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From: Robin McMullen [e-mail address redacted]
Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2011 1:58 PM
To: SatelliteOffices
Subject: Patent Office in Silicon Valley

Hello:

I understand that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is seeking comment on potential locations for future USPTO satellite offices. I am writing to urge you to locate a satellite office in Silicon Valley.

Silicon Valley has the longstanding reputation worldwide as a major center of innovation and creativity, where individuals and companies build, invent and patent their ideas on a daily basis. In 2010 alone, Californians were granted 30,080 patents out of the 121,179 granted to applicants in the U.S. It makes sense for the USPTO have a presence in Silicon Valley.

According to the USPTO notice in the 29 November, 2011 edition of the Federal Register, the following criteria are among those that will influence your choice: Occupational Clusters, Patent Applications, Universities with Strong Engineering Programs, Proximate Location to Major Airport, Cost of Living, and Unemployment Rates. I have researched these criteria and would like to present the following information for your consideration.

Occupational Clusters

1. Joint Venture Silicon Valley Index, The 2004 Index of Silicon Valley (<http://www.jointventure.org>

[/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=39&Itemid=52](http://www.jointventure.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=39&Itemid=52))

"While job loss has slowed, changes are taking place in the structure of our region's economy from dominance in information technology to new industries. In particular, the Index finds that "employment gains are taking place in some high-wage occupational clusters, employment is growing in the Health Services cluster, and the Biomedical cluster is becoming more concentrated in Silicon Valley than in the nation."

2. Foothill-DeAnza Community College District Workforce Gap Analysis Initial Report, October 24, 2004 (<https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Ffhdafiles.fhda.edu%2Fdownloads%2Faboutfhda%2FWorkforceGapPresentation.ppt>)

Patent Applications (State)

eeTimes Online, November 2, 2007

3. (https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.soc.duke.edu%2FGlobalEngineering%2Fpdfs%2Fmedia%2FUS%2520Based%2520Global%2520IP%2Fetimes_state_patent.pdf)

"...The Delaware numbers are inflated because of the many companies that are incorporated there, but don't actually have their R&D facilities there," said John Rabena, a Washington-based patent attorney for the law firm Sughrue Mion. In other states, the numbers more clearly reflect the reality of where R&D is taking place. 'Most of the other states' numbers are more accurate. In California and Massachusetts, for example, the engineers are there."

Universities with Strong Engineering Programs

U.S. News & World Report

4. (<http://www.usnewsuniversitydirectory.com/graduate-schools/engineering.aspx>)

Stanford University is ranked 2nd in the nation (<http://www.stanford.edu/>)

University of California, Berkeley is ranked 3rd in the nation (<http://berkeley.edu/>)

Santa Clara University is ranked 21st in the nation for engineering and 2nd in the West for masters degree programs (<http://www.scu.edu/>)

Proximate Location to Major Airport

5. The San Francisco Bay Area is home to three major international airports in a 25-mile radius of the heart of Silicon Valley.

San Francisco International (<http://www.flysfo.com/web/page/index.jsp>)

Oakland International (<http://www.flyoakland.com/>)

Mineta San Jose International (<http://www.flysanjose.com/>)

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Cost of Living

6. While the cost of living in Silicon Valley remains high, so does the quality of life in the area. Access to the arts, major league sports (football, baseball, and hockey), as well as summer and winter recreational opportunities, plus an abundance of public parks are just a few of the features of the Bay Area that make it a desirable place to live. (<http://calendar.insidebayarea.com/>)

Unemployment Rates (City)

7. Still high, but improving slightly. (<http://www.thesanjoseblog.com/2011/10/silicon-valley-unemployment-rate-is.html>)

Respectfully submitted,
Robin McMullen