

From: Susan Shankle

Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 7:06 AM

To: Julia Klein <jklein@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lily Lim <llim@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: General Plan 2040 comments

Dear Planners,

I attended the General Plan presentation last night (9/24/18). The committee talked a lot about the "high quality of life" here in San Mateo. My main concern with the new General Plan is, how are we going to keep it that way?

Page 5 of the handout states that "By 2040, SM's population is projected to grow by another 28,000 people, requiring 10,000 new housing units just to meet this population increase."

Suppose we do ruin our beautiful bayside environment by covering it with high-rise apartments. They will all fill up immediately. Then what do we do? Right back to square one, except San Mateo will be unrecognizable.

I'm also very concerned about where the water is going to come from for unlimited population growth. I'm not hearing enough discussion about this water issue, and I would like some answers. We just got out of a 5-year drought, yet we continue to support unsustainable water usage.

At a July 16 City Council meeting regarding San Mateo building height limits, I spoke with one of the young proponents of massive affordable housing. When I asked him where all the water was going to come from for the thousands of people who will occupy these buildings, he stated that apartments buildings use a lot less water because there are no lawns.

It seems that no one has notified these pro-development groups that apartment buildings all have landscaping, and each occupant is still going to need water for drinking, bathing, cooking, dishwashers, pets, etc.

That meeting showed only two sides of the issue: status quo, or massive building. We MUST look at all the positions on this issue, and find compromises to figure out how to house our burgeoning population. When I was born in 1951, there were 2.6 billion humans. Today there are 7.5 billion. This is expected to double by 2050. Obviously, we need to be more realistic and more creative about managing our crowded planet. You may be very excited about doubling or tripling the population of our beautiful bayside community, but many of us are not.

Thank you,

Susan Shankle

San Mateo resident for 26 years, lifelong Bay Area resident

Citizen, Taxpayer, Business Owner and Voter