

From: Robert Whitehair [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:53 PM
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Thank you for the opportunity tonight

Dear City Council, this is what I said tonight. The General Plan can do so much in response to the climate crisis, and please move forward with High II

Dear Mayor Lee and members of the council, I am speaking tonight on behalf of the 150 member San Mateo Climate Action Team. Thank you for this opportunity. I have been fortunate enough to have been involved with this process since the beginning, in 2018-2019. More than 4 years ago.

Looking at the zoom screen at five council members and staff, I see courageous people. It is not easy to be strong and maintain a mature attitude when what you are facing tonight in the way of inappropriate public comment. But you have done so with grace, while continuing to be strong. Thank you.

The City has already shown statewide climate leadership by its adoption of reach codes and developing a Building Decarbonization strategy.

The best next step, in lieu of adopting a focused Climate Action Element of the General Plan, would be to adopt a bold policy statement in support of enough staff resources to ensure that that existing climate policies are quickly developed, adopted, and enacted.

Most importantly regarding what is before the council tonight, we support the request by others to **ADD** Service Commercial wherever possible, including as one example to redesignate the Mixed-Use Medium use at 101 & 92 to Service Commercial. It would be beneficial to find other areas to redesignate, especially if it moves housing away from the 500 to 1000 feet buffer. Both housing and service commercial, a lot to ask, but doable by such a talented team.

We also support what Ken Abreu said on behalf of the Sierra Club- High II Residential has the best chance of reaching housing goals. And we must add that we desperately need a robust recreation center, similar to what Millbrae, Burlingame and San Bruno are constructing.

Thank you

Robert Whitehair, Co Leader
San Mateo Climate Action Team

Vice President, Borel Neighborhood Association

San Mateo Home Owner since October 2081