



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

November 16, 2014

Chair Cox and Members of the Environmental Planning Commission
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View 94041

Re: Environmental Planning Commission Meeting, November 19
Agenda Item 5.1 - North Bayshore Precise Plan

Dear Chair Cox and Members of the EPC:

The LWV would like to comment on the North Bayshore Precise Plan (NBS PP). We urge the EPC not to approve the plan as it stands today because the proposed benefits do not outweigh the environmental impacts, in our opinion, primarily due to the lack of housing included in the plan.

Transportation issues are obviously a major problem in the North Bayshore area, but the specific transportation improvements detailed in the staff report, such as the Shoreline off-ramp realignment, could be accomplished before waiting for new developments to provide funds. City funds along with regional/state grants are potential sources for proceeding quickly with some of the City's Capital Improvement Programs for North Bayshore. Thus, we believe the current transportation situation could be improved while further study is done on the housing options for North Bayshore.

Allowing additional housing in North Bayshore was the environmentally superior alternative in the General Plan study. Many infrastructure resources are close to North Bayshore, including schools and a grocery store, and improvements to the Shoreline/101 overcrossing will make these resources easier to access. In addition, North Bayshore traffic is extremely directional, and any reverse commute traffic from additional residents will not increase congestion (not to mention the reductions from employees who live and work in North Bayshore). Thus, we believe adding additional housing is feasible. We urge the City to reconsider this alternative, particularly since the jobs/housing imbalance continues to worsen, and jobs being added to the North Bayshore area are a major contributor to this problem. While allowing additional housing in North Bayshore would not be a total solution, it could play a significant role in alleviating the housing shortage. Therefore, we urge the EPC to recommend to Council that they not approve the plan as it stands and deny the EIR.

Thank you for considering our input.

Donna Yobs
Co-Chair, Housing Committee
LWV of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area

cc: Dan Rich Randy Tsuda Martin Alkire
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