

From: Chris Cooper [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 12:20 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; City Mgr <citymgr@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Comments for 2040 General Plan Land Use Element

Hello City Council Members and City Manager Khojikian,

As you review the Land Use Element at tonight's City Council meeting, I would urge you to be aware of, and take corrective action on, the following:

- The previous City Council majority was much more in tune with the wishes of developers and activists pushing an agenda of overbuilding which was at odds with, and at the expense of, the wishes of San Mateo residents. The result of this bias shows in the aggressive approach to building in the 2040 General Plan and the Land Use Element.
- The current Planning Commission has a majority of activists onboard that consistently ignore the input of residents wanting more measured growth. They continue to push for overbuilding and stay true to their activist agendas.
- The recent survey on height was highly questionable in its approach. The choices were: Do you want high-rise buildings downtown or mid-rises everywhere in the City? How can that be considered "statistically valid"? Results from this survey need to be tossed.
- Residents have taken action three times to vote for limits on building heights and densities. We have the forecasted decline of population (to 2060) by the California Department of Finance, and additional housing resulting from density bonuses (which developers are now regularly using) which are not reflected in the current Land Use Element at all. This needs to be changed to clearly reflect this data, and the aggressive growth needs to be changed to lower growth that also is aligned with this data.

I've loved San Mateo and the beauty it provides for more than 23 years. We need affordable housing, but not towers of buildings that will result in significant degradation of our quality of life.

Thank you,

Chris Cooper
[REDACTED]