

News Release

San Jose Redevelopment Agency

For Immediate Release: August 1, 2006

<u>Contact:</u>
Helen Duong, (408) 795-1807
San Jose Redevelopment Agency
helen.duong@sanjoseca.gov

San Jose Redevelopment Agency Proposes Budget \$227 million planned for neighborhoods, economic development, and affordable housing

San José The San Jose Redevelopment Agency released its proposed two-year spending plan and five-year forecast budget that recommends investing \$227 million in the first two years to enhance neighborhoods, build affordable housing, spur job growth and revitalize Downtown in San José.

The two-year spending proposal includes \$43 million for Strong Neighborhood Initiative (SNI) projects and \$12 million for other neighborhood improvements. In addition, \$57 million is proposed to be reserved for future SNI projects beyond the two-year plan. The projected SNI investments augment approximately \$15 million already spent in the past year. Since the program's inception, the Agency has invested \$53.4 million for more than 100 projects in 19 SNI neighborhoods.

Over the two years of the spending plan, the Agency proposes more than \$70 million for affordable housing throughout San José, which will be transferred to the City of San Jose Housing Department.

"Silicon Valley's recovering economy is helping us to keep our commitments to our residents to strengthen their neighborhoods, improve the quality of life, and invest in the long-term prosperity and homes for the people of our community," said Mayor Ron Gonzales.

Assessed property value in San José redevelopment areas have increased by an estimated seven percent this year, compared to a one percent increase last year. This represents approximately \$1 billion more in assessed value over last year, due mainly to corporate expansion, new multifamily housing assessments, growth in home values, and the restoration of assessment appeals. As a result, the Agency's property tax revenue in the coming fiscal year will increase by approximately \$11 million to an estimated \$160 million.

-more-

"The increase in assessed property value for a second year is good news for us," said Harry Mavrogenes, San Jose Redevelopment Agency Executive Director. "We can continue to fund critical projects in our Downtown, Industrial, and Neighborhood areas and build more affordable housing."

The San José City Council, sitting as the Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors, will review the proposed budget at a study session on Thursday, August 10. Public hearings on the budget are scheduled on August 15 and 29, and adoption is scheduled on September 19.

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San José. Together with the City, the Redevelopment Agency facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize the City's Downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas.

For more information about the San Jose Redevelopment Agency Budget, visit http://www.sjredevelopment.org/Finance/financialinfo.htm.

#