

## 29th September

# Cupertino Council Blew It Over and Over Again

By Liang Chao

It is without a doubt that Cupertino residents would like a revitalization of Vallco Shopping Mall to include a significant portion for retail, dining, entertainment, fitness and more. It is without a doubt that Cupertino residents near Vallco area need more parkland, since that area is the most park deficient in Cupertino. It is without a doubt that the area near Vallco has the most crowded schools.

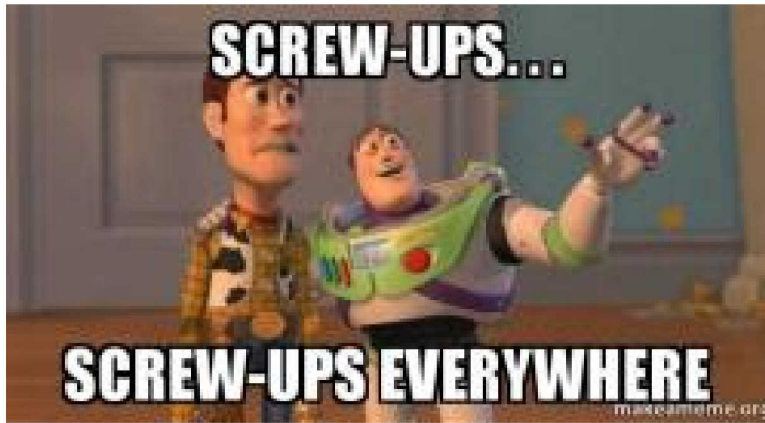
After Measure C and Measure D both failed, Cupertino residents put their trust in the City Council to create a plan to revitalize Vallco Shopping Mall. **Cupertino citizens trusted that the Council understands what Cupertino residents wish at Vallco.** For example, reduce the size of the Vallco project by half. Who knows? The Council grew the size by 50% instead. They blew it.

1. The Council blew it when it should have intervened early in 2010 to find out how to help Vallco Shopping Mall thrive. How to bring the shops Cupertino area residents need to Vallco to revitalize it.
2. The Council (Savita, Rod, Barry and Gilbert) blew it by giving everything Sand Hill asked for in December 2014 since they gave away their negotiation power. (Fortunately, at least it was conditional on the approval of Specific Plan then... but...)
3. The Council blew it by NOT clearly stating the provisional nature of the office and residential allocation so that Vallco SB 35 could claim they get the huge entitlement without any strings attached. (The City would have a great case against this claim..., but did they fight? They wouldn't.)
4. The Council (Savita, Rod and Barry) blew it by NOT willing to clarify the text in the General Plan to assert that there is no entitlement without an approved specific plan to prevent any SB 35 application.
5. The Council blew it by allowing the former City Manager to issue the compliance letter when citizens have pointed out several problems for Vallco SB 35 application. (The Council is responsible if there is any potential misconduct by the former City Manager.)
6. The Council blew it again by NOT genuinely consider citizen inputs in the Vallco Specific Plan process. And now we end up with the Vallco Specific Plan that most residents who participated in the process can't even recognize.
7. The Council blew it again by allowing the most of the important details of the Vallco Specific Plan to be conceived behind closed doors from May to August, 2018.
8. The Council (Savita, Rod and Barry) blew it yet again by rubber-stamping the largest development project in the history of Cupertino in one Council meeting in a rush.

Well... **How could the citizens who voted in 2016 expect so many screw-ups?**

Perhaps, they are intentional actions to give in to developers? What would you call these?

**Do we want to continue to elect Council Members who will likely screw-up over and over again "intentionally"?**




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