

From: Connie Weiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:44 PM
To: General Plan <generalplan@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Please Respect and Preserve San Mateo's History in the General Plan!

Hello,

I was deeply concerned to see an article in the San Mateo Times that quoted City Council members questioning the value of preserving San Mateo's history by looking to eliminate single family housing:

Several council members critiqued previous housing element goals that favored single-family housing over other housing types. Councilmember Amourence Lee and Mayor Rick Bonilla favored removing or changing a single-family housing preservation objective in the previous housing plan. It stated San Mateo would consider impacts on single-family neighborhoods during the review of land-use changes and special use permits for proposed developments and include potential buffer zones.

"I don't believe that any specific zoned neighborhood should get special attention over another kind of zoning. I believe we should be looking with an equity lens at all our community," Lee said.

"It would be in conflict with SB 9 and 10," Bonilla said. "I think it needs to be changed, if not eliminated, because it's in conflict, and I don't see it actually working in the modern world. It's become outdated," Bonilla said.

Many of our historic homes will be lost if this philosophy prevails. San Mateo cannot and will not survive as a livable City if we wipe out its history and personality that makes it so special to live here. In order to ensure continued livability, we must come together to identify those areas that deserve preservation and formally identify historic districts throughout San Mateo.

This doesn't mean we don't provide a plan for additional (including affordable) housing, but by bypassing the effort to identify and preserve historic architecture, we risk building a soulless city no one will want to call home.

Sincerely,

Connie Weiss and Dave Cohen

