

Dave Cortese

County of Santa Clara Supervisor, District Three

Santa Clara County
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April 7, 2009

VIA E-MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Bud Selig
Major League Baseball
777 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 3060
Milwaukee WI 53202

Re: SANTA CLARA COUNTY TERRITORIAL RIGHTS

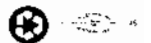
Dear Mr. Selig:

As you are aware, circumstances have prompted the management of the Oakland Athletics to seek a new stadium site in a different city. One of the cities being discussed is San Jose. However, I understand that one of the objections to the Athletics coming to San Jose is that the Giants will not release the claimed territorial rights they enjoy in Santa Clara County.

This part of Northern California has two primary economic markets, based upon demographics and income level, which are San Francisco and Silicon Valley. The Giants currently enjoy territorial rights in the three wealthiest counties – San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara. These include the third and fourth largest cities in California (San Jose and San Francisco). The Giants also have territorial rights to Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties.

When the Giants obtained its territorial rights to San Jose in 1992, it was based upon the assumption that the Giants were going to move from one wealthy enclave to another; namely, from San Francisco County to Santa Clara County. At that point, it was logical for the Giants to retain territorial rights over the two key markets, particularly Santa Clara County, in light of the proposed transition. At such time, the Oakland Athletics cooperated with Major League Baseball and the Giants, and did not seek any compensation for the territory in order to assist the Giants in relocating to Santa Clara County, which would leave the vacated San Francisco market area, effectively, exclusively available to the Oakland Athletics. However, that plan never came to fruition. Instead, the Giants elected to stay in San Francisco and build a new stadium. With that facility, the Giants are back to where they were in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s (i.e., based in San Francisco). There was no need in those days for the Giants to have territorial rights to Santa Clara County. The same is true today.

Most importantly, while we appreciate franchise boundaries set up by Major League Baseball, neither Major League Baseball nor the Giants, should be able to strip cities or counties of their independent right to negotiate contracts, pursue development, and form associations to bolster the local economy for its citizens. As the City of San Francisco has experienced a resurgence around the new Giants ballpark, so, too, should Santa Clara County be able to solicit Major League sports teams so its citizens can benefit from the jobs, development, revitalization, growth, and city spirit associated with the presence of a successful Major League sports team.





Santa Clara County now has the opportunity to actively pursue attracting the Athletics to this County. The proposed site in San Jose is immediately accessible by bus, lightrail, Cal Train, and, soon, High Speed Rail and BART. It is also in close proximity to major highways/freeways. The proposed site is also attractive because of its downtown location. It makes economic, logistical, and regional developmental sense to have the Athletics in San Jose.

One of the obstacles to the success of such an endeavor is that the Giants repeatedly reference having territorial rights over Santa Clara County. This gauntlet is thrown down in each instance, as though Santa Clara County was indentured to the Giants Organization and has no rights of self-determination, autonomy, independence, or for its ability for growth and development in this arena.

The citizens of Santa Clara County are not indentured servants to the Giants Organization. We respectfully request that the Giants, as a showing of good faith and fair dealing, voluntarily relinquish or share (as done in other major cities) the purported territorial rights to ownership of Santa Clara County that we originally granted to facilitate the Giants's relocation to Santa Clara County or, alternatively, Major League Baseball eliminate the Giants's exclusivity to Santa Clara County. In the long run, a successful Major League franchise in Santa Clara County is in the best interest of baseball, as it will help bolster and benefit the sport as a whole.

Sincerely,

LIZ KNISS
President, Board of Supervisors

DONALD F. GAGE
Supervisor, First District

GEORGE SHIRAKAWA
Supervisor, Second District

DAVID CORTESE
Supervisor, Third District

KEN YEAGER
Supervisor, Fourth District

