

On June 20th, 2007, the Santa Clara City Council unanimously passed seven resolutions to approve the development of the BAREC property located at 90 N Winchester Blvd. The two resolutions we are challenging are the zoning and the general plan amendment. The Council's vote changed BAREC's zoning from agriculture to planned development and that in turn triggered this referendum process.

We are fortunate in California, that when citizens disagree with a decision made by their elected officials, the voters can reverse that decision through the referendum process. The citizens have 30 days from the passage of the resolutions to gather signatures from at least 10% of the voting population on a petition to put the resolution on the ballot. In our situation, the person collecting the signatures needs to reside in the City of Santa Clara and must be eligible to vote in the next regular election.

For the last three weeks, SaveBAREC circulated two separate petitions and worked with the community at large to gather signatures. As we engaged the community about this issue and explained the City Council's actions, we encountered overwhelming support for our cause, on the order of 90-95%. The community is frustrated with the Santa Clara City Mayor and Council and feel they are not listening to the citizens that they are supposed to represent. It seems the only way the City Council will listen and do what the voters want is through this democratic referendum process, putting control back into the hands of the voters where it belongs.

The whole community made this happen. By signing the petitions the Santa Clara City voters have spoken. Santa Clara City residents that have never been involved with political issues and have never voted, registered to vote so they could sign our petitions and vote on these referendums. We registered over 300 new voters. They took petitions home to encourage their family, friends, and neighbors to sign. Although the volume of signatures required was challenging, each voter welcomed the opportunity to sign.

Gathering almost 6,000 signatures per petition in three weeks is harder than it seems. Each petition holds only ten signatures. We had to print reams of paper to prepare for this task. Day by day, we handed out petitions and collected completed petitions. We were at the Santa Clara Farmers' Market every Saturday, stood in front of supermarkets, greeted people outside the post office, walked Central Park during the Fourth of July festivities, and walked the neighborhoods. This became a second full time job for many of us. The inspiration that kept us all going was the

enthusiasm and encouragement we received from the citizens of the City of Santa Clara.

As the Referendum Coordinator, I would like to thank all the SaveBAREC volunteers who spent countless hours helping and supporting the community. I would also like to thank the members of the community we have worked with over the past five years and their passion for doing what they feel is right. Your efforts are appreciated. It continues to be very rewarding to work our community and seeing how many people have donated their valuable time to learn what is happening in their city and who spent even more time by getting involved. I thank you for standing up to your city government when they go astray. Democracy only works if you get involved. After these referendums get put on the ballot, your vote will count.