman Y. Mineta International Airport, Tom McEnery Convention Center and the Phil and Susan Hammer Repertory Theater. Naming the first BART station in San José after its champion is a logical choice and a deserving way to acknowledge his many decades of hard work to make this project a reality.

We hope that the VTA/BART Boards will strongly agree to naming this station after former Mayor Ron Gonzales as the “Ron Gonzales Berryessa San José” stop. “We can’t wait to hear the BART announcer’s voice say, “Next stop, the Gonzales BART station.” Our community’s children will have the opportunity to learn more about Ron Gonzales and his dedication to this BART project and our community as the first Latino Mayor for the City San José since California joined the Union,

Now is the right time to recognize San José former Mayor Ron Gonzales for his vision and efforts to make this BART extension a reality. Mayor Gonzales has earned the right and deserves to have his name permanently affixed at the San José Berryessa BART station.

Signed by

Hon. Blanca Alvarado, Former, Santa Clara Board of Supervisors

Hon. Sylvia Arenas, Councilmember City of San José

Ed Alvarez, President, The Foundation for Hispanic Education

Rose Amador, CEO, ConXion

Frank Carbajal President, Es Tiempo LLC

Hon. Magdalena Carrasco, Councilmember City of San José

Pete Carrillo, Silicon Valley Advisors

Darrell Cortez Executive Director, Shop with a Cop

Hon. Joe Coto, Former California State Assemblyman

Hon. Manny Diaz, Former California State Assemblyman

Hon. Adam Escoto, Trustee, Morgan Hill School District

Hon. Maya Esparza, Councilmember City of San José'

Victor Garza, Chairman, La Raza Roundtable

Hon. Sergio Jimenez, Councilmember City of San José

Dr. David Lopez, President Emeritus, The National Hispanic University

Bea Mendez, Founder, Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence

Fernando Zazueta, Chairman La Raza Historical Society

Hon. John L Varela, Valley Water Board of Directors

Hon. Antonio Villaraigosa, 41st Mayor of Los Angeles