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Established in 1978 by  
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September 24, 2014

Bill Shoe, Principal Planner  
Planning Office, County of Santa Clara County  
70 W. Hedding Street  
San Jose, CA 9110-1705

**RE: Draft Health Element**

Dear Mr. Shoe,

I am writing on behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group in support of the current draft of the Santa Clara County General Plan Health Element. The Health Element incorporates a robust Health in All Policies approach to improve community health in Santa Clara County.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents more than 375 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers in issues, programs and campaigns that affect the economic quality of life in Silicon Valley, including energy, transportation, education, housing, health care, tax policies, economic vitality and the environment. Leadership Group members provide nearly one out of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley.

We were happy to take part in reviewing an earlier draft of the Health Element and were excited to see that you incorporated our suggestions into the Conditions, Equity and Access section regarding Workforce/Workplace Wellness (HE-A.33).

The Leadership Group recognizes the role that employers play in the Health in All Policies approach through policies like restricting tobacco use in workplaces or implementing wellness programs that target chronic disease. In addition, employers can provide workers access to comprehensive, quality health services that are critical for achieving greater health equity and for increasing the quality of life of the entire community.

We are confident that the Health Element is a step in the right direction towards achieving a healthier Santa Clara County and a higher quality of life. Thank you for your attention and your leadership on this issue. If you have any questions, please contact me at [afelton@svlg.org](mailto:afelton@svlg.org) or (408) 501-7874.

Sincerely,

Alexandria Felton  
Associate, Health and Education Policy  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group