Mr. Paul Romero  
Director of Parks and Recreation – VIA FAX  
County of Santa Clara  

Dear Paul:

We at Stanford appreciate the collaborative work of County staff and Stanford staff, since the December 4th meeting of the Board of Supervisors, to clarify issues related to the trails requirement of the General Use Permit.

In light of the new information gained in our collaborative work, there are three options for an S-1 alignment that Stanford will agree to implement.

Option One: Continue the joint exploration of the S-1 alignment using the CalTrans right of way parallel to I-280. I am pleased to note that the recent technical work jointly funded by the County and Stanford has confirmed that this trail route, described in the Stanford letter of December 3 and shown on an attached map, is technically feasible. (A copy of that letter and map is attached here.) But there will be opposition to this route, as there is often opposition to routes that go near neighborhoods, and obtaining permission from CalTrans will be a difficult and time-consuming process. Additional technical work and an investigation of policy approvals by CalTrans are necessary. If permission is granted by CalTrans, Stanford would implement this route in accordance with an Agreement with the County that includes conditions set forth in the attached letter of December 3. Given the desirability of this route to many members of the community, Stanford is prepared to work diligently with the County and others to obtain approval, if the County wishes to continue pursuit of this option.

Option Two: Implement the S-1 route shown on page 88 of the Community Plan, with slight modifications to accommodate sensitive environmental issues. This route would essentially use Old Page Mill Road to connect with planned trails in the County-Wide Trails Master Plan in Palo Alto and Los Altos Hills. As clearly required in the General Use Permit Condition, Stanford would only be responsible for the part of this route that is on Stanford land. That is appropriate because Stanford is only providing a segment of the S-1 trail; on either side of that segment, the responsibility lies with other jurisdictions.
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Option Three: If the County prefers, Stanford will implement the alternative S-1 route that was accepted by County staff in the Stanford-County Agreement that is now before the Board. This option would create an attractive new recreational route that includes a substantial portion on a high, open hill with impressive views. The route connects with an excellent trail in good condition and also connects to a planned trail in Los Altos Hill that is shown on the County-Wide Trails Master Plan.

Stanford, the County, other jurisdictions and interested parties have been working on this issue for over a year. And it has been a year of hard and productive work. This project has sensitive environmental and engineering issues, multiple and varying views in local communities, and serious landowner concerns that must be addressed. More technical work is needed, building on the productive work to date. This is needed so that members of the public, local jurisdictions, and the Board can adequately evaluate the options.

We, therefore, recommend that the County and Stanford continue the technical review of the three S-1 options outlined above. The County, Stanford, and San Mateo County staff should also work on technical issues regarding C-1 as well as S-1. Stanford and County staff should also review the existing Agreement with a view towards modifying it in accordance with information gained from the technical reviews and consultations. We believe that this technical work and the review and possible revision of the existing Agreement will take six months of diligent work. We recommend doing this job right — it is difficult, time-consuming technical work — and not rushing it to hasty completion with essential information omitted.

I wish to express our appreciation to County staff for their hard work and expertise in addressing these issues. Stanford is eager to continue working with the County to resolve this issue in a satisfactory manner in compliance with the General Use Permit requirement we agreed to accept.

Sincerely,

Larry Horton  
Director of Government  
and Community Relations

cc: Supervisor Kniss, Kindel Blau, Robert Reidy