



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area
97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022

November 14, 2011

Mayor Jac Siegel and Members of the City Council
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View 94041

Re: November 15th Agenda Item 7.1 – NOFA Affordable Housing Proposals

Dear Mayor Siegel and Members of the City Council:

The League of Women Voters of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area would like to comment briefly on the three NOFA affordable housing proposals. First, we want to repeat our support for using the NOFA process in order to select new affordable housing projects in a more efficient way than the prior lengthy process of adopting an Affordable Housing Strategy and then following it.

As the excellent staff report points out, it is possible to fund all three of the proposed developments and all serve unmet housing needs in Mountain View. We understand the Habitat development will give preference to those who live or work in Mountain View, as will the rental projects. This is important both in terms of meeting the needs of those with lower incomes, but also in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We commend staff's cautionary recommendation regarding the ROEM/Eden project. Hopefully, during the predevelopment stage, the developers will work with the City to resolve the issues that staff has addressed.

We hope that Council will recommend that all three projects proceed. Assuming that Council finds a way to ensure that affordable housing funds will continue to be collected by the City, we believe it is important to spend these funds efficiently, so long as the projects are needed and feasible, as the City needs much more affordable housing and the funds are not earning much interest as they remain unspent.

Sincerely yours,

Donna Yobs
1157 Karen Way
Mountain View, CA 94040
Co-Chair, Housing Committee
LWV of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area

cc: Linda Lauzze Randal Tsuda
 Adriana Garefalos Daniel Rich