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**Gonzales Delivers San José
State of the City Address**

***“As a city of solutions, San José will meet
challenging times with strength and confidence”***

San José, CA ---- Despite the challenges facing California and San José from the recession and budget deficits, Mayor Ron Gonzales was confident and upbeat in his annual address to the community and called upon residents to work together to protect quality of life in San José.

“I am proud of the vision we share, and what we have done together to achieve it,” said Gonzales. “Although today’s uncertainties may slow our progress, they will not change our vision. They will not shatter our faith, or undermine our commitment to building a great city.

“I will stand shoulder to shoulder with our legislators, community leaders, and residents who have joined me in this fight to protect the quality of life we cherish in San José, and work with all our city employees as partners for fair and equitable solutions.”

The mayor focussed attention on actions to strengthen the local economy and create jobs. These include strategically expediting the city’s bond-funded projects for park, library, and public safety renovations to reduce city costs and create jobs. He will also urge other local agencies and school districts to do the same.

Gonzales said he will continue to lead the city’s efforts to cut red tape and streamline regulations to help San José businesses thrive and to bring new companies to the city.

He also pointed to the planned improvements at Mineta San Jose International Airport as a critical factor for the Silicon Valley economy, and he reminded voters about the March 4 special election for Measure A, the Airport Security and Traffic Relief Act.

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“If Measure A gets the go-ahead from the voters next month, we can break ground as early as this summer, and that will create 1700 new jobs without raising taxes” he said.

“Silicon Valley ships nearly \$30 billion of products through our airport every year. These are the products that make us a global economic center. It’s through our airport that the people with new ideas for the products of tomorrow travel to make business deals today.”

The mayor noted that his fifth state of the city address was the toughest he has had to prepare for. California’s budget crisis is about to crash upon cities, counties, and schools, and the Governor’s recent budget proposal instantly doubled San José’s projected deficit to as much as \$120 million.

The state also is threatening to take away redevelopment funding, which San José uses successfully to create jobs, build affordable homes, revitalize downtown and strengthen neighborhoods.

“In the past this has been the customary time for mayors to unveil new proposals, programs, and projects,” said Gonzales. “This year is different. This is not a time for big announcements, but rather the time for us to be focused on what matters most to the people of San José.”

He described the magnitude of the potential shortfall as greater than the annual budget for the city’s fire department, or more than the budgets for San José libraries, parks and recreation, and street services combined. Gonzales said this presents very difficult choices for the city in the coming months regarding services and staffing.

“We must remember that we’re talking about people and their families, not just numbers on a budget ledger. Our decisions will affect the lives of real people, whether they are city workers or the families they serve in our community.

Last week Gonzales joined the mayors of California’s largest cities in Sacramento to tell Governor and legislative leaders that budget proposals that harm cities will harm the state. He reminded them that economic recovery in San José and Silicon Valley means recovery for California.

Finally the mayor called upon the residents of San José to give their time to their community “to make their city better, neighborhoods stronger, and life richer.” People interested in volunteering can call the San José Call Center at (408) 277-4000 to become a part of “Volunteer San José.”

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The Call Center will serve as a one-stop service that will work with potential volunteers to connect them with city programs or community organizations.

“The people of San José have weathered tough times before, but we have always risen above them and looked forward with a clear vision for our future. That’s how we’ve built the great city that we are today,” Gonzales said.

“San José is a city of hope and of dreams, a city of solutions that transforms challenge into opportunity, loss into victory, dreams into reality. I’m confident the spirit that makes San José such a unique and special place will continue to make us America’s best city.”

Gonzales’ state of the city address can be viewed at the mayor’s website, **www.sjmayor.org**.

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