



SAN JOSE/SILICON VALLEY BRANCH OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

304 North Sixth Street, San Jose, CA 95112

P.O. BOX 1345 San Jose, California 95109

Phone (408) 295-3394

Fax (408) 295-4355

Executive Officers

Rick L. Callender
President

Chris Elias
Vice President

Michael McBride
Vice President

Raychine Jefferson
Vice President

Lea E. Byrd
Treasurer

Deb Williams
Secretary

Marion Whittaker
Branch General Counsel

Executive Committee

Kevin Ladson
Fred Sidbury
Nedra Jones
Cedric Martin
Ricky Samayoa
Fadi Saba
Yvonne Moore
Blake Moore
Evelyn Cox
Phaedra Ellis-Lampkins
Lejon Guillary
Sam Brown
Andre Chapman
David Ginsborg
Glenna Brambill
Hung Nguyen
Noella Tabladillo
Butch Wing
Natishia Bracy
Olivia Swilley

President's

Advisory Council
Tommy Fulcher, Jr.
Norma Callender
Randy Cooper
Aminah Jahi
Edward Willis
Dr. Glen Toney
Joe Bass
Tony West
Earline Sweet
Walter Wilson
Tony Estremera

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
January 14, 2002

Contact:
Anna Wang, Executive Director, Vision New America,
408-241-4505 (w) 510-219-5294 (cell)

**Community Groups Join Together to Offer San Jose
Candidates' Forum**

Over a dozen diverse community organizations are sponsoring a candidates' forum for the San Jose City Council Districts 7 and 9 and Mayoral elections. The event is planned for Tuesday, January 29, 2002 from 7-9 p.m. at the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) Board Room, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA.

Chris Elias, Vice President of the San Jose/Silicon Valley Branch of the NAACP, states, "The Florida experience has taught all of us a very good lesson that no vote should be left uncast. This community forum is about voter empowerment to spur voter education and voter participation."

Organization of Chinese Americans – Silicon Valley chapter President Gilbert Wong says, "San Jose is the third largest city in the state of California and has a rich diversity of cultures. Thus, we would like to educate the voters on issues and candidates that affect the African American, Asian Pacific Islander and Hispanic communities."

Jackie Maruhashi, Staff Attorney for the Asian Law Alliance, adds, "The Asian Pacific American community was severely fragmented in the State Assembly Redistricting process due to a few politicians who wanted to protect their incumbency. Therefore, it is critically important for our community to learn about the candidates. We cannot afford to vote into office politicians who place their own preservation before the interests of our community."

A panel of media representatives will ask the candidates questions. Confirmed panelists include Hilbert Morales, Publisher of *El Observador*; Mike Zapler, a *San Jose Mercury News* reporter; Joseph Lin, *World Journal* newspaper reporter; and Brenda Huang, reporter for the *Sing Tao Daily* newspaper.

Candidates from other council districts and county positions will also be invited to this event. They will be given a time period in the Forum to give a very brief presentation on themselves and their campaigns.

- more -

The current co-sponsors of the candidates' forum are:

Asian American Public Policy Institute (AAPPI)
Asian Law Alliance (ALA)
Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council (BCAC)
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce – Silicon Valley
Japanese American Citizens League – San Jose (JAACL)
Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley
Mexican American Political Association (MAPA)
Organization of Chinese Americans - Silicon Valley (OCA)
National Congress of Vietnamese in America (NCVA)
National Vietnamese American Voters League - Northern California Chapter
San José/Silicon Valley NAACP
Silicon Valley African-American Democratic Coalition
Silicon Valley Asian Pacific American Democratic Club (SVAPADC)
Vision New America, Inc.
Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce (VACC)
Vietnamese American Democratic Caucus (VADC)
Vietnamese American Public Affairs Committee (VPAC)
Vietnamese American Professionals Alliance (VAPA)

###