

**From:** Megan Strain [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 4, 2023 11:34 AM  
**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <[CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org)>  
**Cc:** Clerk <[clerk@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:clerk@cityofsanmateo.org)>  
**Subject:** Public Comment: General Plan

Dear San Mateo City Council,

I'm writing as a San Mateo Resident in District 2 and a member of the San Mateo Climate Action Team 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 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 better moderate home prices and rents and provides opportunities to groups that have been historically deprived of the opportunity to build intergenerational wealth.
- As a renter in San Mateo who has a hard time considering owning a home here, I worry about how home prices and rents have continued to be sky-high, even after COVID. As a young person, I worry about human-caused climate change affecting my generation and others after. We must make a change to combat housing and climate problems.

In recognition of the above, I ask that the City Council:

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; and
2. Increase height limits for residential buildings to 8 stories along the El Camino corridor.

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 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, your leadership, and your commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

Megan Strain  
San Mateo resident