



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

January 13, 2012

Stephanie Williams, Senior Planner
City of Mountain View
Planning Division
500 Castro St., P.O. Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039

Re: General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

The LWV of the Los Altos/Mountain View Area would like to comment briefly on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the General Plan.

First, we have several concerns related to housing, including affordable housing. We encourage the City to analyze in more detail the higher density alternative, since this is the environmentally superior alternative. We also think it is important that housing affordable to lower-income workers be provided close to their jobs as well as other services. Achieving “complete” neighborhoods is a worthwhile goal, both for greenhouse gas (“GHG”) reduction, as well as for building an environmentally and economically sustainable Mountain View. Although the General Plan supports infill development, it does not speak adequately to the need for diverse levels and types of housing near jobs and services.

Also, with regard to affordable housing, we understand that the Housing Element is one part of the General Plan. However, the Housing Element recently adopted includes numerous sites as possible locations for affordable housing which are already being proposed as high-income housing developments. With this in mind, we think the General Plan should give more attention to providing affordable housing so that the current jobs/housing imbalance is improved rather than worsened, which would help reduce GHG production rather than increase it.

Regarding housing in the N. Bayshore, we support housing north of Route 101 only if far more detailed attention is given to mitigation measures related to sea level rise and flooding risks. In addition, the General Plan does not deal adequately with the issue of transportation between the N. Bayshore area and the rest of Mountain View.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Donna Yobs
Co-Chair, Housing Committee
League of Women Voters of Los Altos/Mountain View Area

CC: Randy Tsuda
Martin Alkire