



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

April 28, 2019

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

Re: City Council Meeting, April 30, Agenda Item 6.2 – 950 W. El Camino Real

Dear Mayor Matichak and Members of the City Council:

The LWV supports building of all-affordable housing developments, especially now when there is such an enormous need and we see more and more people losing their homes and living in their vehicles or even homeless. This El Camino location is ideal for the lower-income people who will live there, especially those with developmental disabilities who often depend upon good bus transportation.

We see many help-wanted signs along Castro Street for waiters, baristas, and other service workers, indicating that people can't afford to work at these jobs and live in Mountain View. To maintain a strong, economically viable downtown it is important to house some of these workers. Clearly, having them drive long distances because they can't afford to live nearby is bad for the environment, creates unnecessary traffic, and impacts the quality of their lives.

Although the cost of building this project is high, it is clear from the chart prepared by Staff that the building cost per unit has been increasing steadily. The per unit cost for Shorebreeze, a recent all-affordable housing addition, was lower, partly because the land was already owned by Shorebreeze. Every day we are reading about the high cost of construction, due to lack of local labor and higher costs for land and building material.

We urge the Council to support this worthwhile project. The funds are available and are not producing much interest while they are in the affordable housing fund. Having given Palo Alto Housing pre-development funds last year, it would set a bad precedent not to proceed with supporting this development. Finally, support of this affordable housing development is consistent with the goals/priorities adopted by the Council.

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

cc: Wayne Chen Vera Gil Dan Rich
 Aarti Shrivastava Matthew VanOosten Stephanie Williams