

**Salinas Regional Sports Authority Vice President Alex Reynoso addressed attendees of the November 18, 2014 Salinas City Council meeting with the following statement as approval of the Salinas Regional Soccer Complex project was announced:**

Good evening Mayor, City Council, City Staff and members of the public.

My name is Alex Reynoso and I am here today to speak to you as the Vice President of the Salinas Regional Sports Authority, as a community leader and as a proud member of this community.

With me is a cross section of our community; we have local residents, business leaders, and local community leaders of this beautiful place we call home. We have gathered here this evening to celebrate with you the importance of the expansion of the soccer fields at Constitution Boulevard. We also want to celebrate your courage and leadership in spearheading this very important project for our community. You along with the County of Monterey have truly put the community's wellbeing in the forefront. For this we THANK YOU.

Our VISION has been to collectively create a Salinas Regional Soccer Complex that will better serve our city and county residents.

As you know, back in 2008 we began this journey when local folks got together with then Mayor Dennis Donahue and "Imagined a Great City"; one of many goals of that campaign was to develop economic opportunities and help generate community sports assets in Salinas and the County. Thankfully, Mayor Gunter and the current City Council stuck with the mission. Tonight this is proof that through your leadership and community engagement we can achieve great things for Salinas.

We have dedicated our energy into making sure all stakeholders have been included in the development of this VISION. Thankfully we have done so by engaging the City, the County, the Soccer Leagues and the Community through hundreds of informational and coordination meetings. This helped us develop the MOU in order to plan the project and compete for funding opportunities. We were able to secure Grants from generous folks like The California Endowment, the Community Foundation of Monterey County, the US Soccer Foundation and Taylor Farms; to name a few. This funding ability helped commission the Environmental Studies and Planning effort before you.

In December of 2013 this project was submitted to the City of Salinas for a Use Permit.

Tonight the project is before you for YOUR APPROVAL. We thank you for your LEADERSHIP.

Our principal effort has always been to engage our community so they may be part of the process. Because of this important step, we have developed community support and ownership for this wonderful project. Thank you.