

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

CITY MANAGER'S

WEEKLY LETTER TO COUNCIL

Mayor Kitty Moore
Vice Mayor Liang Chao
Councilmember JR Fruen
Councilmember Sheila Mohan
Councilmember R "Ray" Wang

Dear City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. Below, you'll find this week's updates on recent and upcoming City news and events.

NOTEWORTHY UPDATES

2026 Council Retreat Workshop

Thank you to all of you for taking time on a beautiful Saturday morning to participate the Council retreat focused on strengthening collaboration, fostering effective governance practices, and engaging in strategic planning to support the City's work moving forward. The workshop was facilitated by Kevin Duggan, and the Strategic Plan was presented by Drew Corbett and I. My Executive Team also joined for the Strategic Plan discussion. Dialogues like these offer an opportunity to focus on teamwork and emerge stronger as an organization. The Strategic Plan will return to Council for formal adoption soon.



2026 State of the City



On Thursday, Mayor Kitty Moore delivered the 2026 State of the City address at the Quinlan Community Center highlighting the City's focus on good governance, fiscal stewardship, public safety, housing, infrastructure investments, economic development, sustainability initiatives, and ongoing efforts to modernize City operations. The address also recognized the contributions of City staff, commissioners, community partners, and engaged residents. The address offered an opportunity to reflect on Cupertino's progress and future priorities.

Cupertino Lunar New Year Celebration

On Tuesday, City staff celebrated the Lunar New Year with a festive gathering organized by a staff volunteers. The event featured food, music, staff-led lion dances, and Lunar New Year traditions including red envelopes, fortune cookie decorating, and Chinese calligraphy, creating a fun and engaging opportunity for staff to celebrate Lunar New Year traditions together. Once again, Xīnnián Kuàilè!



Third Modification to The Rise Approved

On Friday, the City approved the third modification to The Rise SB 35 application. The project remains a mixed-use development with 2,669 housing units, approximately 1.475 million square feet of office, and approximately 226,600 square feet of retail. This modification revised the office and retail square footage, reduced the number of affordable units, and updated site plan and architectural details, including lowering the height of some buildings. The project must continue to provide two-thirds of the total square footage for residential use. Sand Hill Property Company applied to modify The Rise under Government Code Section 65913.4 on November 25, 2025. Recent updates to this Government Code Section allow projects with more than 500 residential units submitted before January 1, 2019, to reduce affordable housing from 50% to 20% of base units. As a result, the project reduces affordable units from 890 to 356.

The proposal also reconfigures open space consistent with the Settlement Agreement adopted by the City Council in July 2024. The approval documents are available online at Cupertino.gov/therise (Please navigate to "Final Actions" and "2026 Actions".)

Students Invited to Participate in 2026 Law Day Video Contest



The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, in partnership with the Santa Clara County Bar Association, invites students to take part in its annual Law Day celebration. For 2026, students can submit short original videos exploring the theme connecting the rule of law and the American Dream. Entries are due March 31, 2026. Details and submission guidelines are available

West Valley Mayors and Managers Meeting



On February 25, Mayor Kitty Moore and I attended the West Valley Mayors and Managers Meeting at the Campbell Community Center. The meeting included a review of the West Valley Homelessness Feasibility Study, with discussion of the proposed plan and timeline.

Community Hall PV Project Construction

Work for the Photovoltaic Systems (PV) project will begin on Monday, March 2, at Community Hall. The construction area will temporarily occupy six spaces in the "C" permit row. The work is expected to last approximately six weeks, with completion anticipated in early April. Construction fencing will be installed Monday morning. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



Water Main Break on Stevens Creek Boulevard



On Tuesday, at approximately 1:30 PM, a significant water main break occurred on Stevens Creek Boulevard between the Post Office and Blue Pheasant. Water flowed downhill onto Phar Lap Drive, impacting several homes. San Jose Water responded and traffic control measures were implemented. Staff coordinated with the utility provider and continue to monitor the situation.

RECAP MEETING AND RESIDENT CONCERNS

City Attorney Services Agreement Extension

On February 24, the City Council approved the first amendment extending the term of the Interim City Attorney Agreement for City Attorney services between the City of Cupertino and Aleshire & Wynder, LLP through April 30, 2026.

Meeting with Superintendent Yao from CUSD

On February 25, I participated in a follow up Zoom meeting with Superintendent Yao of the Cupertino Union School District, their attorney Scott Sheldon, and the City's Interim City Attorney Andrews to discuss next steps related to the Finch property.

Local Business Recognition Alan Row Project

Staff recently learned that the Alan Row Project, a 9-unit townhome complex located at 22690 Stevens Creek Boulevard, received three notable awards to honor the outstanding builders, developers, and exceptional innovation in project design:

- MAME Award, presented by the Home Builders Association
- Gold Nugget Award, presented by the California Building Industry Association (CBIA) and Pacific Coast Builders Conference (PCBC)
- Best in American Living Award (BALA), presented by the National Association of Home Builders
- Learn more at alanelc.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Hop or Run the 5K

[The Big Bunny 5K](#) and Kids Fun Run is next Saturday, March 7! This community event promotes health, wellness, and connection, welcoming participants of all ages to run, walk, or hop along. See you there!

Cal Water's College Scholarship Program



California Water Service (Cal Water) is accepting applications for its 2026 College Scholarship Program. The program will award multiple scholarships, including four grand-prize scholarships of 10,000 dollars, to eligible students living in Cal Water service areas who plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study for the 2026 to 2027 academic year. Applications close on March 26, with winners announced in late May. Additional program details are available through [California Water Service](#).

CERT Academy Winter 2026

Be ready to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors when disaster strikes. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Academy, offered by the Santa Clara County Fire Department, provides hands-on training in essential skills to help you prepare for and respond safely during emergencies - especially when professional responders may be overwhelmed.

CERT members learn how to:

- Organize neighborhood resources
- Provide immediate assistance to those in need
- Support emergency communications
- Assist first responders during major incidents



The CERT Academy includes both online and in-person classes, culminating in a Saturday, in-person skills session and graduation. Participants must complete all sessions to receive a CERT completion certificate. To learn and register, visit [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) Academy - Winter 2026 Tickets](#), email cert@sccfd.org, or call (408) 341-4487.

GOOD NEWS!

Federal Funding for Silicon Valley Hopper

We are pleased to learn that Representative Ro Khanna secured 1.2 million dollars in Community Project Funding for the Silicon Valley Hopper micro-transit program, serving the Cities of Cupertino and Santa Clara. This funding will support the extension and expansion of the low-cost, on-demand shuttle service.



The award represents continued federal investment in local mobility solutions and helps advance regional transportation access for residents and workers. We will be submitting requests for funding to support additional City projects and initiatives.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Thank you for your continued support!

WARM REGARDS,

Tina Kapoor
CITY MANAGER