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Santa Clara Plays Fair

www.SantaClaraPlaysFair.org

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Madame Mayor, Members of the Santa Clara City Council and City Staff, thank you and good evening. My name is Bill Bailey, and I have lived in Santa Clara for 20 years. I am the Treasurer of Santa Clara Plays Fair <dot> org. All of us are volunteers.

We proudly display the crest of the "All-American City" on the walls of these very chambers. We Santa Clarans presumed that we could rely on our "All-American City" when we were told that the process of deciding on a \$1 Billion dollar NFL stadium in our city would be a transparent and public one.

But a disturbing development within the last week should be causing Santa Clarans to wonder whether or not those high ideals are being obeyed.

We learned that Senate Bill 43, originally authored by Sen. Elaine Alquist to make changes to the Business and Professions Code, was completely hijacked and then gutted to create a one-time carve-out of special treatment for the San Francisco 49ers alone. This is only being done because the Charter changes needed are just too high a hurdle for stadium proponents.

SB 43, rather than allowing Santa Clarans to decide for themselves the issue of a \$114 MILLION subsidy for an NFL stadium, now surrenders that authority to State Government – and it orders that we violate our own City Charter by allowing the San Francisco 49ers to spend our \$114 MILLION on a sole-source contract for a stadium at their own discretion.

Am I to understand that the very State Legislators who have proven themselves utterly unable – and unwilling – to fix the fiasco of our State's budget process – are now presuming to tell Santa Clarans what's good for them and how they should spend public money?

I do not know which, if any, of our elected leaders will be traveling to Sacramento tomorrow to testify before the Assembly Committee on Local Government – but I do know the mandate that I would give you:

Do not allow SB 43 to take the decision on the stadium subsidy out of the hands of Santa Clarans. Tell them NO. Return control to Santa Clara and to Santa Clarans. It's time to be the "All-Americans" we've claimed we are.

Thank you.

William F. Bailey

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