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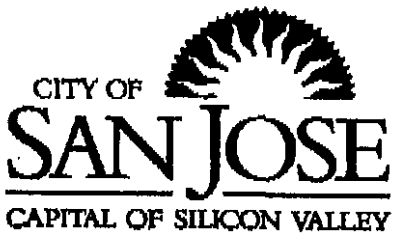


September 12, 2005

Dear Santa Clara County Mayor,

On behalf of the City of San José, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, and the Santa Clara Valley American Red Cross, we thank you for attending Wednesday night's meeting to discuss our region's response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster relief efforts. We appreciate your time and willingness to meet so quickly to discuss this important issue affecting the lives of so many of our fellow Americans.

As we explained at the meeting, San José and the County are working together to respond to requests from the state and federal governments to prepare for receiving evacuees if that becomes necessary. Our partnership with the City of San José, County of Santa Clara, Santa Clara Valley American Red Cross, and San Jose State University has committed to take 100 people initially. These agencies are organizing housing and support services for individuals and families who are already arriving here on their own to live with relatives or friends or through FEMA transferring evacuees directly from the Gulf Coast region. The Red Cross is opening the Recovery Center this week, and we will be ready if FEMA sends evacuees to California. At this time we still do not know when or if FEMA will be sending evacuees to California, but when they do, we will be ready.

We are appealing to all cities in Santa Clara County to join us in assisting this relief effort, and we are asking that each city donate financially to the Santa Clara Valley American Red Cross. This funding commitment should be contingent on the opening of a local evacuee assistance and recovery center, or in meeting the needs of FEMA registered evacuees who are arriving in San José on their own.

On Tuesday, September 13, the San José City Council will consider the Mayor's recommendation to donate $500,000 (approximately $0.50 per resident) for this relief effort. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors also will be discussing the feasibility of donating funds at its next meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2005.

As a region, we can make a difference for families that have faced unthinkable personal and community loss. Please contact our offices at the numbers listed below if you have any questions about this effort and to share with us your community's plan to respond to our request. Thank you again for taking the time to come together as a region in the wake of this national disaster.

Sincerely,

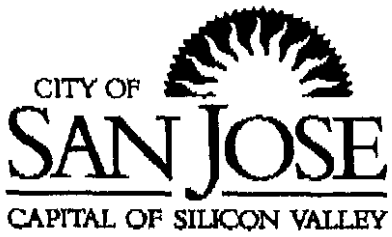
Ron Gonzales
Mayor

(408) 535-4824

Lorraine Zippiroli
CEO Santa Clara Valley
American Red Cross
(408) 577-1000

Liz Kniss
Chair, Santa Clara County
Board of Supervisors
(408) 299-5050

cc: San José City Council
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Del Borgsdorf, City Manager, City of San José
Pete Kutras, Jr., County Executive, Santa Clara County



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