



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **County Board of Education approves Rocketship zoning exemption**

**SAN JOSE, CA** – A request by Rocketship Education for a zoning exemption to allow a school near the Tamien light-rail station in San Jose was approved by the Santa Clara County Board of Education on Wednesday night.

The exemption would allow Rocketship to build a charter school in an area zoned for light industry.

In approving the exemption, board members cited support from San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed and the San Jose City Council, the city Planning Commission and FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, among other groups. The project, with Rocketship's stated goal of addressing the needs of children in low-wealth neighborhoods, was praised for its consistency with the Santa Clara County Office of Education's SJ/SV2020, the initiative to close the achievement gap by the year 2020.

The initiative is a "civil rights issue," said Board President Grace Mah, "and during the week when we observed the anniversary of Martin Luther King's birthday, we've continued to strive for the dream of equal access and opportunity through education."

The meeting drew several hundred attendees on both sides of the issue. In acknowledgment of the proposal's opponents, board members cited the "exceptional work" being done at Washington Elementary School, and pledged support for a new middle school and public park in the neighborhood.

The board vote was 5-1-1, with Anna Song voting no and Darcie Green abstaining.

In other action at the Wednesday meeting, the board approved renewal of the charter of the Magnolia Science Academy-Santa Clara by the same vote.

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