

City of San Jose
Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113-1905
October 14, 2008

Roger Shanks
Roger Shanks Consulting

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR ROGER SHANKS

I had the pleasure and opportunity to work with Mr. Roger Shanks from 2002 to 2008 on the Coyote Valley Specific Plan (CVSP), which was a six year planning effort that envisioned a next generation town of integrated living and working environments in the southern reaches of Silicon Valley.

The CVSP would populate a 7,000 acre area of mostly undeveloped lands with more than 25,000 housing units of varying densities and tenancies, 50,000 industry driving jobs, several thousand support services, and a rich tapestry public facilities and urban amenities such as trails, parks, roads, rails all woven into an environmentally sustainable, transit-oriented, mixed-used community. Given its scope and complexity, and a well stated ambition to blaze the trail for new town building in the country, the San Jose City Council sought and hired the most qualified team of consultants, including urban designers (with the Dahlin Group as lead consultants), urban economists, infrastructure and civil engineers, environmental scientists, etc.

As Dahlin Group's principal in charge of the CVSP, Roger was really the glue that held this complex project together. He was very responsive, insightful, and creative in his leadership in the planning, design and overall coordination of the project.

Roger's writing skills cannot be overstated. He has an effective writing style with the uncommon capacity to capture the essence of any complicated issue, distill it to its essential elements, and present it in simple, concise language devoid of technical jargon. Roger was also a darling of the staff, other consultants, and the numerous stakeholders that were actively involved throughout the CVSP process. Also, he is a very powerful presenter who was able to combine visual aids with a smooth, silky delivery for maximum effect at the many community meetings we organized in the course of the project.

With his excellent creativity, great talent, and boundless energy on the CVSP, Roger made significant contributions to the development of the Coyote Plan Vision. As the City's lead planner on the CVSP who worked most closely with Roger, I can bear testimony to his commitment to the profession of Planning, his dedication to the provision of great customer service, and pursuit of excellence in his work. He was extremely generous with his time, and there was never an occasion when he gave less than 100%.

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Roger is an intelligent and self-motivated person who is capable of working cooperatively, and effectively, with small and large groups of people of mixed backgrounds. He has proven to be an effective community meeting organizer, and is adept at providing effective public outreach, preparing and delivering presentations, writing comprehensive meeting summaries, and researching, analyzing and interpreting data pertaining to a variety of planning related issues.

Without doubt, Roger is one of the best consultants I have ever been associated with in my 20 years in the planning and design professions, and I highly recommend him.

If you would like additional information about Mr. Roger Shanks, you can telephone me at (408) 535-7911, or email me salifu.yakubu@sanjoseca.gov.

Sincerely,

Salifu Yakubu, AICP
Division Manager (Permit Center), PBCE