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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Board Approves New Ad Hoc Committee for Fairgrounds**  
*Supervisor Shirakawa will Lead Group to Collect Community Input*

Santa Clara County, CALIF. – Today, the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the formation of an ad hoc committee of stakeholders to be headed by Supervisor George Shirakawa to provide recommendations for possible future uses of the Fairgrounds site. The Board also adopted a resolution clarifying that the Fairgrounds property will be kept for County's uses.

"The instability of the economic conditions facing the County has created the need to thoroughly study all potential future uses for the Fairgrounds," said Supervisor George Shirakawa, District 2, who made the referral of the resolution to the Board. "Our goal for the Fairgrounds development is to generate ongoing fiscal support to the County while continuing to be a benefit to the community."

Since the 1990s, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors has considered a number of possible uses for the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds site. Several development proposals have been considered. These proposals included theater and concert venues, sporting venues, auto racing, housing, and other public benefits uses such as health services. To date, over 500 units of housing, consisting of senior affordable, multi-family affordable and market rate products, have been developed adjacent to the new County health facility. However, approximately 150 acres at the Fairgrounds remain undeveloped.

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“As someone who has lived only a mile away from the Fairgrounds for the past 30 years, and went to the Fairgrounds as a toddler, I treasure the Fairgrounds very much,” continued Supervisor Shirakawa. “And I strongly believe that we should solicit as much community input as possible before we start the development process.”

County staff has completed phase one of a community outreach process that included meetings with Fairgrounds users and the general public. The ad hoc committee will continue the Fairgrounds outreach and create a framework for development. The committee will also review and analyze current and past fairgrounds proposals, hold public hearings to determine community needs, and provide the Board with policy recommendations.

“I’ve always been committed to the Fairgrounds property being used in a way that generates revenue for the County,” said Supervisor Liz Kniss, President of the Board of Supervisors. “We look forward to receiving recommendations that will benefit the entire county.”

For more information about the Fairgrounds outreach and to send comments to the ad hoc committee, contact Supervisor Shirakawa’s Office at: 408.299.5020.

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