

From: Nancy Schneider [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 4:51 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Agenda Item 11 - General Plan Update -Land Use Heights and Densities and Measure Y

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the San Mateo City Council:

I'm writing as a San Mateo Resident in District 1, a member of the San Mateo Climate Action Team, and a housing advocate to address the matters under consideration at the Special Study Session on March 6th. With respect to heights and densities in the General Plan Update, here are some key relevant ideas:

- High Density development near public transit reduces the need for auto ownership and trips. It decreases noise and pollution brought by automobile traffic and lowers overall distances traveled, critically reducing carbon emissions which contribute to global climate change.

- High density transit-oriented development provides urgently needed housing to tamp down increasing home prices and rents and provides opportunities to groups that have been historically deprived of the opportunity to build intergenerational wealth.

In recognition of the above, I believe the City Council should:

1. Increase height limits for residential building to 12 stories in the downtown core of San Mateo and within a half mile of Cal-Train stations.
2. Increase height limits for residential buildings to 8 stories along the El Camino corridor.
3. Increase the allowable densities in both areas to at least 75 units/acre.

The City has also requested input on Measure Y. This measure, which stands in the way of the above recommendations, should be overturned at the earliest possible date. Furthermore, Measure Y's height limits impose unavoidable roadblocks to meeting our RHNA and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing obligations, thereby exposing our city to state sanctions including onerous fines and loss of its control over land use.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this discussion.

Sincerely,

Nancy Schneider

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