



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area**

March 4, 2019

Mayor Lisa Matichak and Members of the City Council
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View 94041

Re: City Council Session, March 5, Agenda Item 8.1 – Cities Association of Santa Clara County Draft Position Paper on Housing

Dear Mayor Matichak and Members of the City Council:

The LWV of the Bay Area has endorsed the CASA Compact, and, therefore, our local LWV also supports the CASA concepts. We have attached the letter sent by the LWV of the Bay Area in December 2018, as we think it captures the essence of our rationale.

We also commend the City of Mountain View for being a leader in the Bay Area, most especially in the areas of “production” and “protection”, two of the key methods proposed by CASA for solving the affordable housing crisis in the Bay Area. Mountain View has been producing much housing recently and has goals of high percentages of this housing to be affordable. Mountain View has also been a leader in alleviating its jobs/housing imbalance.

Similarly, Mountain View has recently adopted rent stabilization and just cause eviction procedures to protect existing tenants. We are hopeful that the Council will work on the third “p”, “preservation” of existing affordable housing during this next year. We are also hopeful that Mountain View will modify its below-market-rate (BMR) program for ownership housing to require that BMR units be built, rather than developers paying in-lieu fees. This is a way to help with “missing middle” housing, also endorsed by CASA.

We are pleased that CASA anticipates incentives to cities like Mountain View that have demonstrated a willingness to tackle the difficult problem of affordable housing.

We support the Cities Association of Santa Clara County calling for collaboration amongst the cities in the County, rather than each local jurisdiction speaking out on its own behalf. We are concerned that the emphasis on local control of some neighboring cities could undermine the goal of CASA to build regional approaches to affordable housing, stressing production, protection and preservation of affordable housing and providing specific proposals to help achieve these goals.

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

cc: Wayne Chen

Dan Rich