



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

June 1, 2015

Chairperson Kamei and Members of the Environmental Planning Commission  
City of Mountain View  
500 Castro Street  
Mountain View 94041

Re: Study Session: Companion Unit Regulations

Dear Chairperson Kamei and Members of the Environmental Planning Commission:

The League of Women Voters of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area would like to comment on the staff report which proposes various ways that the City's Companion Unit ordinance might be modified in order to encourage Companion Unit development. Companion Units are typically seen not only as a way to increase the supply of housing, but, in particular, a way of increasing the supply of affordable housing.

We hope the EPC will carefully consider the various ways that the numerous regulatory barriers discussed by staff – i.e., parking requirements, park fees, minimum lot sizes and maximum unit sizes for Companion Units – could be modified while still preserving residential neighborhood character.

We especially encourage consideration of a program such as Piedmont's for rent-restricted units, as these units would definitely add to the City's affordable housing stock. Los Altos has a similar second unit ordinance, but the monitoring/enforcement of the affordability restrictions is not effective; the Piedmont ordinance appears to include appropriate enforcement mechanisms regarding affordable rental of these Companion Units.

Sincerely yours,

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

Cc: Martin Alkire  
Terry Blount  
Diana Pancholi