

From: Jennifer Martinez [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 6:17 PM
To: General Plan <generalplan@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: General Plan comments - March 6

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the San Mateo City Council,
I am writing to express support for increased height and density in San Mateo's General Plan.

I feel very fortunate to have lived in San Mateo for the past 9 years. However, I am acutely aware that were it not for significant luck and the fact that my household consists of 3 full-time working adults, we would not be able to afford to live here.

So many others who serve our community - essential workers, teachers, service providers, childcare providers, seniors, to name a few - either live in unaffordable (and too often, unsafe) conditions or travel long distances to work or visit family here. This is because the city has blocked opportunities to build housing that would benefit people at a range of income levels - namely, multi-family housing across the city.

Every piece of land in our city is precious and should be used efficiently and effectively to house people at all income levels, create economic opportunities, and protect our environment. Current R1 zoning and height and density limits prevent us from doing this. Current restrictions against high-density housing development are a remnant of old racial and classist belief systems that should be rejected on moral grounds and should also be rejected on practical grounds.

I strongly encourage you to pursue changes to the General Plan that will allow for greater height and density so that we can adequately meet the housing and environmental challenges we face and so we can create the kind of vibrant, inclusive, sustainable San Mateo that so many current residents want and that future residents need.

Thank you,
Jennifer Martinez
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