




**Advertise in the** **CommunityClassifieds**  
 Contact Vickie Cha @ (408) 200-1025 | [vcha@community-newspapers.com](mailto:vcha@community-newspapers.com)

Fiercely Local News

Tuesday, August 14, 2007

Fiercely Loyal Readers

Classifieds: [Real Estate](#) | [Home Services](#) | [Employment](#) | [Vacation & Travel](#) | [Professional Services](#) | [General Notices](#) | [Classes & Instruction](#) | [Computer Market](#) | [Automotive](#) | [Family Services](#) | [For Sale](#) | [Music](#) | [Mind, Body & Spirit](#)

SPECIAL SECTIONS



ADVERTISING

[Place an Ad](#)[Online Form](#)[Contacts](#)[Religious Directory](#)

GETTING COVERAGE

[Local News](#)[Schools](#)[Sports](#)[Post an Announcement](#)

ABOUT US

[Contact Information](#)[Circulation](#)[Philosophy](#)[History](#)[Executive Staff](#)[Employment](#)

ARCHIVES

[Browse Past Issues](#)[Home](#) > [Rose Garden Resident Home](#) > News

0730 | Friday, July 27, 2007

## NEWS

## Group submits petition to reverse the rezoning of BAREC site

By Eli Segall

An environmental group submitted nearly 6,000 signatures to the Santa Clara City Clerk's office on July 18 in the hopes of preserving the former University of California's Bay Area Research and Extension Center as public open space. The Santa Clara City Council recently approved zoning changes to allow residential development on the 17-acre site near Westfield Valley Fair on the border of San Jose.

At a press conference in front of Santa Clara City Hall, the Save BAREC group presented 14 stacks of petitions on a table under a hand-painted sign that read, "Got Signatures?" The sheets, bound in rubber bands, were wrapped in plastic to shield them from the rain.

The group needs roughly 3,900 verified signatures of registered voters from the city of Santa Clara to force a ballot item seeking to reverse the city council's decision to rezone the site from agricultural to planned development.

Santa Clara city clerk Rod Diridon could not confirm the number of valid signatures submitted or whether the item would appear on a ballot.

"I thank you for standing up to your city government when they go astray," BAREC member Kirk Vartan told a cheering crowd of nearly 30 people. Vartan was flanked by nearly a dozen people holding signs that read "Save Our Soil," and displaying aerial pictures of the site two blocks north of Santana Row.

The Santa Clara City Council on June 21 voted to rezone the former research center to allow the construction of 110 single-family homes and 160 affordable senior housing units. Although the property borders San Jose along Winchester Boulevard and Forest Avenue, the state-owned site is located in Santa Clara. The University of California ceased operations there in January 2003 after nearly 75 years of agricultural research.

Following the city council's ruling, Save BAREC launched its petition drive, canvassing residential neighborhoods and commercial centers, Vartan said. He said the group spent more than \$10,000 on photocopies and manpower

Search the archives:



Search Local Events:

August 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Event title:

Event type:

City:


[Submit an Event](#)


for the effort. Vartan is a San Jose resident and, thus, ineligible to vote on the referendum.

Although most people at the press conference supported the group, not everyone in the community backs the push for preservation. Roxanne Sheets, a Forest Avenue resident whose back yard borders BAREC, supports development for security reasons.

"There's a problem with vagrants," said Sheets, who once ventured onto the site to retrieve her cat and said she stumbled upon drug paraphernalia and human waste.

Sheets said she occasionally hears people talking inside a boarded-up house on the BAREC site near her property.

"If you keep this as open space, I can't see how the security will be any better," said Sheets.

## Community Newspapers Survey Results\*

**99%** of all residents report receiving their Community Newspaper

**81.4%** read their Community Newspaper

**81.4%** frequently purchase products and services advertised in their Community Newspaper

\* CVC Audit, January 2006